

Administrative Senate Response to the Five-Year Academic Action Plan

Administrative Senate sought perspectives and feedback regarding the proposed Five Year Academic Plan through an e-mail solicitation that yielded fewer responses than expected. Additional feedback was solicited through contacts to administrators in various planning units and various positions throughout the university. Many administrators expressed their confusion with this prioritizing process as it related to Vision Ohio, perceiving the 5 Year Plan to be duplicative of the Vision Ohio process.

The consensus of opinions expressed were that the items identified in the 5 Year Plan create the opportunity for individual units to advance their initiatives (such as Advancement, Athletics, Communication, etc.) but may not as easily connect to the larger institutional goals consistent with Vision Ohio or be most illuminating of Ohio University's contribution to the University System of Ohio. Much time and discussion occurred in identifying institutional processes to realize the provisions of Vision Ohio while the 5 Year Plan and corresponding 5 Year Financial plan permitted much less time for discussion. Depending on which planning unit the administrators were related to, specific proposed plans in the 5 Year Plan were endorsed. For example, those who have a relationship to Advancement and Alumni affairs thought the university would most benefit by selecting the development proposals as top priorities for funding and support. Others who were related to Athletics believed that support of those proposals would advance the university's mission more fully. Because our constituents are part of each of the planning units with proposals in the 5 Year Plan, we are unable to endorse any one set of proposals over the others.

We would however, suggest prioritizing the individual initiatives in an order related to the previously identified three principal goals of Vision Ohio –1) undergraduate education, 2) graduate education and 3) faculty, staff and student quality and diversity. The advantage to using the framework of these topics would be that achievement of anyone of the three would require planning units and individual departments to work towards joint goal success, requiring collaboration among units and employee groups rather than creating or reinforcing silos of effort and funding. Enhancement of the undergraduate education may include portions of the Student Affairs proposal, the Advancement proposal as well as the IT proposal. Enhancing faculty, staff and student quality and diversity may include portions of the Communications plan, the Advancement plan, Athletics and the IT proposal. We believe the continuous promotion of these priorities would enhance the university's position relative to the University System of Ohio and what Ohio University focuses on more effectively than promotion of individual unit objectives.

Additionally, Administrative Senate strongly encourages the inclusion of those provisions that support the academic plan through administrative functions and services. Ohio University will not be able to support the three goals without supporting structures and systems of IT, human and financial resources that provide and enhance the academic functions. The support structures and systems must be a part of any planning process,

working towards the same institutional goals as the academic functions. Framing the priorities towards the three principal goals of Vision Ohio will provide the opportunity for a more concerted effort towards that achievement.

Should you have questions about our recommendations or input, please do not hesitate to call. Thanks for the opportunity to participate.