

Date: November 2, 2007

To: Dean McWeeny, Chair of the Five Year Academic Action Plan Committee

From: George Cheripko Chair of Classified Senate

Classified Senate applauds the effort of putting forth a five year plan for Ohio University. We do feel that this is a good start, but we do have concerns with it. Classified Senate hopes that this is only a start and the plan will be adjustable in the future as things change.

We feel that the plan was put together rather quickly. There was a rush to meet the deadline of the Chancellor and we feel this may hinder the project. Classified Senate does not feel that there was adequate time to look at the strategic plans put forth by the various departments across campus during the Vision OHIO planning. We hope that there will be some sort of oversight to make sure the top priorities in this plan match up well with Vision OHIO planning. A review of the plan soon would be a good step.

Classified Senate has great concern of where the money is coming from to pay for this plan. Since we do not have any extra money, we assume that something will have to be "given up". Before we can fully support any plan, we need to know what the trade offs will be. There will be tough decisions to make on what to eliminate in order to fund these new initiatives. It will help to see everything on the table. The plan is rather ambiguous and we would like to receive more detail.

Another area of concern for Classified Senate is the lack of money being directed to staffing. With new project and programs, there will be a need for staff to direct, oversee and administer them. Most of our staff (especially in academic units) are already overworked and could not take on much more. Some staff may also need additional training depending on the duties assigned to them.

Classified Senate would like to see a more detailed plan done. We are highly concerned about the trade offs that are needed to make this happen. It would be easy to support a new initiative without knowing what would be eliminated. We would like to see the staffing concerns addressed in this plan also.