YSU Budget Advisory Council  
Minutes for the meeting of March 9, 2017  
3:00 p.m. – Kilcawley Center, Hynes Room

Members in attendance: Carole Weimer, Amy Gordon, Elaine Jacobs, Dr. Ken Learman, Carly Devenburgh, Lisa Mudryk, Dr. Jeffrey Coldren, Eddie Howard, Dr. Charles Howell, Dr. Tomi Ovaska, Dr. Jeff Tyus, Gabriella Gessler, Neal McNally.

Guests in attendance: Mike Hrishenko, Elaine Ruse, Gary Swegan, Jim Yukech.

Members absent: Martin Abraham, Connie Augustine-Thompson, Len Schiavone, Jacob Schriner-Briggs, Dr. Thomas Wakefield.

1. The meeting convened at approximately 3:05 p.m. The minutes from the 2/27/17 meeting, which had been distributed prior to today's meeting, were accepted as final without further changes.

2. Gary Swegan and Elaine Ruse presented President Tressel’s initiative of creating an Institutional Work Study (IWS) program for student employment. In an effort to increase campus employment opportunities for students exhibiting financial need, a number of departments will contribute a portion of their general fund and/or auxiliary fund budgets earmarked for on-campus student employment to the IWS fund, effective FY 2018. It’s estimated that 49 University departments will have funding reallocated from their budgets to the IWS fund, totaling $340,000. The departments identified were those that employed five or more students earning minimum wage, excluding students employed under Federal Work Study (FWS). Based on the individual budgetary contributions to the IWS fund, affected departments will retain the same number of students they are currently employing; and a larger portion of student employees will be those who demonstrate a financial need.

The IWS program is intended to augment the FWS program by utilizing existing infrastructure and will be administered by YSU’s Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships. IWS and FWS students will be differentiated by wage caps: IWS students can earn $2,500 and FWS students can earn $2,000. Participating departments will be held harmless, although it was acknowledged that there will likely be some kinks in the first year of implementation.
Carole Weimer asked if there are any privacy concerns since the economic status of IWS students might be more apparent. Ms. Ruse said that IWS will mirror the existing FWS program and that extraordinary privacy concerns do not exist.

Dr. Tomi Ovaska asked how this would affect enrollment. Gary Swegan responded that it will help improve retention, which helps improve overall enrollment. Neal McNally suggested that the Budget Council should endorse the plan since it’s neutral both operationally and budgetary, but will positively impact enrollment levels, which has a direct and positive affect on the University’s tuition and fee income. Improving retention is also beneficial from a state funding perspective, since state SSI funds are allocated on the basis of certain student success indicators, such as course completions and degrees awarded. And since there is evidence to suggest that students employed on campus tend to perform better academically, raising the number of needy students employed on campus will help improve retention among a population of academically at-risk students. The IWS concept is consistent with the intent of the $1 million gift that President and Mrs. Tressel made to the University in 2015, which established an endowment to support student work opportunities on campus.

Mr. Swegan said that depending on how the IWS program performs in the first year, it will likely undergo changes and evolve in future years, though it’s expected to be a permanent, ongoing program. He stated that input has been solicited from several groups on campus, including the Deans Council, and that input will continue to be welcomed as this initiative progresses. The 49 affected departments will be notified via e-mail and paper copy memo that is expected to be distributed to financial managers next week.

3. Mike Hrishenko updated the Council on the University's Enhanced Print Management project that was initiated last year in response to the Governor's Task Force on Affordability & Efficiency in Higher Education. The Governor’s Task Force recommended that each state university conduct a comprehensive review of operations. In the process of conducting an operations review, YSU’s IT team discovered that YSU had an extraordinary number of printers on campus (1,240) and relatively high annual toner costs ($220,000), making YSU an outlier when compared to other universities and organizations. Consequently, this project was initiated to lower print volume, reduce print costs, and lessen the University’s environmental footprint. To accomplish this, Mr. Hrishenko’s IT team set the following objectives: (1) eliminate ink jets printers on campus; (2) eliminate color
printers on desktops; (3) reduce or eliminate desktop printers in favor of networked multi-functional print devices; (4) centralize purchasing of printers, toner and related supplies; and (5) install just one black and white printer per department or building floor that is networked and shared. To mitigate concerns over printing sensitive or confidential information, a new "secure print" feature can be installed on printers. Mr. Hrishenko's team has so far taken a noninvasive approach and hasn't confiscated printers or supplies from departments. YSU's Information Technology departments were the first to participate in the project last year. The Beeghly College of Education is now also participating. Other departments with exorbitant numbers of printers will be addressed next. Mr. Hrishenko shared data that shows that the number of printers on campus stands at 1,102 as of February, and that the University has reduced print-related expenses by an average of $2,400 per month since September 2016; and based on toner purchases alone, the University is on track to save an estimated $100,000 this fiscal year. Neal McNally suggested that there is also a wellness component, since reducing the number of printers, especially desktop printers, will require greater mobility among the University's workforce. Dr. Ken Learman emphasized the need to print less in general, noting that most content is available electronically.

4. Under other business, Elaine Jacobs noted the retirement of YSU Basketball Coach Jerry Slocum, which was announced earlier this week. Ms. Jacobs stated that this type of coaching change is likely to require an additional budgetary investment, especially if improving the University's Basketball program is a priority.

5. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:20 p.m.