

Arts and Sciences Executive Committee

January 9, 2009

Members Present: Kenneth Andrien, Barbara Andersen, Stephanie Bernhardt, Ralph Boerner, Malcolm Cochran, Eric Drake, Lesley Ferris, Rick Herrmann, Joan Leitzel, Matthew Misicka, Matt Platz, John Roberts, Gail Summerhill, David Sweasey, Giff Weary, John Wenzel, Judy Wu.

Visitors: Dick Gunther, Brad Harris, Ann Rottersman, Michael Weinstein.

- I. Welcome and introductory remarks:
 - Executive Dean search - President Gee, Provost Alutto, Dean Leitzel, and the Arts and Sciences Search Committee encourage nomination of qualified candidates. Relevant e-mail will be made available to all staff.
 - Arts and Sciences goals - Recently received comments can be part of the discussion at all future meetings.

- II. Update on Navigator report:
 - Background – Ohio State contracted with an outside consulting firm, Navigator, to review the HR and financial business processes in Arts and Sciences as well as the organizational structure for administering these processes. For more than three months Navigator met with subject matter experts including fiscal and HR officers, departmental staff and chairs, and university business operations teams (i.e., Internal Audit, Purchasing and Receiving, and Human Resources) to understand and map current processes. The Navigator team also reviewed data from a variety of sources in order to determine current volume of relevant fiscal and HR transactions.
 - Report – Navigator submitted a 270 page report over winter break that includes: recommendations on streamlining business processes, a proposal for restructuring business organization by creating shared service centers for HR and fiscal transaction level activities, recommendations for longer term implementation of new technology solutions, an analysis of potential improvements in services, an analysis of projected cost savings over five years, and recommendations for implementing changes.
 - Status – The deans and fiscal officers are currently reviewing the recommendations and the potential to both improve services across Arts and Sciences and to create significant cost savings.

- III. Strategic Plans:
 - Each of the five colleges is developing a strategic plan with OAA. Each is in the final stage of approval and expected to be accepted within the next few weeks.

- IV. Campus Campaign:

Discussion focused on the importance of the upcoming Campus Campaign scheduled to kick-off February 16, reasons past participation hasn't been higher, methods for increasing participation, and the importance of demonstrating internal participation to external sources.

- Potential causes of low participation: some individuals feel it's inappropriate for their employer to ask them for gifts, cultural origin may preclude familiarity of and/or does not encourage participation in this practice, fund options may not be well known or aren't appealing, and earlier timing of Bucks for Charity campaign may draw from campus campaign participation.
 - Ideas to increase participation: more focused campaign targets with emphasis on student scholarships, personalized approach via a visit from a campaign representative, stories of personal benefit shared, Campus Campaign differentiated from other campaigns such as Bucks for Charity which because of its name may be perceived as a university campaign, demonstration to faculty how academic programs benefit, focus placed on making a gift rather than on level of gift, balanced emphasis on percentage vs. dollars, specific total goals identified, a relevant departmental program identified as beneficiary such as an emergency support fund for students, emphasis on philanthropic aspect of giving to Ohio State as similar to that of non-university agencies, and offer raffles open only to donors.
- V. Ohio State Budget Model – presented by Ralph Boerner:
- Overview of: sources and uses of funds, summary of Ohio Board of Regents budget model, how the Ohio State budget model operates in theory and reality, potential for volatility and challenges the Ohio State model presents for smaller units, transparency of the model and how it allows for resources and responsibilities to align, state subsidy categories, changes over time in state subsidy, and external factors influencing income and expenses.
 - A centralized budget model allows funds to be strategically directed at the college level, deans can ensure smaller programs are provided for, can direct funds toward national and international competitiveness of preeminent programs, and can encourage interdisciplinary instruction and collaboration.
 - Do not know what will happen with the university budget going forward given the constraints of current economic realities. Units have been asked to report vacancies and searches to Academic Affairs on a quarterly basis.
- VI. Arts and Sciences Awards and Grants:
- A listing of Arts and Sciences faculty, staff, and student awards was distributed. The list includes awards to recognize excellence, develop interdisciplinary and innovative curricula, enhance diversity, and support student research and travel.
 - Members of the committee were asked to consider whether these programs and funding levels are in keeping with the goals and mission of Arts and Sciences and whether there are areas that ought to be recognized that are not included.
- VII. The Executive Dean encouraged submission of topics for the next agenda.