

## **University Chairs Meeting 1-31-06**

### **Announcements:**

- Provost Herbert announced that dates for the summer workshop for chairs are: June 13-14.
- Dr. Bowers announced that she will be sending a list of certificate programs to all chairs. Please check to make sure that all programs your department has are listed. Also, if you have a certificate program, please answer the questions and return the information to her.

### **Program Review:**

Dr. Michael Theall and Dr. Cynthia Hirtzel, co-chairs of the Academic Program Review and Planning Committee, began a general discussion about program review by letting chairs know the expectation is that all programs will be going through review at the same time and that the committee would welcome face-to-face meetings with departments as part of this process.

The following topics and questions related to program review were raised in the discussion that followed:

- Should each department first describe what they want program review to be?
- Should the committee have science or math faculty representation?
- Does focusing on accreditation standards eliminate the opportunity for self-reflection?
- Which should come first: program review or an academic strategic plan?
- In the past there has been no follow-up on recommendations generated through the review process, making the process seem pointless.
- There seems to be no support financially for adapting measures suggested through review.
- The university needs a plan for growth that allocates financial support to those areas where growth is occurring.
- The university needs to think in terms of how all divisions connect with one another, and not just focus on one aspect such as the academic division.
- Many of the university's academic resources are scattered; review should go beyond just departments and look at all resources and how they can be better utilized.
- Is the process being described more a department review rather than a program review, with departments describing what is needed for them to operate?
- Is the university doing program review or process review - or are both needed?
- Accreditation usually establishes benchmarks - in past reviews, departments have not been sure what they were being reviewed against.
- No plan should go beyond 3 years or else it will be obsolete - the university needs to retain flexibility.
- It is not a good idea for the review committee to try to do everything at once; we should be mindful of collecting too much information at first, to keep the reviews from being overwhelming.

- Which should come first: strategic planning or program review? Program review should be used to make strategic decisions; we have been reactive in the past to what other universities have been doing rather than identifying what we are good at and focusing on that. Program review should come first, combined with data, to help create a strategic plan.
- How will data be used once it is collected?
- We should remember that decisions made outside of the academic side will have an impact on what the academic side is able to accomplish.
- We must begin thinking about how to do things differently, not just how to do the old things better.
- Some questions for departments to answer: What do we do well? What do we need to do better?

### **Banner Presentation**

Mr. Robert Tupaj, University Web Site Manager, introduced the “myYSU Portal” web site, including some of the services that will be available on it.