

May 4, 2006

## **YSU Community College Plan of the Planning Committee**

Over the past few years, the YSU Board of Trustees has been discussing the possibility of a community college in Mahoning County. On March 31, 2006, after a presentation by Bruce Beeghly, secretary of the Ohio Board of Regents, the Board agreed to move forward. Over the next twelve months, YSU will explore the possibility of opening a community college in Mahoning County.

To move forward with the formation of a community college in Mahoning County, Youngstown State University must show that there is internal and external support for a community college and that a suitable model exists, or can be constructed, to deliver the services of a community college.

Five criteria have been identified that must be supported by evidence and driven by data from which all community college decisions will be based.

*Criterion 1. The formation of a community college in Mahoning County will help to increase the number of students enrolled in Ohio colleges and universities by 30 percent by the year 2015, as set for by the Governor's Commission on Higher Education and the Economy.<sup>1</sup>*

*Criterion 2. There is significant community/State support for the formation of a community college in Mahoning County.*

*Criterion 3. Youngstown State University is prepared as an institution to engage in the process of forming and operating a community college.*

*Criterion 4. There exists a community college model that best fits Mahoning County and Youngstown State University.*

*Criterion 5. The formation of a community college is feasible for Youngstown State University.*

For each criterion, the types of evidence, major stakeholders/contacts, and individual(s) to be responsible for data collection and analysis will identified.

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<sup>1</sup> In a study prepared by the YSU Center for Urban and Regional Studies this constitutes a combined increase in college enrollment of approximately 9,000 students for Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull Counties.

**Criterion 1. The formation of a community college in Mahoning County will help to increase the number of students enrolled in Ohio colleges and universities by 30 percent by the year 2015, as set for by the Governor’s Commission on Higher Education and the Economy.**

Evidence

1. Collect and analyze data from peer institutions that have opened a community college. Data will include but not limited to: enrollment increases/decreases, costs, benefits, tuition rates, and overall experience.
2. Collect and analyze data from community colleges within Ohio. Data to include but not limited to: enrollment, tuition rates, costs, faculty workloads, benefits to community, and business partnerships.
3. Conduct an analysis/survey of residents of Mahoning County to determine educational needs, potential partners, and overall desire to have a community college.

Major Contacts

1. Association of Two Year Colleges and Universities
2. Presidents of community colleges in Ohio - Roy Church, Loraine County Community College , Laura Meeks, Jefferson Community College, etc.
3. Chambers of Commerce, City Councils, High Schools

Person/Group Responsible: Form a collaboration between the YSU Public Service Institute, Institutional Research, Office of the President, and Office of the Provost.

**Criterion 2. There is significant community/state support for the formation of a community college in Mahoning County.**

Major Questions: Is there enough community support to secure a tax levy?  
Is there support from the State for short term losses and/or to form partnerships with other community colleges?  
Is there support from business and industry from the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys?

Evidence

1. Conduct community/town meetings
  - a. Form a team to meet with community leaders, citizens and visit with business and industry leaders.
  - b. Prepare information to show at the meetings such as: a video, brochures, etc.
  - c. Newspaper Advertisements
2. An analysis/survey of residents of Mahoning County
3. An analysis/survey of needs of businesses and industry
4. Support from politicians
5. Support from the Board of Regents (Bruce Beeghly)

Major Contacts

1. County Technical Centers, Job Training Centers, Career Centers
2. Chambers of Commerce, City Councils, High Schools, Newspapers
3. Public venues

4. Politicians – local, state, national
5. Board of Regents

Person/Group Responsible: Form teams of YSU personnel for local endeavors and use YSU Administrators and friends to work with politicians, OBOR and industry leaders.

**Criterion 3. Youngstown State University is prepared as an institution to engage in the process of forming and operating a community college.**

Evidence

1. YSU community/departmental meetings
  - a. Form a team internal to YSU
  - b. Use the information developed from Criterion 2 to show at the meetings
  - c. Jambar Advertisements?

Note: This should be done after a suitable model is identified. Faculty especially will want to know details.

2. An analysis/survey of YSU faculty/staff/students.

Major Contacts

1. Academic Senate
2. Student Government
3. Unions

Person/Group Responsible: President should form an ad hoc committee that includes the Academic Senate, Student Government, Unions, Staff, and Faculty who work in programs with two year components?

**Criterion 4. There exists a community college model that best fits Mahoning County and Youngstown State University.**

Evidence

1. Collect and analyze examples of existing models
 

Work to be done

  - a. With help from a consultant, determine viable models for the YSU community college
  - b. Explore which model(s) is/are a best fit.
2. Develop cost/benefit analysis of two “best” models
3. Identify partners, as necessary, to deliver the services promised by the model.

Major Contacts

1. Consultant(s)
2. LCCC, JCC, and other two year colleges
3. Unions

Person/Group Responsible: Planning Committee: Robert Herbert, Cynthia Anderson, Tom Maraffa, Arlene Floyd, Nathan Ritchey, and the new YSU Budget Director

**Criterion 5. The formation of a community college is feasible for Youngstown State University.**

**Work to be Done**

1. Assemble and analyze the evidence collected in the analysis of the criteria above.
2. Develop an overall sense of how YSU might benefit
  - a. Community/levy support?
  - b. State support?
  - c. Partner support?
3. Recalculate estimates of short term and long term costs
  - a. Can YSU sustain a short term loss?
  - b. Who will help us minimize a short term loss?

**Major Contacts**

1. Consultant(s)
2. Partners
3. Unions
4. Board of Regents
5. Politicians – local, state, national

Person/Group Responsible: Chairs of each subcommittee with Planning Committee

**Outcome**

Based on the analysis and level of fulfillment of each of the 5 criteria above, a recommendation will be constructed for the President and the Board of Trustees to consider.

## **Plan to Explore a Community College Preliminary Time Line**

June 1, 2006	Plan of the Planning Committee reviewed by Cabinet, Administrative Advisory Council, and Deans
	Revise plan as necessary
	Planning Committee will identify a lead person to work on each of the criteria and secure start up funding for a consultant and costs associated with each criteria
August 15, 2006	Each of the Criteria committees will meet with and submit a progress report to the planning Committee
December 15, 2006	Teams from each of the criteria will give a final report on their meetings with constituents
February 15, 2007	Submit draft of a community college proposal that outlines the recommendations of the planning committee to President Sweet for comment
March 1, 2007	Widely circulate revised plan
March 30, 2007	Receive feed back from circulation Revise plan to accommodate information gained from circulation
April 15, 2007	Present recommendations to Dr. Sweet
June 2007	Deliver a formal presentation to the Board of Trustees