

YSU 2000: The Strategic Plan

Accomplishments for the period November 2011 – January 2012

Summary

Accountability and Sustainability

Work is progressing satisfactorily on a new YSU budget model. Various models are under investigation and analysis of selected IUC institutional budget practices is being undertaken. Despite attending to a substantial revenue shortfall, YSU's actual budget plan for 2011-2012 has remained responsive to our strategic priorities. With respect to new data warehousing initiatives we have succeeded in extracting and transforming a set of data that will serve as a pilot program. New business processes associated with payroll are currently in test phase with a pilot group of users; practices associated with student employment are under the early stages of analysis. Discussions on shared services have begun with peer universities in Northeast Ohio and YSU is actively developing a list of services that could be beneficially shared.

Regional Impact

Initiatives within this cornerstone are ongoing or in various stages of progress. The offering of diverse cultural programming is a continuing strength of the University. Future endeavors will expand the impact of this initiative on the community's cultural awareness. Moreover, an initiative directed towards the engagement of different academics units with one another, as well as the coordination of their efforts in relationship to economic and social development of the greater Youngstown region, has provided mutual benefits to the community and the University. Continued cultivation of these relationships is a primary goal. Also, a task group of University and community leaders was formed recently to explore pertinent issues surrounding non-violent behavior and neighborhood safety. Furthermore, policies are being developed that open the "front door" of the University to greater community involvement in academics, research, the arts, business, and other activities both on and off campus. These collective efforts are enhancing University and community partnerships, as well as establishing stronger relationships with local agencies involved in the arts and economic development.

Urban Research

Initiatives to support the urban research mission are being implemented. These include increasing technical support for grant writing and analysis by involving the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in working with principal investigators across the University. The Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs, working with the Academic Senate's Academic Research Committee, is planning a new training program on the responsible conduct of research for faculty, staff, and students. A web page to disseminate information about undergraduate research is in development. The new graduate programs approved by the Chancellor are being phased in, and the committee examining admission standards and policies for graduate students has completed its work.

Additional financial resources were allocated for 20 commercials aimed at recruiting high quality students, and a committee is now developing new social media strategies to promote our programs. Faculty continue to engage in interdisciplinary collaboration, such as the Cooperative Laboratory, which teams students in mechanical engineering and sculpture. The Centers of Excellence have advanced in a variety of ways. For example, the Center of Excellence in International Business is sponsoring a four-week residential experience for students to live and study in London, and the Center of Excellence in Materials Science received a \$1.2 million award from the Army Research Lab for research conducted in cooperation with Fireline to develop materials that provide better protection for U.S. soldiers.

Student Success

Students, faculty, and staff are broadly engaged in the priority initiatives of the Student Success Cornerstone. Rapid progress is being made on the initiatives related to enrollment management, first-year experience, orientation programming, early warning processes, and marketing. At the same time, there continues to be significant progress in terms of transforming academic and student affairs into a “culture of assessment” (pg. 7 of the Strategic Plan). Throughout the campus, colleagues are having meaningful discussions about admissions standards, course completion rates, academic rigor, and a variety of other issues related to student success. The work of the Strategic Plan is fostering increasing collaborations across the various divisions of the University.

Detail on the accomplishments of each of the cornerstones can be found on the planning matrix under Background Materials.