

Northeast Ohio  
Universities  
Collaboration &  
Innovation Study  
Commission

*Cleveland State University*  
*Kent State University*  
*Northeastern Ohio Universities*  
*College of Medicine*  
*The University of Akron*  
*Youngstown State University*

**Minutes from June 20, 2007 session of the**  
**Northeast Ohio Universities Collaboration & Innovation Study Commission**  
**Held at the Offices of the GAR Foundation, Akron, Ohio**

**Attendees:** Chairman, Ted Boyd; Dorothy Baunach, Bruce Beeghly, Robert Briggs, William Demas, Phillip Kaufmann, Dr. Lois Nora, John Pogue, Richard Pogue, Dr. Luis Proenza, Dr. Michael Schwartz, Dr. David Sweet; Jane Timken, Jim Trakas and Dr. Garry Walters.

**Guests:** Jon Allison, Holly Harris Bane, Roger Carroll, Kimberly Chapple, David Creamer, Richard Lewis, Tom Maraffa, Chand Midha, Char Reed, Kirstin Toth

**Unable to attend:** James Hambrick, Dr. Lester Lefton, Ronald Weinberg, and Bradley Whitehead

**Staff:** Dr. Stephen Portch, Amy Sabath

***Opening Comments of Chairman Ted Boyd***

- Mr. Boyd welcomed everyone and noted that we did not yet have minutes from the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting to approve. He also informed the Commission members of the upcoming surgery for Monica Turoczy and that she would be unavailable for the next few weeks. We will prepare minutes of the previous meeting and distribute them soon.

***Comments of Steve Portch, Lead Consultant***

- Dr. Portch noted that we are at a critical point and need to narrow the scope of work. He explained that he has had conference calls with the Provosts and CFOs of the Universities to discuss the information that will be asked of them. Each group will convene and identify opportunities for the Commission to explore. Both groups will then be invited to the respective work groups to provide input and reactions. It is also likely that the Chief Information Officers (CIOs) will also be involved.
- Dr. Portch reminded the group to please follow the guidelines pertaining to the length of any requested information document. This will help with organization and focus on the important points and recommendations of the materials submitted. He also noted that all information to be shared with the Commission or its workgroups should be submitted through the staff.

- With regard to the Collaborations Inventory that each University submitted, the information about the programs is currently being formatted and evaluated and will be distributed prior to the next meeting. Rather than present the collaborations by institution, they will be presented by program. Many of the responses do not include benefits and challenges to the programs. It is important to know which programs work, which do not work, and why. Provosts will be asked to help finalize the document.
- Dr. Proenza pointed out that there are challenges in conveying the magnitude of collaborations that are in place and that the categories should be broader. Dr. Schwartz noted that the Provosts should sort through this information.
- Sorting through the collaborations will determine which programs have significant impact and for what reasons. The finding may be that a slight change in policy could make a program more successful. There is a large amount of data through which to sort.
- Budget information included in the Inventory of Collaborations was helpful. The CFOs will be asked to work together on the pie charts for revenues and expenditures so that they are identical in their use of categories. This will help us understand the distinctiveness among the institutions.
- Dr. Portch suggested the Presidents of the Universities think about the legislative or regulatory constraints that need to be reviewed. Any criterion that leads to constraining activities needs to be examined. Ms. Timken noted that the review of constraints needs to be limited to those that have a direct impact on the Commission's charge. Dr. Portch asked the Presidents to work with their staff to find this information. Dr. Portch asked Dr. Walters to provide a memo of statutory and regulatory challenges from OBOR's perspective.
- The Administrative group is to work with a consultant to facilitate the work of the Commission and to help identify subject specialists to help the group once the areas for further study have been identified. Allen Proctor was suggested as a possible consultant.
- Mr. Boyd noted that both the Academic and Administrative workgroups have met and have produced good information. At each Study Commission meeting, the workgroups will meet after the full Commission meeting has ended. Mr. Pogue has spoken with Speaker Husted about attending a future Study Commission meeting and would also like to extend the invitation to Senate President Harris.

***Dr. David Sweet—Presentation on What Makes YSU Unique***

***NOTE: a copy of Dr. Sweet's presentation is included.***

- Mr. Boyd introduced Dr. Sweet to address the Commission with his presentation. Dr. Sweet pointed out that 2008 is the YSU Centennial. YSU is focused on accessibility and economic revitalization.

- Dr. Sweet acknowledged that the Mahoning Valley is the only urban metropolitan area without a community college. Having a community college would create more accessibility for students, create more programs, and be more affordable for students. Dr. Portch asked if vibrancy of community colleges would be constrained because a number of prime associate degree programs are offered by the universities, which is unusual nationally. Dr. Proenza commented that the dilemma is how best to serve the students. Dr. Portch pointed out that there is not a consistent method to fund community colleges and that the choices must be confusing for many students.

The Study Commission broke out into Academic and Administrative workgroups at 9:00AM.

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## **What Makes YSU Unique**

**May 21, 2007**

**Discussion Draft**

The unique mission and role of Youngstown State University as a public institution of higher education in North East Ohio is defined by its commitment to open access and affordability; its undergraduate focus; and its connections to the Youngstown Metropolitan Area.

### **Access and Affordability**

YSU is the only public university in Northeast Ohio in which open access is a core component of its mission statement. The open access mission creates opportunities that would otherwise not be available for individuals in the region to better their lives and those of their families through enrollment in and graduation from high quality academic programs. The open access mission is recognized in that YSU is the only public university in Northeast Ohio which the Ohio Board of Regents classifies in the category “University Main Campuses with Open Admissions” in reporting retention, persistence, and graduation data. It is also the only public university in Northeast Ohio that was granted an exception in the Ohio Core Legislation in terms of the future ability to admit students who have not met the Ohio Core high school graduation requirements.

The commitment to open access is reinforced by a commitment to affordability. Undergraduate tuition and fees at YSU are the lowest in the state for those public universities without special line item subsidy and over \$1100 per year below that of the next lowest university in the region. Financial aid packages create a net tuition ratio of 46% which is also the best in the region.

Because of its open access mission the profile of YSU students differs from the other public universities in North East Ohio. YSU has a higher percentage of students receiving state grants; a higher percentage with family income below \$50,000; and a higher percentage of first generation college students than its counterparts. Coinciding with these characteristics is the fact that YSU also has a higher percentage of students who have completed less than the minimum high school core requirements. As a result, remedial instruction comprises a higher proportion of student FTE.

	<b>YSU</b>	<b>KSU</b>	<b>Akron</b>	<b>CSU</b>
Remedial Instruction as % of Student FTE	<b>5.4</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>2.7</b>
% First Year Students Less than Minimum Core	<b>39</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>30</b>
% Family Income Below \$50,000	<b>58</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>56</b>
% Receiving State Grants	<b>44</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>38</b>
% First Generation College Students	<b>57</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>

Source: OBOR Performance Report

### **Undergraduate Focus**

90% of YSU students (95% FTE) are undergraduates compared to 81% at Akron; 78% at Kent State; and 62% at Cleveland State. Graduate programs at Youngstown State are focused on providing career development and advanced degrees primarily for the regional employment opportunities in fields such as education, business, and the health professions. The undergraduate focus at YSU means that academic departments can create extraordinary opportunities for undergraduate participation in research, particularly in the sciences, engineering, and mathematics. YSU is the first public university in Ohio to create a STEM college and produces a higher percentage of undergraduate STEM degrees than the other public universities in Northeast Ohio.

### **Connections to the Community**

YSU dominates higher education enrollment in its primary service area. YSU has had a demonstrated impact on urban and regional planning and economic development through the Centennial Campus Master Plan and leadership with Mayor Jay Williams of the Youngstown 2010, the city's comprehensive plan; as well as participation in neighborhood planning efforts surrounding the campus. YSU is unique among public universities in Northeast Ohio in terms of the magnitude of its social and economic impact on the downtown, the city, and the region in which it is located. Youngstown Early College High School—the first in a public university in Ohio—is a partnership with the Youngstown City Schools to better prepare students for higher education and instill in them the motivation to attend a college. YSU is the key driver for the region's economic growth and development because of the size of its workforce (2100 employees) and its overall economic impact relative to most other local employers. The endowment housed in the YSU Foundation as well as the success of fundraising campaigns such as the YSU Annual Fund, the campaign for the Andrews Recreation and Wellness Center, and the Centennial Capital Campaign are unique among public universities in Northeast Ohio in that the money raised is drawn primarily from region served by YSU.

May 17, 2007