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Bowling Green State University

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Incentives offered to combat research slump

When research, development and assistant grants to the University topped the $10 million mark in 1979-80, University officials were cautious in expecting that record could be topped in succeeding years.

What followed were periods of state and federal cutbacks in financial aid and research-supporting programs, and indeed, totals for 1980-81 failed to match those of the preceding year. This year seems to show a similar trend, with grants for research and special projects lagging far behind last year's totals.

Gary Heberlein, dean of the Graduate College and vice provost for research, has voiced the administration's growing concern over what appears to be a continuous slump in research grant activity.

Acknowledging that dollars to support research are scarce, Dr. Heberlein said University faculty nonetheless must continue to be aggressive in their quest for available funds. To stimulate that grant-writing activity, the administration has announced an Incentive program.

The program calls for an increase in the amount of grant overhead (money allocated to the University by a grant sponsor to cover indirect research costs, such as utilities) which will be returned to those departments generating research proposals.

Currently, 15 percent of all indirect grant funds are returned to the department which generates them, and an additional three percent is given to the Research Services Office to support its grants development activities. The remaining overhead is disburse for general research support at the direction of the Board.

Under the new arrangement, departments have the opportunity to increase their own rate to 25 percent, the amount of overhead returned to research services to five percent and the money returned to the generating college from zero to five percent.

To qualify for the higher return, department administrators must increase from the previous fiscal year the number of formal proposals submitted for external funding or the amount of grants/contract dollars generated.

Those departments with dollars which qualify will receive the incentive payment at the close of this fiscal year.

Dr. Heberlein said the Incentive program provides an excellent opportunity for departments to increase their resources for research and further grant support, if is intended to reward those departments striving to improve their external funding efforts, he said, noting that in an average year total overhead dollars generated by research University-wide have approximately $500,000,000.

The inability to secure external dollars for research support is not unique to Bowling Green. It is a national trend which even the strongest research institutions are experiencing. But, Dr. Heberlein added the situation is not just the result of federal spending cuts.

Just as significant, he said, is the fact that the national trend is not improvement in their external funding efforts, he said, noting that in an average year the budget money from the state is split between the University and the teaching colleges.

For Columbus, the reports from Columbus are that both state and University officials have been finding that money just keeps slipping through their grasp.

$3.1 million reduction announced

First steps taken to meet budget crisis

In Columbus they're singing those "old budget blues" once again, but this time the strains are louder and the sounds are more discordant.

The reports from Columbus are that the state faces a huge budget deficit, perhaps as much as $1 billion, before the close of the current biennium in June, 1983.

For Bowling Green, and all of higher education in the state, those projections have serious repercussions.

In a meeting of deans, directors and department heads on Jan. 15, Interim President Ferrari said current reports of the state's budget problems are "the most serious" of any we have heard from Columbus in recent years.

Although no figures were then available on exactly how much Bowling Green's budget would be cut, Dr. Ferrari said "the reduction apparently is going to be much larger and will go into effect much sooner than anyone expected."

On Wednesday Jan. 20, the University was informed that total 1981-82 subsidies would be reduced by 6.9 percent, or $3.1 million for the remainder of this fiscal year. That cut will begin with the February subsidy check. In addition, the University could experience as much as a 16 percent cut, or $6.3 million, in its anticipated $39.3 million 1982-83 appropriation.

Dr. Ferrari and the other state university presidents are meeting with the Board of Regents in Columbus today for clarification of the budget situation. Further developments will be reported to the University community through MONITOR as decisions become available. Dr. Ferrari will also address the Faculty Senate at a special on-call meeting at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow (Jan. 20) in the McFall Center Assembly Room.

Calling the new developments "the worst possible scenario one could imagine," Dr. Ferrari has ordered several immediate spending reductions:

- Imposing a moratorium on filling all full- and part-time positions, including those previously authorized when the hiring freeze was modified just two weeks ago;
- Stopping all university-funded purchases and leases of equipment. The provost is to handle exceptions;
- Placing a hold on new spending authorizations approved by the Board of Trustees last November. All contractual obligations, including merit compensation increases, stipend increases for graduate assistants and teaching fellows and wage increases for classified staff, have been canceled.

Dr. Ferrari also cautioned all budget administrators to refrain from authorizing any kind of major budget expenditures or commitments. He said Jan. 15 remarks, Dr. Ferrari said the state university presidents have urged the Board of Regents to communicate to the public the grim outlook for higher education in Ohio if budget cuts of the amounts projected become a reality.

To declare financial exigency is premature," he said, "but the public does need to know the seriousness of our situation."

Dr. Ferrari said there are likely to be little sentiment among the regents or legislators to resound the recently-enacted capital appropriations bill, even though he and many other University presidents have recommended that most capital projects be deferred during the current operating emergency. Bowling Green is scheduled to receive $10.165 million over the next year and a-half for construction and renovation of existing facilities.
Research remains a strong priority. We want to continue to build our reputation as an institution with an up-to-date, actively researching faculty. It is increasingly important that we do so as we enter the period of predicted enrollment declines."
Gary Hess is ‘watchdog’ for historical research

Most of us, if given the chance, would love to tell the federal government a thing or two. Gary Hess, arts and sciences, is in a position to do just that—at least a part of the government.

As one of only six members of the U.S. Department of State Advisory Committee, Dr. Hess has a voice in State Department decisions regarding the declassification of historical documents.

Dr. Hess last year was nominated to the federal committee by the American Historical Association and subsequently was appointed to a four-year term by Hodding Carter III, the assistant secretary of state.

The committee, in a sense, acts as a watchdog for historical researchers, the press and the general public.

“Our main function is to review State Department policies and procedures regarding the opening of documents for researchers and others,” he says.

Dr. Hess meets with other committee members including a professor at Harvard and a professor at Stanford and officials in the State Department two or three times a year and maintains regular correspondence between meetings. At each meeting, the committee compiles a report conforming to its recommendations to the State Department.

The majority of the documents the committee studies pertain to America’s relations with other countries and how particular policy decisions have been made. The files also contain reports by U.S. ambassadors abroad about the political climates of countries to which they have been assigned.

Such documents are supposed to be declassified after 25 years, but because of State Department orders, the most recent documents available pre-date 1949.

The State Department contends that documents from the 1950s are still too sensitive to be released. But Dr. Hess says, “It is rare that a document more than 20-25 years old can have an adverse effect on contemporary relations.”

The federal government sees the 1950s as watershed years and believes the events of that period have a major influence on what is happening today, Dr. Hess explained.

Likewise, there are still many documents from before 1949 that have been pulled from the files by the FBI and the CIA because each believes the information is too critical to today’s national security.

For example, Dr. Hess cited one document recently declassified that State Department officials were uncertain whether to release. It was a letter, sent in 1949 by the future foreign minister of the People’s Republic of China to an American diplomat just before the communists won the civil war in China.

The letter, written by Chou-en-lai, suggested that China established formal diplomatic relations with the United States once the communists gained control of the government. The document was not released when diplomatic relations actually were established between the two countries.

The State Department feared that any earlier release of the letter would adversely affect its relationship with Taiwan, Dr. Hess explained.

As might be expected, the committee and the State Department don’t always agree on the declassification of documents. The committee, for instance, believes the government’s classification procedures are too restrictive and would like to ease them. But the committee’s efforts have not met with much success.

The State Department and the issue has come to a standstill during the past year. Dr. Hess has always had a very liberal record in this making declassification decisions, but, so far, we’re starting to lag behind. The government is becoming more restrictive, Hess says.

Ironically, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) could be a major reason behind the trend toward increased suppression of information. Following the 1966 passage of the law, the FOIA was an attempt to force public disclosure of much previously-hidden government information. “The FOIA has put pressure on (federal) agencies to declassify documents even earlier than they wanted to,” Dr. Hess said.

As a result, he says, “agencies have become more selective and secretive.” Dr. Hess worries that this trend will do more than retard the destruction of documents.

He favors the FOIA and believes it has generally been beneficial in obtaining certain files in making the federal government more responsive to public requests.

Dr. Hess also admits there is some value to the classification of documents. “If any documents, if opened too early, could jeopardize relations between nations or governments. The big question is whether to open them, but when,” he says.

Dr. Hess believes the committee is indispensable in helping to maintain the public’s right to know. “The committee is important as a means of keeping pressure on the State Department. It’s important that people at the State Department realize that (citizens) need to do research,” he says.

“What we have generally sought is a firm policy by the State Department regarding a certain number of years, everything is open.”

Hamilton to star in ice show

World champion figure skater and Bowling Green native Scott Hamilton will head a list of 10 skating champions to three in the American Star on Ice” benefit performances April 23-24 at the Ice Arena.

Joining Hamilton will be Caitlin and Peter Carruthers, current U.S. senior pairs champions; Judy Blumberg and Michael Seibert, 1979 senior dance champions; senior dance skaters Elles Spitz and Scott Gregory; Barbara Underhill and M Жан Мартини, senior pairs Canadian champions; Elaine Zeayes, current national ladies U.S. champion; Brian Sokler, 1980 senior men’s Canadian champion; and Tracy Wahnlam, current senior ladies Canadian champion.

The show will also include performances by the junior precision teams of the Bowling Green Figure Skating Club and the Falcons.

Proceeds from the performances will be donated to the American Cancer Society. In 1980, the show produced $10,000 to support local cancer research efforts. Hamilton presented a check for that amount to the ACS in memory of one of his mother, who died of cancer.

Arrangements for a nationwide telecast of the performances are being coordinated with WGBU-TV, Channel 57.

Tickets are $6 for each of the three performances: April 23 at 8 p.m. and April 24 at 2 and 8 p.m. All seats are reserved and tickets will be sold at the doors or at the Memorial Hall ticket office.
**News in Review**

**Home economics has acting chair**

Doris K. Williams, a professor of home economics, has been named acting chair of the department.

She succeeds Ronald Russell, who was appointed associate dean of the College of Education, effective Jan. 1.

Dr. Williams, who joined the faculty immediately after receiving her master’s degree from Ohio University and a doctorate from Ohio State University, was most recently coordinator of graduate studies in home economics department.

**Surplus needed to ease budgets**

Wanted: All unused items from University offices and departments. Call inventory management (2121), That’s the plea being issued to help ease University budgets.

The department agreement wants to establish a monthly schedule for displaying University surplus which is available to departments at no cost.

Displaying University surplus which is available to departments at no cost.

- **Makeup.** Usually needed only in a studio, not on-location. Use a light to medium shade to neutralize bluish or reddish undertones, which has the tendency to develop under hot lights along the upper lip, nose and forehead.
- **Voice Check.** Prior to recording, you will want to consider Ferber’s rules, so your voice level can be measured. Speak in a low pitch in a whisper, in your natural tone of voice. Be unemotional. Don’t strain or whisper.
- **Count Down.** If you are being booked for a 30-second “on” session, for example, the camera person or reporter is watching the “on” light. In a studio, the floor manager will demonstrate with fingers and the “on” is lit. If you have a light, how does it count down from sequence to sequence? After the one, it’s a signal that recording is underway. If the two, it’s a signal that you’re doing two. If the three, it’s a signal that recording is underway. At the same second, the red tally light stops the clock, and the time is running, which indicates that recording is in progress.
- **Eye Contact.** If you’re being interviewed by a camera person or reporter, either in a studio or on location, talk to and look at the reporter; don’t “mug” the camera. If you’re doing an interview panel, maintain eye contact with the hosts and other guests. Don’t be shy about interruptions, however tempting, especially TV monitors which show how you appear to the audience. If you’re watching something “off camera,” the viewer will want to know what you’re looking at. In contrast, for what’s being said.
- **Rehearsal.** Even in a fast-breaking news story environment, it pays to anticipate reporters’ questions and reception. The key is to weigh your words carefully for their impact on your voice’s strength and clarity.

**Classified staff invited to meet**

Members of the Personnel Steering Committee have planned an open meeting for all classified employees on Wednesday (Feb. 3) from noon to 1 p.m.

**Celeste to speak on Peace Corps**

Richard Celeste, a former California governor and former director of the Peace Corps, will lecture at 7 p.m. (Feb. 7) in the State Room of the Union.

Celeste’s speech, "International Volunteerism and the Peace Corps in Retrospect," is the first in a series of lectures to be presented by the Department of Political Science.

A graduate of Yale University, he began his Peace Corps service as a civil engineer in 1963. Later that same year, he joined the staff of the U.S. Ambassador to India as executive assistant.

Celeste became involved in Ohio politics during the 1960 election, serving as an aide to Sen. Robert Kennedy. In 1970 he was elected to the first of two terms in the Ohio House of Representatives, and in 1974 he was elected as lieutenant governor.

After an unsuccessful campaign for governor in 1976, Celeste was appointed director of the Peace Corps in 1979.

He currently is president of the National Housing Corporation and is teaching urban economics at John Carroll University.

**Development grant deadline is Feb. 1**

Feb. 1 is the deadline to apply for Faculty Development Grants, which are being accepted now. The grants are available to faculty Development Committee.

**Employment Opportunities**

The posting of all vacancies for faculty, contract and classified staff positions has been deferred pending clarification of the University’s budget situation.