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Bowling Green State University

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New committee to focus on student retention

As the number of high school students begins to decline nationwide and colleges and universities scramble to recruit those who are available, Bowling Green is taking an intensive look at ways to keep those students who have already enrolled. And in that effort, a new University-wide Committee on Retention hopes to involve faculty, staff and students alike.

Greg DeCrane, director of student organizations and new student programs, and Dr. Beth Casey, director of the Center for Educational Options, co-chair the committee, which was formed last spring upon the recommendation of several faculty and staff who had been meeting as an informal "focus group" on retention for several years.

According to DeCrane, the "focus group" was an outgrowth of the retention task force formed in 1978 to study what then was a one-time high dropout rate between the sophomore and junior years.

Noting that concern for retaining students who have enrolled is a relatively new phenomenon on campuses across the nation, DeCrane and Casey said, however, that institutions which have made a concerted effort at retention have been highly successful. Apparently 9 percent of Bowling Green's entering freshmen actually enroll for their fourth year at the University, DeCrane said, adding that the 9 percent figure is very close to national averages.

"That rate has always been accepted in the past," he said, "but now we have begun to ask why we could not do better.

DeCrane pointed out that the University has been very successful in its past efforts to recruit quality freshmen to the campus, adding that a quality student body helps attract and keep good students at the University. Noting, however, that higher education is now a "buyer's market" for students and that Bowling Green will have to struggle with all other institutions to maintain its enrollment, he said, "We can no longer look to the freshman class to solve our enrollment problems. We must work hard to keep the good students we already have."

With that in mind, the retention committee has outlined several procedures it hopes to pursue in coming months, including initiating a regular assessment of reasons why students drop out of the University, and, even more important, why they stay.

"It's time to do a health check," DeCrane said. "We need to ask the people who are here what we are doing right and then make prospective students aware of what we have, recruiting those who are compatible with our strengths."

The committee also hopes to survey this year those students who did not return to campus for the fall semester, and it has initiated a process for obtaining data from students who drop out during the academic year.

In addition, efforts are being made to identify those students who are likely to leave the University at the end of the first semester and to offer them the services they need which might prevent their leaving Bowling Green.

Casey noted that research has shown that those students who are low academic achievers, those who have inadequate financial aid, those who are unclear about their educational objectives and those who have inadequate academic records are prime candidates for dropping out of college. She said if the students who are experiencing such problems can be identified soon enough in their college careers, they can be offered advising, tutoring or other services to overcome what might otherwise be perceived as insurmountable obstacles to an education.

She cited the University Division, where 700 freshmen and sophomores with undecided majors are enrolled, as proof that when the proper services are offered, "we can defeat the odds."

"We know that students who have not selected a major field of study when they come to campus traditionally have a high drop-out rate," she said. "Bowling Green's University Division, however, has an 80 percent retention rate, which is higher than the University average, and we credit that to sound outreach advising."

Casey added that the cost of a good retention program is far less than that of traditional recruiting.

Both Casey and DeCrane emphasized the need for a total University commitment to the retention effort. "We are talking about finding a University that has been over-enrolled for a number of years," she said. "The change will require assessing the character and quality of life within the institution. It will mean paying attention to students as individuals as well as numbers."

The retention committee will make recommendations, but it is those recommendations, which will be channeled through the planning and budgeting and academic affairs areas, will be left to the University community as a whole. "The primary factor in holding power is the students' impression of the University, and everyone plays a role in forming that impression," DeCrane said.

Casey added, "Even those areas which are doing well must be made aware of those factors which may cause students to leave the University. One of the committee's major goals will be to create and maintain an awareness of the need for retention efforts."

In addition to Casey and DeCrane, members of the new retention committee are: Dr. Tim Taylor, educational development; Dr. Jack Marsten, popular culture; Joan Morgan, University Division; Dr. Barbara Keller, residence life; James Litwin, institutional studies; Dr. Peter W qui, education; Cary Brewer, registration and records; Dan Shelley, admissions; Arthur Darrow, management; Joyce Kope, continuing education, and Jack Taylor, educational development.

Fitness and fun are topics of Rec Center's L.I.F.E. program

Learning how to become physically fit while having fun is the purpose of a program planned for 6:10 p.m. Thursday (Oct. 28) at the Student Recreation Center.

Entitled "The Pulse of L.I.F.E. (Leisure Information and Fitness Evaluation)," the program will cover such topics as body building, aerobics, karate, yoga, jogging, scuba diving, squash, fencing and race walking.

In addition to demonstrations, the evening will also include a health fair, games, films, a question-and-answer session, and several health tests.

At the health fair, information will be available on a wide variety of subjects, including personal health, exercise programs, weight control, careers in the health and mental health fields and cardiovascular fitness, will be distributed.

Also featured will be a sportswear fashion show, a film depicting the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle, lung testing by the American Cancer Society and stress testing by the Fulton County Stress Center.

In conjunction with the program, the center is sponsoring a five-kilometer and a one-mile fun run on Saturday (Oct. 30). The one-mile race begins at 11 a.m., followed by the five-kilometer run at 11:30 a.m. The start line will be at the intramural fields west of the stadium.

Registration fee is $2.50 for an application is submitted by 5 p.m. Thursday (Oct. 28), and $5 if submitted after that date. Registrations will be accepted until 10 a.m. on race day. Prizes will be awarded in 14 categories.

The L.I.F.E. festival is free to Rec Center members. Admission for guests who are not members is $1, or 75 cents for those "dressed to participate."

For further information, contact the Rec Center office at 372-2711.

Dr. Kenneth Cooper, the man who made aerobics a household word, will be meeting as an informal "focus group" President's Lecture at 8 p.m. Wednesday (Oct. 27) in the Grand Ballroom of the University Union.

Cooper's lecture will be entitled "Can You Afford Not to Exercise?" The Holits Moore President's Lecture Series was established in memory of former President Moore with gifts contributed to the University following his death in April 1981. The series will annually feature nationally known speakers on subjects that were of special interest to Moore during his 10-year administration at Bowling Green.
Academic Council

Five members of Academic Council have been appointed to a subcommittee to determine the future role of the council following a lengthy discussion of that issue at the Oct. 6 meeting.

Dr. Leo Navin, economics; Melvin Hyman, speech communication; Kendall Baker, arts and sciences; and Richard Bowers, health, physical education and recreation, have been appointed by the group to Dr. Karl Vogt, interim vice president for academic affairs, to clarify President Washburn's intentions and to find answers to several questions posed by council members regarding the future role of Academic Council.

Undergraduate student Karen Wansbush is serving on the subcommittee.

The decision to appoint a subcommittee was made after council devoted much of its Oct. 6 meeting to discussing its role, including a review of the faculty Senate. The subcommittee will consist of faculty and staff on Oct. 1 which propose that the Academic Council become a standing committee of the Faculty Senate with the same membership it now has. Olscamp suggested that decisions of the council be subject to Faculty Senate veto through a 3/5 vote of the senate membership.

If provisions of being a "standing committee" were discussed, including fears that if council became subject to senate control, the senate could vote to change the membership, constituency, scope of authority or the method by which proposals are submitted to council.

Dr. Peter Hutchinson, ACE fellow in the president's office, said, however, that the president's suggestion should be interpreted strictly—stated—that the membership and purposes of council would remain the same, that the only changes would be in the following decisions through Academic Council. The subcommittee would still receive proposals directly from schools, colleges, councils, etc.

Olscamp, library, suggested that council should take the current opportunity to make clearly defined those issues that are under the Jurisdiction of Academic Council and those that should be considered by Faculty Senate.

Further issues addressed included:

- If any provision should be important enough in the past to warrant a vote at a special meeting of the Academic Charter, what are the reasons for changing its authority now? Which body would assume its functions?
- Is the issue not whether council is separate; it is whether it maintains the same responsibilities. Too much emphasis is being placed on the "standing committee" portion of the proposed proposals.
- Senate already has the power to recommend amendments in any part of the Charter. Final authority, however, rests with the trustees.

The recommendation is to draft a statement of recommendations for Academic Council to consider and will report to the group in November.

In other business, members of committee discussed the proposal which will allow departments to give credit by examination to students who have distinguished themselves and the University during their time at the University. They said many non-traditional students have difficulty satisfactorily completing courses and may have acquired the skills taught in those courses through individual study and/or work experience.

Each department will have the option of deciding whether to offer credit by examination and will also determine its own passing score for the tests. For reasons of consistency, security and efficiency, the examinations will be administered by the Counseling and Career Development Center. Vogt said a formula will be developed to assist the center with administrative costs involved in the testing program.

Faculty Senate

Following a discussion Oct. 19 of ways to proportion and distribute the annual merit salary pool, members of the faculty were urged not to spend an entire year debating the issue but to take some action through the Faculty Senate indicating their priorities for salaries distribution.

Dr. David Rollier, history, one of five faculty who participated in a panel discussion of the controversy, along with the concept of merit, said the faculty, working through the Faculty Welfare Committee and the senate, must come to some agreement on how much money should be distributed for meritorious performance and what criteria should be used in the distribution process. Rollier's presentation, and that of three other faculty forum on merit sponsored by the FWC and the senate in the University.

Although there was some disagreement whether fair criteria could be decided in even a year's time, the consensus was nonetheless, that some faculty stand on merit should be voiced. The Faculty Welfare Committee is to continue work on a proposal for salary distribution for the 1964-65 year. Dr. Roger Anderson, political science, chair of the FWC, said the committee plans to survey faculty concerning their preferences prior to issuing a recommendation for senate consideration.

The FWC selected the panelists who presented their views on merit at the Oct. 19 senate session.

In addition to Rollier, those who spoke included Dr. Mark Adam, accounting and management information systems; Dr. Joseph Krauter, political science; Dr. Stephen Vessey, biological sciences, and Dr. Donald Wilson, English and history.

Adam, who said he would prefer that 100 percent of the salary pool be distributed by departments on a merit basis because "the only proposal which allows departments to give credit by examination to students who have distinguished themselves and the University during their time at the University. They said many non-traditional students have difficulty satisfactorily completing courses and may have acquired the skills taught in those courses through individual study and/or work experience. Each department will have the option of deciding whether to offer credit by examination and will also determine its own passing score for the tests. For reasons of consistency, security and efficiency, the examinations will be administered by the Counseling and Career Development Center. Vogt said a formula will be developed to assist the center with administrative costs involved in the testing program.

Arcute, Faculty and staff who have not yet visited the Art Resource Center in Room 125 of the Fine Arts Building might want to take the opportunity to do so now.

In addition to a wide variety of audio-visual materials and equipment, the center has a copies of a variety of newsletters.

Hours are Monday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon and 1:30 p.m.; and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. Carol Aldridge is the art resources librarian.

Classtified Staff Advisory Committee

All classified employees are invited to attend the next meeting of the Classified Staff Advisory Committee (CSAC) on Oct. 5 in the 10th floor Board Room of the Administration Building.

The department of physics and astronomy will present the second annual meeting of the Ohio section of the American Physical Society Friday and Saturday (Oct. 22-23) on campus.

About 200 physicists from Ohio and surrounding states attended the meeting, which included a symposium on social issues. Among nationally known scientists invited to present talks at the session were Dr. John Edly of the High Altitude Observatory, Dr. William Kuhn of the University of Michigan; Stanford University of Energy Conversion Devices Inc. in Troy, Mich.; Dr. Carl Nielsen of Ohio State University, chairman of the Department of Bowing Green.

Financial support for the sessions was provided by Energy Conversion Devices, Owens-Illinois Corp. Toledo, Henry Fliters Inc. of Bowling Green, and the solid state division of the Radio Corp. of America and Marathon Petroleum Co., both of Findlay.

Looking for the University's Jazz Lab Band performing music from the Big Band Era and a vocal group. The Entertainment Co., "singing Music from Through the Years." Tickets are available at the Milieu Alumni Center or may be ordered by phone (372-2701) if charged to either a Visa or MasterCard.

Susan Anton and more. Good seats still remain for the annual Parents Day Show scheduled at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6, in Anderson Arena. All 106 seats have been sold, but approximately 1,000 single seats and 200 $5 seats, all reserved, are still open for the performance.

Heading the show will be entertainment Susan An-
Dr. Walter F. McKeever, psychology, $25,913 from the Dept. of Health and Human Services/Public Health Service to continue a project aimed to identify lateonset of cerebral hemorrhage and to determine how they are organized in persons with a history of head injury, familial asthmatic, handwriting posture and size.

Dr. Robert Olson, psychology, chaired the presidential address and the meeting of the recent meetings of the American Psychological Association in Washington, D.C. Olson also co-chaired with Jules Bannon of Westwood, N.J., a symposium on the "Development of Children's Mental Health: The Role of Professional Psychology in the School Setting and the Role of Translating Current Judgement and Latent Traits Applied to Job Evaluation" and "Some Problems in Organizational Applications of Item Response Models."


In the same issue is commentary by Dr. James W. Serden on "Churchward's 'Shore's Wife.'"

Will merit reform achieve intended goal?

President O'Conalpao's, "Annual Sicol Cerebral Appraisal Speech" Oct. 1, for merit system reform with a 60/40 ratio sounds like a steep in the right direction, but will it achieve its intended goal and will its benefits outweigh the possible disadvantages?

He has suggested that if merit evaluation forms are defective in many (most of) them assuredly are, we need a system that can be fixed. My personal observation is that our department, for one, has spent interminable hours trying to do just that and has yet to succeed. To focus on the teaching component, I have yet to find a system that rates what the student learns. Most forms at present urge the student to check what is not liked; rarely does the form bring out the student's positive reactions. In order to find out objectively what the student actually learns, an independent test would have to be administered, by which our faculty members could be rated against those teaching similar courses across the country.

I have found that: students: rating in a performing arts course very high or very low may be substantial. Furthermore, what the general ratings tender to run unfavorable and, finally, by avoiding the general in the case of the study, the course very high or very low may be substantial. Furthermore, what the general ratings tender to run unfavorable and, finally, by avoiding the general in the case of the study, the course very high or very low may be substantial. Furthermore, what the general ratings tender to run unfavorable and, finally, by avoiding the general in the case of the study, the course very high or very low may be substantial. Furthermore, what the general ratings tender to run unfavorable and, finally, by avoiding the general in the case of the study, the course very high or very low may be substantial.
Hollis A. Moore Lecture Series: Dr. Kenneth Cooper will discuss aerobics, 8 p.m., Grand Ballroom, University Union.

"For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Is Enuf," University Theatre production, 8 p.m., Joe E. Brown Theater, University Hall. Admission $1.

Thursday, Oct. 28

The Humanities and Business: A Step Beyond Liberal Education," a seminar sponsored by the history department, 4 p.m., Toom, University Union.

"For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Is Enuf," University Theatre production, 8 p.m., Joe E. Brown Theater, University Hall. Admission $1.

Cornucopia horn ensemble, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Free.

Friday, Oct. 29

"For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Is Enuf," University Theatre production, 8 p.m., Joe E. Brown Theater, University Hall. Admission $1.

Mary Ann Hart, mezzo soprano guest recital, 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

"Whose Life Is It Anyway?" UAO film series, 8 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall. Free.

Saturday, Oct. 30

Women’s Cross Country, MAC championship, 11 a.m.

American Karate Championships, noon, Anderson Arena. Tickets are $2 for adults, $1.50 for students.

Soccer vs. Michigan State, 2 p.m., Mickey Cochrane Field.

"Whose Life Is It Anyway?" UAO film series, 7 and 9:30 p.m., Main Auditorium, University Hall. Admission $1.50 with University I.D. Two tickets can be purchased with one I.D.

Hockey vs. University of Michigan, 7:30 p.m., Ice Arena.

For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Is Enuf," University Theatre production, 8 p.m., Joe E. Brown Theater, University Hall. Admission $1.

Sunday, Oct. 31

Clarinetist Edward Marks and pianist Virginia Marks, faculty recital, 3 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Free.

Bryan Chamber Series Concert, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Free. Nearly a third of the music faculty members will perform. An informal reception will follow.

The Baker's Apprentice," German film with English subtitles, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall. Free.

Pianist and composer Faina Lushkot, guest recital, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Free.

Computer services needs campus hardware and software inventory

To help cut costs and improve efficiency, University Computer Services is attempting to develop a comprehensive inventory of all personal computers and personal computing software now in use on campus.

Richard Conrad, director of computer services, said the use of personal computers on campus has increased dramatically during the past year, adding that in recent months computer services has purchased 25 units for academic laboratories and also has worked with many departments to clarify their computer needs and determine hardware and software best suited to those needs.

Computer services currently has several catalogs listing personal computer software and hardware available and has purchased a popular software such as VISICALC and Personal Filing Systems (PFS) for demonstration purposes.

An inventory of all campus software and hardware is needed to assist those interested in purchasing a particular computer program or a new personal computer, Conrad said.

"We hope that with such a catalog we can refer persons interested in purchasing a computer to someone on campus who is familiar with the product," he said, adding that such a process would be not only a convenience but also a cost-saving device because it may help eliminate the purchase of multiple copies of software or hardware which does not meet a user's real needs.

Conrad is asking all departments and offices who have computer software or hardware to complete the form below and return it to Dale Schroeder in computer services before Nov. 1.

Fall graduation scheduled Dec. 18

Fall semester graduation ceremonies will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, in Memorial Hall. Earlier this year combination had been given to eliminating the December commencement because of future scheduling problems caused when the semester will end very near Christmas.

However, Academic Council and President Otscamp have reaffirmed that the fall semester exercises will be held as previously scheduled.

'Humanities and Business' is seminar topic

"The Humanities and Business: A Step Beyond Liberal Education" will be the topic of a seminar to be sponsored by the history department from 4:5 p.m. Thursday (Oct. 28) in the Town Room of the University Union.

Directed by Dr. Don K. Roweny, history, the seminar will feature a brief presentation by Bob Rook, a graduate student in American history who held a summer internship with the Andermans of Maumee. Rook will speak on "The Historian and Business—One Aspect," detailing the application of historical methods to market research.

Guest commentators at the seminar will be William Hudson, director of market research for the Andermans, and Dr. Noel Stock, professor of English at the University of Toledo.

Phones change in treasurer's area

Telephone numbers in the office of the University treasurer have changed, effective immediately, as follows:

Paul Nusser, treasurer—372-2205

Paul Thomas—372-2206

Sandy LaGro—372-2207

Dr. John Davidson—372-2205