President will receive summary of issues raised at focus groups

Ever try to get all constituents of a midsize state university together for an earnest discussion about their concerns and suggestions for improvement? Faculty, staff and students made it work last week at Bowling Green.

From Monday through Friday representatives from all areas took time to visit 101 Olscamp Hall where they participated in hour-and-a-half long discussion groups on topics ranging from "Customer Service to Students," "Welcoming Newcomers to Campus" and "Exploring Our Core Values."

"Many of the concerns I had were taken care of just by offering these focus groups," said Angie Slade, a dispatcher in the Office of Public Safety. "I appreciated the opportunity to participate."

Carol Kreienkamp, an administrative secretary in cooperative education who volunteered to serve as a facilitator for the focus groups, said she feels the number of people who turned out for last week's discussions showed how hopeful the University faculty and staff are regarding the future.

"I think everyone is coming here because they are hopeful that something will come out of it. They sincerely believe that by sharing their ideas positive solutions will develop."

There will be an end result to the week-long discussions. "This is not merely an opportunity to come and get things off your chest and then return to your offices, classrooms and residence halls and go back to business as usual," said Sandra MacNevin, one of four co-chairs of the Building Community Task Force, which was behind the "Focus on February" event.

"President Ribeau is expecting the task force to make concrete recommendations that are prioritized and accompanied by possible strategies for implementation."

This executive summary will include the issues and ideas brought out in the discussion groups, MacNevin said. Each group discussion was tape recorded and will be transcribed, without identification of the speakers, for this purpose.

In addition, focus group participants were encouraged to write down any additional comments they may not have had a chance to express and turn them in through an anonymous drop box at last week's event or through campus mail to the president's office by Feb. 23.

The summary is expected to be completed by the first week of April and will be made available on the Internet and in paper version for constituents to read.

Approximately 300 took part in the groups held Monday with a total turnout estimated at more than 2,000 by week's end.

In addition to those who took part in the discussions, about 120 students, faculty and staff volunteered to facilitate the groups.

All areas of University encouraged to get involved in admissions

The survival and growth of Bowling Green State University was the focus of President Ribeau's talk to Administrative Staff Council Wednesday.

If the University is to succeed in its mission of serving students, the president said, it needs to do business in a new way.

"We're not doing these community-building activities just because we want to or it makes us feel good. We're doing it because we have to," Ribeau told ASC members.

The hard facts are that the University's enrollment is below the state-mandated cap of 16,000 full-time equivalent students by about 1,000. In addition, freshman applications from where they were this time last year, he said.

Fewer students translates directly too fewer funding dollars, which will inevitably lead to institutional shrinking if the trend is not reversed quickly.

"Once you get into a downward spiral, it's very hard to get back out of it," Ribeau said.

Enrollment affects every aspect of University life, thus it is important that the University community gets to work immediately on defining its core values and comes up with a vision statement through some "very careful and concise planning," he said.

The focus groups that took place last week will help in this process. The next, even more important step, will be to arrive at five priorities for the 1996-97 school year. "Obviously, one of these will have to be enrollment management," Ribeau said.

All areas of the University need to be involved not only in bringing more students to Bowling Green, but also in retaining them once they are here, he said. Ribeau said his goal is to increase the retention rate from 71 to 80 percent in the next few years.

One council member who serves as a student adviser expressed concern that not enough classes are offered, making it difficult for students to take what they need to graduate.

Ribeau said he and his staff are looking at how funds are allocated for teaching salaries and are analyzing such programs as supplemental retirement and early retirement incentives. He added that Charles Middleton, the new vice president for academic affairs, will also be focusing closely on this issue.

Faculty and staff development can play a big role in the area of retention as well, Ribeau said. He is in the process of creating a faculty development center that will offer programs, workshops and other resources to enhance the quality of teaching.

Accountability will be very important, especially considering the recent actions of the Ohio Board of Regents toward centralizing control of state universities and consolidating graduate programs. Ribeau said he needs definite and specific information from all areas of the University if he is to successfully defend Bowling Green against these incursions on its independence.

There were several questions from ASC members about professional development for staff. The president responded that he is strongly in favor of such things as professional leave and educational advancement, and would like to begin with a small amount of money for this purpose. He would give priority to those activities that enable individuals to further the University's stated goals over strictly personal pursuits. But, he stressed that only when there is sufficient funding can these initiatives be considered.

The collaborative model must be adopted campus-wide, he said, for the

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University opens its doors next week to potential students and their parents

The University will be in the spotlight next Monday when it plays host to an estimated 1,000 high school students accompanied by parents and family members attending a special President’s Day Open House.

Throughout the day the students and their guests will be touring campus sites, visiting residence halls, eating in the dining halls, shopping at the bookstore housed in Diehl, an associate director of admissions. 11:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. From Diehl will be volunteering their time for the event. said Kerry Foldenauer, director of admissions. “We’ve noticed the number of high school students who were visiting the University on President’s Day in the past has been large.”

The high school students who have already been accepted for admission to Bowling Green can use the day to tour the residence halls before making their final housing decisions and those who aren’t sure where they want to go to college can come see what the University has to offer, said Diehl.

Open House attendees will be checking in at the University Field House where they will board shuttle buses for one of three tours taking place at 10:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. From 12:30-3:30 p.m. students and their guests will be welcomed to visit the residence halls and speak with representatives from college academic and administrative offices who will be staffing information booths in Olscamp Hall.

Library associate receives state award

Sara Bushong, a library associate in the curriculum resource center at Jerome Library, received a Distinguished Service Award from the Academic Library Association of Ohio.

The award, the first ever given by the organization, was presented in acknowledgement of Bushong’s contributions to support staff issues throughout Ohio libraries.

Bushong has been a member of ALAO since 1987 and has been active in the organization’s Support Staff Interest Group, which she chaired in 1988-89. She also served as the group’s secretary, was a member of the Accomplished Program Committee, chaired the spring 1994 workshop and was a member of the ad hoc strategic planning committee.

Gail Richmond, current SSIG chair and coordinator of acquisitions at Jerome Library, presented the award to her colleague at the annual ALAO conference in Columbus in November.

Awards given for dissertations, theses

Two doctoral graduates were named the first recipients of newly developed Distinguished Dissertation and Distinguished Theses awards presented by the Graduate College.

John Clark, who received a doctoral degree in English, was recognized for his dissertation “Cognitive Apprenticeship, Motivation and College Writing: Theoretical and Pedagogical Considerations.” His adviser was Bruce Edwards.

D. Robin Clother, who received a doctoral degree in mathematics, was honored for his thesis, “Eliminating Possible Counterexamples to Cantor’s Conjecture by Computation of Class Numbers of M2-Fields.” His adviser was Andrew Glass.

Ribeau speaks to ASC meeting

University to move into the future. “There needs to be some reorganization at the senior level of the administration. We need to look at whether the (administrative) structure still fits our institutional goals,” he said. He spoke of remodeling the linear structure of president, vice presidents, and so on into a “senior management team” that could better implement the coming changes. To this team he would like to add a senior person in technology who would report directly to him.

“There are pockets of activity all around the campus that are not harmonized but rather are almost in conflict. We need someone who can help pull it all together.” Ribeau added that he would like to see up-to-date equipment in all University offices.

Concerning the recent Mercer study of non-academic positions, Ribeau said that although the process had gotten “off-track,” he felt it was a needed process. He praised ASC’s development of the appeals process and said, “If people will continue to work within the process, we can get this worked out in a satisfactory way.”

The Mercer experience has highlighted a frustrating aspect of life at Bowling Green for him, he said. That is the atmosphere of suspicion and the tendency of people to take “the most negative possible view” of things and to see conspiracy everywhere. A major goal for the University must be to reverse this outlook and to learn to operate with respect for one another even when disagreeing, Ribeau said.

—Bonnie Blankenship
Changes in Blue Cross and Blue Shield contract may affect University staff

As of Jan. 1, a contractual agreement between Blue Cross and Blue Shield no longer exists. Blue Cross is notifying people of the change with a message reminder enclosed with Explanation of Benefits statements. However, the information on the reminder is not correct for employees, pointed out Donna Wittwer, manager of benefits for the University.

The claims of employees who are in Plan I and II and are receiving services from The Toledo Hospital will be processed at the payment level of their plan, she said. Benefit payments will be made directly to The Toledo Hospital.

However, since there is no contract between Blue Cross and The Toledo Hospital, employees who receive services at The Toledo Hospital will be responsible for the following: contacting Blue Cross when a hospital admission is required and paying any services deemed "not medically necessary" by BCBS.

Also, since there is no contractual arrangement between Blue Cross and The Toledo Hospital, the bills for services can be higher than if received at a contracted hospital, Wittwer said. "This results in a higher cost to you through your coinsurance and the amount the BGSU plan pays."

For University employees enrolled in the Super Blue Plus Plan (the PPO), charges associated with services received at The Toledo Hospital will be processed as non-network benefits.

For further information call the benefits office at 2-2112.
Monday, Feb. 12
Film, M, 8 p.m., Gish Film Theater. In German with subtitles. Free.

Tuesday, Feb. 13
Arts and Sciences Forum, Peter Levine, author of From Ellis Island to Ebbets Field: Sport and the American Jewish Experience, 12:30 p.m., Towers Inn, McDonald Quadrangle. Advanced reservations required for lunch at noon but lecture is free and open to the public.

Black History Month presentation, Lila Curry, "Global Learning, the Experiences of a Graduate Student in Ghana," 7 p.m., Amani Room, the Commons. Free.

Film, Way Down East, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Part of the silent film series. Free.

Panel presentation, AIDS Talk Show. Fighting for their Lives, 7:30 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, University Union. Free.

Wednesday, Feb. 14
Feminist Forum, "Blowing the Whistle on Sexual Harassment," a workshop presented by Kendall Kissinger, BGSU alumna, 4-5 p.m., Faculty Lounge, University Union.

Film, The Ballad of Gregoria Cortez, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Part of the Latino Film Series. Free.

Men's basketball hosts Eastern Michigan University, 7:30 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Theatre presentation, The Citizen, 8 p.m., Joe E. Brown Theatre. For ticket information call 2-2719.

Thursday, Feb. 15
Master class, Jane Carl, clarinetist, 4 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Free.

Recital, Jane Carl, clarinetist, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Free.

Theatre presentation, The Citizen, 8 p.m., Joe E. Brown Theatre. For ticket information call 2-2719.

Film, The African Queen, 9 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Free.

Friday, Feb. 16
Women's Gymnastics hosts Eastern Michigan University, 6 p.m., Epler Center. Free.

Hockey hosts Illinois-Chicago University, 7 p.m., ice arena.

Film, Kiss Me Kate, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Free.

UAD Film, How to Make an American Quilt, 8 p.m. and 11 p.m., 111 Olscamp Hall. $2 admission.

Theatre presentation, The Citizen, 8 p.m., Joe E. Brown Theatre. For ticket information call 2-2719.

Saturday, Feb. 17
Women's basketball hosts University of Toledo, 1:30 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Hockey hosts Illinois-Chicago University, 7 p.m., ice arena.

Film, Swiss Family Robinson, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Free.

UAD Film, How to Make an American Quilt, 8 p.m. and 11 p.m., 111 Olscamp. $2 admission.

Black History Month presentation, "Anthology '96: A Salute to the Black Family," 8 p.m., Eve Marie Saint Theatre, University Hall. Tickets are $3 at the University Hall Box Office.

Theatre presentation, The Citizen, 8 p.m., Joe E. Brown Theatre. For ticket information call 2-2719.

Black History Month concert, "Reggae Jam," 10 p.m. - 2 a.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, University Union. Free.

Sunday, Feb. 18
Theatre presentation, The Citizen, 2 p.m., Joe E. Brown Theatre. For ticket information call 2-2719.

Musical performance, BGSO Chamber Winds, 3 p.m., Ebell Theater. Free.

Monday, Feb. 19
Film, Guevara, 8 p.m., Gish Film Theater. With English subtitles. Free.

Continuing events
Planetaryarium presentation, "Dinosaur Light," 8 p.m. Tuesday and Friday, 7:30 p.m. Sunday through March 22. $1 donation suggested.

At Firelands
Art exhibit, student copper enameling, through Feb. 26, Little Gallery. Free.

Concert, El Sacredo Jazz Quartet, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 15, Firelands venetian. Free.

College health explored at program
Faculty, staff and students are invited to participate in an interactive teleconference with the professor of medicine who developed widely used guidelines for how institutions should provide AIDS awareness for students.

"Get Real! What's Next for Campus Health?" will be screened at 1 p.m. Tuesday (Feb. 13) in 113 Olscamp Hall. Admission is free.

Richard Keeling, M.D., of the University of Wisconsin, will provide dynamic illustrations of the environmental barriers to healthy decision making and explain strategies that have been developed on college campuses to overcome such barriers.

The program is sponsored by Student Health Service and WBGU-TV. Student Health Service will copy the conference for those who are unable to attend.

Grant workshops offer budget assistance
The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research is presenting a series of workshops to help faculty and staff in the preparation of budgets for use in applications for external grants.

The workshops will cover such issues as general strategy points, budget categories, direct and indirect costs. Each of the upcoming sessions will be dedicated to budget information pertaining to a particular agency. The schedule is as follows: Feb. 21 - National Science Foundation Budget. Development, March 6 - National Institute of Health Budget Development and March 20 - Education Department Budget Development.

All workshops will be held from 3-4 p.m. in 227 Olscamp Hall.

For additional information call 2-2481.

Positions available for Xi'an exchange
Openings are still available for faculty, staff and graduate students interested in participating in an exchange program with Xi'an Foreign Languages University in China during 1996-97.

One opening is available for a person with a background in business. The appointment may be for a year, a semester or two months or more. Another position, an academic year appointment, is available for someone with expertise in American thought, culture, literature or the teaching of writing.

Faculty, staff and graduate students who will have completed a master's degree by the end of summer 1996 are eligible to apply.

Salaries, housing and travel costs are covered by Xi'an. Travel and housing are provided for spouses and some teaching opportunities may be available for them as well.

To apply, send a brief letter of interest and resume as soon as possible to Lester E. Barber, executive assistant to the president, in care of the president's office. For more information call Barber at 2-2214.

Undergraduates offered research grants
Faculty and staff have until March 15 to nominate students for the newly created Distinguished Undergraduate Research Award.

The award, which is being sponsored by the Alumni Association and the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research, will honor undergraduate students for their research accomplishments with a faculty adviser or mentor.

"The Distinguished Undergraduate Research Award will be granted annually as a way of recognizing and promoting excellence in research and mentoring," said Tony Boccanfuso, director of the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research.

Two awards will be made annually. Each student will receive $1,500 and the sponsoring department will be presented with $500.

Department chairs are encouraged to request nominations from faculty members. If more than one nomination is presented, the faculty must decide which nominee to support.

Students are responsible for submitting two copies of an abstract explaining the research they conducted or what they have accomplished to date, a letter of nomination from the department chair, a letter of support from their research adviser and a one-page resume.

The projects will be judged on substantive and methodological quality, originality of thought and clarity. For additional information call 2-2481.

Classified Staff host graduate dean
Louis Katzner, dean of the graduate college, is scheduled to speak about the campus technology plan during the Feb. 20 meeting of Classified Staff Council.

The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. - noon in the Taft Room of the University Union.

Besides Katzner's presentation, the group hopes to address issues such as the 4 percent cap on salary increases for employees who are reclassified or transferred to a higher position, the wording on the Outstanding Classified Staff Award concerning uncompensated time, compensation for one-third of accumulated sick leave, establishment of a joint committee of executive councils from Faculty Senate, Administrative Staff Council and Classified Staff Council and suggestions for the inauguration committee.