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Bowling Green State University

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Alternative retirement plan now available

Many full-time faculty and administrative staff now have a choice of retirement plans. But they must make a decision by May 24, and once they do, it can’t easily be changed.

The Board of Trustees on Jan. 25 agreed to offer an alternative retirement plan, as required under a state law passed in December 1996. The plan will be offered through eight companies approved last April by the Ohio Department of Insurance: Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association-College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF), Aetna Life Insurance and Annuity Co., Equitable Life Assurance Co. and Great American, Lincoln National, Metropolitan, Nationwide and Variable Annuity life insurance companies.

In the so-called defined contribution plan, both the faculty or staff member and the University contribute a set percentage of the employee’s compensation to the company selected by the employee. But unlike the State Teachers and Public Employees retirement systems (STRS and PERS), the benefit to be received at retirement isn’t defined. It’s dependent instead on such factors as the rate of investments the employee chooses and how well the stock market or other investment vehicles perform over time,” according to a summary written by Nancy Footer, general counsel, and J. Christopher Dalton, vice president for finance.

In the state-owned and operated STRS and PERS, the retirement pension is defined and typically based on years of service and salary.

Eligible for the alternative plan are full-time faculty and administrative staff with fewer than five years of service credit with the applicable state retirement system, as of last March 31 for PERS or PERS-LE (Law Enforcement) and last June 30 for STRS.

Eligibility also entails not currently receiving a benefit from either PERS or STRS. In that category would be retirees who are receiving benefits but have returned to the University on some other status, said Rebecca Ferguson, assistant provost, human resources.

For the alternative plan purposes, a full-time faculty or administrative staff member is defined as having “a contract of sufficient duration to qualify the individual for health care benefits,” according to the plan summary.

Donna Wittwer, human resources, told the trustees that “full-time” faculty must have an assignment equivalent to at least 12 credit hours for two semesters per academic year. About 200 faculty are eligible to choose, she said, as are roughly 185 administrative staff. (Classified staff aren’t eligible under the law.)

A 120-day window for making the decision opened with the trustees’ approval on Jan. 25 and will close May 24. Wittwer said Faculty and administrative staff hired on or after Jan. 25 have a 90-day window from the date they join the payroll, she added.

Once the choice is made, however, faculty and administrative staff must be out of the system at least one year before they could return and change their minds, she said.

Employee contribution rates are the same as they would be for the state systems—9.3 percent for alternative plan participants who are eligible for STRS, 8.5 percent for participants who are PERS eligible and 9 percent for participants who are PERS-LE eligible.

University contributions are 8 percent, 7.31 percent and 10.7 percent, respectively, or 6 percent less than required contributions to the applicable public system.

That’s because the alternative retirement law requires the University to contribute 6 percent to STRS or PERS, whichever applies, for each eligible employee who opts for the alternative plan instead of the summary that explains it. It also notes that while the University’s contribution costs won’t be higher, additional, still-undetermined costs are expected for administration of the alternative plan.

The human resources office will be sending more information to eligible faculty and administrative staff, as well as holding training sessions and other presentations about the options.

"There’s a lot of nuances with the choices," Wittwer said. Elements which must be taken into account include security (importance of accurately predicting the retirement benefit amount), portability (if leaving the University before retirement is a possibility), control (over investments) and comfort (with investment risk), she said.

Zwierlein takes new role

Athletics moves under student affairs umbrella

With an eye to revamping the funding of intercollegiate sports at the University President Sidney Ribeau announced a major reorganization of the athletic department Jan. 26.

He said he expects to accomplish two objectives with the reorganization, which is effective immediately: 1) "First is the integration of intercollegiate athletics into the student affairs umbrella, which will benefit all students by providing more opportunities, including fields of interest, intramurals and recreational sports as well as intercollegiate athletics." Combining resources will provide a number of economies and efficiencies. And second, this will lead to steps to improve our financial situation," he said.

To accomplish the goals, Ribeau said he would streamline the athletic department by moving some of its areas to student affairs and creating the position of senior associate vice president for student affairs.

Ribeau said that Ron Zwierlein, who has been athletic director for the past five years, will be promoted into the new position.

More and more colleges and universities are adopting this model of intercollegiate athletics administration in which athletics report to a vice presidential area, generally student affairs, Ribeau noted. In the Mid-American Conference, he said at least three athletic programs are overseen by vice presidents. Four Big Ten universities—Ohio State, Minnesota, Iowa and Michigan State—have athletics reporting to vice presidents.

Edward Whipple, vice president for student affairs, said that integrating intercollegiate athletics with student affairs will benefit students by providing better access to athletic-related facilities and result in increased support of intramurals and club sports. "There are also some offices within the two areas that overlap in responsibilities. By combining these, we can be more efficient and direct increased funding to student programs," he said.

"Intercollegiate athletics has gotten to be a huge and far-flung enterprise," Ribeau said. "Splitting off some of these programs and support areas like maintenance of athletic facilities, including the golf course, Ice Arena, Intramural fields, Anderson Area, Steilier Field and other fields. will enable the athletic director to concentrate on the men’s and women’s sports programs as well as the financial side of intercollegiate athletics.

"Ron, Ed and I have been discussing these plans for several months now. Ron has expressed the desire to move into this new position, and I am appreciative of his interest in helping Bowling Green progress in this new direction in the administration of its intercollegiate athletic program," Ribeau said.

In addition to his continuing athletic-related duties, Zwierlein will be responsible for all recreational sports programs, which include Perry Field House and the Student Recreation Center, as well as student health services, counseling and disability services.

"Ron will be responsible for University programs that focus on student’s physical activity, fitness, health and wellness," Whipple said. "He will also continue to oversee some areas formerly in intercollegiate athletics and will act as a liaison between the athletic department and President Ribeau and myself.

"Ron is the best person on campus to handle this part of the reorganization," Whipple added. "He knows student affairs, involvement with students and knowledge of intercollegiate athletics makes him ideal for this position."

Zwierlein, who will continue as athletic director until a new appointment is made, said "President Ribeau and I agree that innovative steps need to be taken to meet the financial demands of running an athletic department. We also agree that the proposed reorganization has the potential to balance (Continued on page 2)

Mangione concert Saturday

Grammy Award winner Chuck Mangione (left) accompanies Edwin "Ted" Betts, his former student, and a 30-year University faculty member, in this 1986 photo. Saturday (Feb. 6), Mangione will give an 8 p.m. concert in Kobacker Hall to benefit the Edwin T. Betts Scholarship Fund, which has been established by the Betts family to honor the professor of trumpet who died last summer. Tickets are still available for $25, $20 and $10. They may be reserved by calling the box office (2-8171) between noon and 6 p.m.  #1
Trustees told

Retention initiative making a difference

A student success program offered by the College of Business Administration and the math department is getting results, the Board of Trustees was told Jan. 25.

Students in a basic calculus class who were identified as participants in a Supplemental Instruction Program had fewer Ds and failing grades last spring and fall than classmates who weren't in the program, Linda Bakkum said.

Bakkum, the program supervisor, cited statistics showing that percentages of participants with Ds and failing grades in Math 120 were 4-14 percent less than non-participants during those two semesters.

Computer system performance is one of the goals of Supplemental Instruction, a national program piloted by business administration since last spring as a retention initiative, Bakkum said. Created 25 years ago at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, the model has been adopted at 650 institutions in the U.S. and abroad, she said. Miami University, for once, is using the program in several math and science courses, she added.

Leading the list of reasons why institutions choose Supplemental Instruction is the lack of "remedial stigma," she noted. The program focuses on "high risk students" but rather on "high risk courses," identified as historically difficult, having a D, F or withdrawal rate of at least 30 percent and required for many students, she said. Study skills are integrated with content, and services are delivered from the beginning of the semester and in a location near the academic unit, Bakkum said, pointing out other program features.

In addition, peer collaborative learning is encouraged. "It's not tutoring," she said, explaining that Supplemental Instruction leaders guide discussion sessions two or three times a week.

One of this semester's leaders, a former program participant, had 16 students in a session right after classes started, she said. "They're coming because it's helpful," she said, noting that it's not mandatory.

Supportive faculty are also key to the program's success, Bakkum added, saying that without them, "it really wouldn't work." That success has been validated by the U.S. Department of Education, she said, in terms of participants' higher average course grades, lower rate of D, F or W grades and higher rate of continued enrollment and graduation.

It's the kind of program that makes a difference with student retention through its use of methodology other than remedial, President Sidney Ribeau said. Also at the Jan. 25 meeting, Ribeau announced that the graduation rate among BGSU football players was the highest among 18 universities in the region. According to 1998 Division I graduation reports published by the NCAA, the six-year graduation rate for Falcon football players was 93 percent. Notre Dame (87 percent) was second on the list, followed by Central Michigan (79 percent), Indiana and Ohio University (both 71 percent). Michigan was at 50 percent, Ohio State at 35 percent and Michigan State at 32 percent. Rates at other Mid-American Conference schools included: Western Michigan (61 percent), Eastern Michigan (60 percent), Missouri (59 percent), Northern Illinois and Toledo (both 56 percent), Ball State (52 percent), Kent State (48 percent), Marshall (35 percent) and Akron, 18 percent.

February is Black History Month, and the University has scheduled many activities to recognize the achievements and struggles of African Americans in the U.S. The cappella group, The Detroit Trojans, will perform at 8 p.m. Tuesday (Feb. 21) in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the Student Union. For more information on the free concert, call the University Activities Organization at 2-2434.

The Color Purple will be shown Friday and Saturday (Feb. 5-6) at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. in 111 Ogburn Hall. Admission is $2.

A trip to the Detroit African American Museum is also planned for Saturday. Free transportation will be coordinated from the Student Union parking lot beginning at 1 p.m. For more information, email jhaire@bgsu.edu at the Board of Black Cultural Activities.

On Feb. 8, an affirmative action debate is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom. Guest speakers will be Dinesh D'Souza, author of The End of Racism and Illiberal Education, and Dr. Tim Wise, a New Orleans-based antisemitic educator and author of Little White Lies: The Truth about Affirmative Action and Reverse Discrimination. "The Politics of Prejudice: Racism Scaping out in the 1990s." For more information, call the students activities office at 2-2434.

On Feb. 11, Angela Nelson, popular culture, will present "We B Dubois: The Sorrow Songs and Popular Culture" from 2:30-3:45 p.m. in Jerome Library's Pallister Conference Room. Nelson will give another lecture, "Michael Jordan and Oprah Winfrey as Popular Culture," at the same time and place Feb. 23.

Wednesday through Sunday, Feb. 17-21, the play "Flyin' West" by Pearl Cleage will be presented in Eva Marie Saint Theatre, University Hall. Shows will be at 8 p.m., with an additional show at 2 p.m. Feb. 21. A reception and talk-back will follow each performance. For tickets, call 2-2719.

The NAACP brunch will be held from noon-2 p.m. Feb. 20 in the Student Union's Alumni Room. Winners of the NAACP essay contest will be announced. For more information, call the NAACP at 2-0539.

At 7 p.m. Feb. 20, the 10th Annual Dinner Theater "Cotton Club" will be held in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom. For tickets, call the Center for Multicultural and Academic Initiatives at 2-2642.

School Daze" will be shown at 9:15 p.m. Feb. 22 in 115 Ogburn Hall. For more information, call the NAACP. Then, on Feb. 26 and 27, "The Toy" will be featured at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. in 111 Ogburn Hall. Admission is $2.

Also on Feb. 27, "The Word" will give a free concert at 7:30 p.m. in McDonald Quadrangle's "Cow Room." The group performs a cappella rhythm and blues and hip-hop.

Nearly 30 campus offices, departments and programs are sponsoring the month's activities around the theme "Remembering Our History, Celebrating Our Future."

Many events to mark Black History Month

Looking back

with student issues.

Nathan Boyle, a graduate student in the College of Business Administration, talks with Thomas Zang (right), the Student Recreation Center's architect, about original drawings for the building which were on display at its 20th birthday party Jan. 22.
Teaching conference planned

Teaching large classes will be the focus of a Saturday (Feb 6) conference in the Student Union's Alumni Room. The conference, which will begin with breakfast at 9 a.m. and end at 12:30 p.m., is open to faculty and graduate teaching assistants.

Following breakfast will be an active learning strategies workshop facilitated by Joyce Parker of Michigan State University's Division of Science & Mathematics Education. The conference will also feature a forum for discussion of effective teaching and learning strategies for large classes, and a session on effective uses of technology for teaching and learning in large classes.

The Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology is sponsoring the conference in collaboration with faculty from biological sciences, education, sociology and popular culture. To register and reserve a place for breakfast, call Geri Ludwig at 2-6898 or email gludwig@bgnet.bgsu.edu.

Grant writing program scheduled

The Women's Research Network will host "Funding the Funding," a program on grantsmanship from 3-5 p.m. Friday (Feb 5) at the Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall.

Participants may arrive at 2:40 p.m. for coffee. After a welcome from Linda Dobbs, dean of Libraries and Learning Resources, SPAR's Holly Myers will discuss "Grant writing—trends and challenges" from 3:10-3:45 p.m.

Following a brief break will be a panel discussion and open forum featuring Peggy Giordano and Wendy Manning, both sociology, Lisa Heineman, history and women's studies, and Lori Liggert, a 1998-99 Ohio Bicentennial Fellow and doctoral candidate in American cultural studies.

Help sought with questionnaire

The Office of Institutional Research asks faculty and staff who have contact with first-year, main-campus students to encourage them to complete the BGSU Undergraduate Experiences Questionnaire. The questionnaire will be on the World Wide Web throughout February at http://www.bgsu.edu/buseq/.

Responses are eligible to win a $100 University Bookstore gift certificate.

Questionnaire results will be used to develop an "attrition at-risk" list.

Scholarship applications available

Applications for Classified Staff Scholarships are available by contacting Nancy White Lee, Libraries and Learning Resources, at 2-0210.

The scholarships are for classified staff, their dependents and/or spouses who will take classes at the University during the 1999-2000 academic year. Applicants must be at least in the second semester of their freshman year. Applications are due April 9.

Four scholarships of up to $250 each will be presented at the spring awards ceremony April 28.

CTLT workshops continue

The Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology is sponsoring a series of spring-semester workshops on instructional design.

Upcoming workshops in the series include:

- PowerPoint 97: An Introduction, 2-30-4 p.m., Friday (Feb. 5), 126 Hayes Hall (Macintosh lab).
- Copyright issues and the Internet, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Feb. 8, Alumni Room, Student Union. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP.
- Creating and Converting Word Documents for the Web, Feb. 10, 1-3:30 p.m., 128 Hayes Hall (IBM lab).
- Preparing Your Teaching Portfolio for Academic Review, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Feb. 11, Jerome Library, Pallister Conference Room.

To register or for more information, call the CTLT at 2-6898, or email gladwhit@bgnet.bgsu.edu with phone number, department and the desired workshop.

CSC to survey part-time staff

A survey of all permanent part-time employees will be distributed shortly by Classified Staff Council (CSC) to provide information on a variety of issues involving part-time University staff.

Among other things, the survey will ask employees about their regular hours, whether they have health insurance or would take advantage of health insurance should it be offered and whether they would take advantage of dependent fee waivers if they were offered. At its Jan. 20 meeting, members learned that the committee which is developing the survey would meet one more time to apply finishing touches before distributing it.

Regarding another survey, CSC Chair Jay Samelak said 40 area companies and institutions responded to the Classified Wage and Benefits Market Review. Donna Wittwer, human resources, will condense the information gleaned from the survey into a workable form, "so that our salary committee can deal with it," Samelak said.

On other matters:
- "The CSC performance evaluation committee will be seeking input from classified supervisors to evaluate our system and compare it to others," Samelak said.
- "The committee is in the process of authoring a survey," he said, with an eye to improving evaluation forms.
- "Two fund-raising events are in the works: a co-op raffle whose proceeds will go to the CSC scholarship fund, and the annual scholarship endowment drive, which will begin in mid-February. Both events will wrap up at the CSC 20th Anniversary Spirit Day March 26.
- "Nancy White Lee, Libraries and Learning Resources, commented that there are times in her building when temperatures are uncomfortable for employees. Samelak said he would seek guidance from the human resources office about what "should happen when buildings are too uncomfortable, due to extreme temperatures, for employees to work."

Senior Challenge under way

Like fast cars? Like helping students in need? Then the Senior Advisory Council has the program for you. The 1999 BGSU Senior Challenge is a fund-raising campaign administered by the council to raise scholarship dollars for rising senior students in financial need.

The goal is to raise $50,000 for the BGSU Senior Scholarship Fund by selling raffle tickets to win a Nissan 300ZX Twin Turbo, $2,000 in cash and other prizes.

The raffle will run through April 22 and is open to all faculty and staff, as well as students and alumni. Non-winners may also purchase tickets as a gift in the name of a student.

Tickets are available from any council member by contacting Paul Pawlaczyn, alumni affairs, at 2-2701. Tickets can also be purchased on the Web at www.bgsu.edu/offices/alumni/alhecar.html.

The drawing will take place at the April 22 Beyond BG Senior Celebration, which will be emceed by 1994 graduate Jason Jackson. Jackson is now an anchor at ESPN and host of its NBA (Continued on page 4)
Senior Challenge  
(Continued from page 3)  
Today and USA Tonight programs. Wintertime of the car and cash need not be present.

Sponsored for 8:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. in Andersen Arena, the celebration will also feature the presentation of three Beyond BG scholarships to rising seniors and the 1999 BGSU Outstanding Senior Award.

"It is a tremendous honor to return to Bowling Green and to be a part of Beyond BG," Jackson said. "As the winner of the 1994 Outstanding Senior Award, I know just how special this evening is."

"Party Like It's 1999" will be the theme for the event, which is free and open to faculty, staff, students, alumni and the community. The car has been donated by alumni Gordon and Laurie (Brack) Hamm of New York. They also donated a car last year.

Web design presentation set
Peter Morville of Argus Associates will give a Feb. 16 presentation in 209 West Hall on designing information for presentation on the Web.

The presentation is scheduled for 6:7-7:30 p.m., including 30 minutes for audience questions.

Morville is co-author of Information Architecture for the World Wide Web, a book currently being used in a graduate seminar on new media research. The seminar's leader, Bruce Klopfenstein, telecommunication, is inviting the campus community to the presentation. He requests RSVPs by email by Feb. 9.

job postings.......
Contact human resources at 372-8421 for information regarding the following:

CLASSIFIED

Deadline for employees to apply is noon Friday (Feb. 5):

Secretary 2 (C-21-V)—Military Science. Pay grade 7.


Horticulturist 1 (C-23-V)—Facilities Services/grounds. Pay grade 7.

Student Services Counselor (C-25-V)—Bursar. Pay grade 7.

ADMINISTRATIVE


Area Coordinator (V-008 & 9)—Residence Life. Administrative grade level 14. Review of applications will begin March 12 and continue until the positions are filled.

Area Coordinator (Greek Affairs) (V-007)—Residence Life. Administrative grade level 13. Review of applications will begin March 12 and continue until the position is filled.

Residence Hall Director 2 (V-006)—Residence Life. Administrative grade level 13. Review of applications will begin March 12 and continue until the position is filled.

In filling these positions, the University seeks to identify enthusiastic team players committed to serving the institution's faculty, staff and students in a manner consistent with the vision and core values of Bowling Green State University.

in memory.......

Dorothy M. "Dotty" Cheney, 48, of Weston, died Jan. 23 at her home. Mrs. Cheney was a cook at the University for 15 years. Memorials may be made to Bridge Hospice, Bowling Green.

February computer classes for faculty and staff
Free computer classes are being offered again this month for University faculty and staff. The schedule is as follows:

- Basics for New Users: Feb. 18, 9:30 a.m.-noon, PC/ Windows.
- Excel I, Feb. 18, 10-11 a.m., PC/Windows; Feb. 27, 9 a.m.-noon, Mac.
- Excel II, Feb. 9, 9:30-10:15 a.m., PC/Windows.
- FileMaker Pro, Feb. 5, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., PC/Windows.
- HTML Basics, Feb. 22, 1-4 p.m., PC/Windows.
- Word Merge Clinic, Feb. 17, noon-1 p.m., PC/Windows.
- Word Web Users, Feb. 2, 1-3 p.m., Mac and 10 a.m.-noon, PC/Windows.
- HTML Basics, Feb. 22, 1-4 p.m., PC/Windows.

Presentations
- PowerPoint 1, Feb. 15, 1-4 p.m., PC/Windows; Feb. 19, 9 a.m.-noon, Mac.

For more information or to register, call the continuing education office, 2-8181. Continuing education can also custom-design classes.

Grant deadline approaching
The Faculty Development Committee will accept proposals for Instructional Improvement Grants until Feb. 12. Grants of up to $1,000 are awarded for projects that lead to a demonstrable improvement in teaching skills and have a positive effect on student learning. Copies of the guidelines are available in departmental offices and the provost's office, or by calling 2-9939.

* * *

GamesFair is a weekend event sponsored by the Bowling Green Green Gaming Society involving role-playing, strategy, card and board games. It continues as noon Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call 2-1781.

Hockey hosts Ohio State, 7 p.m., Ice Arena. UAO Movie, "The Color Purple," 8 p.m. and 11 p.m., Olscamp Hall. Admission is $2. Two tickets may be purchased with one ID. The box office will open a half hour before the first show.

Saturday, Feb. 6

Hockey hosts Western Michigan, 7 p.m., Ice Arena. UAO Movie, "The Color Purple," 8 p.m. and 11 p.m., Olscamp Hall. Admission is $2. Two tickets may be purchased with one ID. The box office will open a half hour before the first show.

Chuck Mangione Benefit Concert for the Edwin T. Betts Scholarship Fund, 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. For ticket information, call the box office at 2-8171.

Public skating, 9:45-11:15 p.m., Ice Arena.

Sunday, Feb. 7

Special Sunday Matinee, "Orphans of the Storm," 3 p.m., Gish Theater. The classic D.W. Griffith silent film stars Dor­othy Gish and Lilian Gish, and will be shown with live piano accompaniment by Michael Peslikis. Free.

Faculty Artist Series: Robert Satterlee, piano, 3 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Free.

Public Skiing, 3:30-9:30 p.m. and 7-9 p.m., Ice Arena.

Monday, Feb. 8

Affirmative Action program, "Understanding Stereotypes: When What You See is What You Get!", 10-11:30 a.m., Jerome Library Conference Room. A video featuring Bill Cosby discusses how stereotypes have affected our views of "others" in American society.

Continuing Events

Through Feb. 5

Digital Tools and Output Media: Deleting the Discord Between Art and Technology. Dorothy L. Green Gallery, Fine Arts Center, and A Walk Through the Paper Forest: Latino Prints and Drawings from El Museo del Barrio. Willard Wankelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Both exhibits are free and open to 5 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 2-5 p.m. Sundays.

Through March 5

BGSU Planetarium, "Is This the End of the World?" Tuesdays and Fridays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 20, 2 p.m.