College listens to students at ‘summit’

The College of Arts and Sciences added several items to its “to-do” list March 30, following its second annual “student summit.”

A handful of students attended the meeting with college officials and members of the Arts and Sciences Council. The discussion eventually generated four items that Dean C.J. Cranny said he thought could be addressed soon.

Two of the four dealt with advising, which had been an area of concern expressed at the initial summit and was on students’ minds again this year.

Responding to a question about whether advising has improved, one student said his friends and peers have been “taking it into their own hands.” They try not to rely on the University too much, he said, because of “horror stories” they’ve heard.

Another student said she has an excellent adviser in arts and sciences, but suggested that all advisers receive more exposure to internship possibilities that they could relay to students. That appears to be a frequent concern, she said—students would like more information about internships, and advisers don’t seem to have it.

Cranny conceded that a better job probably needs to be done on that front, and he led his list of action items with finding ways to give advisers more information about both scholarships and co-ops.

The discussion produced a second goal of making a broader effort to let first-year students know that advising is important, and that they should take advantage of advisers’ accessibility.

The dean asked for reaction to the idea of making visits to advisers mandatory for freshmen. It would be a good idea, one student said, but freshmen should also be aware that they can change advisers if the match is not a good one. Now, instead of switching, students sometimes stop going altogether if they don’t get along with their adviser, he said.

While saying that students must have advisers they’re comfortable with, Cranny also noted that they shouldn’t rely entirely on that avenue. Students should take control of their own education, he said.

Lee Meserve, biological sciences, agreed, saying he appreciates advisers who come to him with experience in evaluating the course catalog or handbook, and thus can do some of their own advising.

Meserve suggested that making visits to an adviser mandatory would best be done on a case-by-case basis.

A student recommended better communication to students in residence halls—through such means as signs and announcements—that advisers are available. And it’s vital to stress the importance of seeing an adviser early, added another, saying she had “no idea” of the fine points of planning when she was a freshman.

Improved communication is also needed with students in regard to scholarships, speakers agreed. The single greatest use of private dollars coming to the college is for student support, said Lynda Ackerman, its development officer, but there doesn’t seem to be a good way to make students aware of that.

One asked about the possibility of a database with scholarship information. Cranny said that’s beyond current capabilities, but the list of scholarships—albeit not a comprehensive one—could be posted on the Web.

Trying to do likewise with major/minor check sheets became the dean’s third action item after a student said he would like to see them online.

The other such item that emerged from the summit was establishment of a faculty/student panel to examine college requirements.

Cranny said he has tossed with the idea of starting a student advisory board to help facilitate communication, and when a student said everyone has a problem fulfilling requirements not in his/her major, the dean called that a good initial charge for such a panel.

General education, another of the areas of concern discussed last year, also came up again at this year’s meeting.

In a handout outlining what has been done in the 1998 areas of concern, the college notes that general education has been a priority of Arts and Sciences Council this year.

“Several meetings have been turned over to discussing how to improve student/parent understanding of general education and the quality of general education instruction,” according to the summary.

It’s an ongoing discussion, added Cranny in response to a student question about how the topic has been approached.

“We do have the attention of the director of general education,” he said, noting that the director, Beth Casey, is scheduled to meet with Arts and Sciences Council this month.

It may be “‘with the usual glacial speed,’” but there is movement on the issue, he said.

Campaign kicks off

The leaves came out early this spring in the Student Union (left), with each one bearing the name of a contributor to the Family Campaign which began March 22. Hanging leaves is Monica Soimak (on ladder), a senior from Cleveland, with the help of Pati Plasch, a junior from Perrysburg; Above, Kari Olowin, a senior from Erie, Pa., draws tickets for door prizes at the March 26 Spirit Day for the campaign in the union. The event was co-sponsored by Classified Staff Council, which was marking its 20th anniversary. CSC Chair Jay Samelkahl holds the jar for Olowin while Stanley Gajda watches. Gajda is one of three graduate student coordinators of the Family Campaign, which continues through this month. The union renovation and expansion is the priority project in the campaign, but donors may give to the University program of their choice.

Staff survey numbers

A story in last week’s Monitor included results from the BGSU Staff Questionnaire distributed last fall. Here are some other numbers from the survey:

• 42 percent of the 1,003 respondents were satisfied or satisfied with their salary in comparison to their responsibilities; 37 percent were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

• 69 percent were very satisfied or satisfied with their department as a place to work; 10 percent were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

• 60 percent were very satisfied or satisfied with how well staff are treated in their department; 24 percent were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

• 59 percent were very satisfied or satisfied with how staff in their department work together as a team. That figure was 61 percent for how their department works with other departments and 73 percent concerning help received from supervisors.

• 73 percent were satisfied or satisfied with their freedom to express ideas, questions or concerns to supervisors.

• 75 percent were very satisfied or satisfied with their supervisors’ fairness; 25 percent were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

• 74 percent were very satisfied or satisfied with understanding what was expected from them in their jobs.

• 75 percent were very satisfied or satisfied with their ability to influence the way work is done.

• 50 percent were very satisfied or satisfied with their opportunity to grow and develop in their jobs; 24 percent were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

• 77 percent were very satisfied or satisfied with their workload compared to others who do similar jobs; 28 percent were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.
U.S. history to come alive at fair

The history department’s first American History Fair, set for 6-8 p.m. Wednesday (April 7) in 101 Oldcamp Hall, will showcase projects produced by students in BGSU’s Early and Modern America sophomore-level history courses.

Booths at the free, public fair will cover topics ranging from Native American issues and Civil War events to anistic history displays, musical performances and living history displays," said Paul Buckingham, history, adding that the booths will compete for prizes.

Buckingham said the fair will involve "40-50 booths with close to 100 students from six different classes participating." The roughly 400 students in the six classes could either participate or complete a larger, written research project.

“There are many goals for the fair," he said. “First, it is designed to make use of the interests, skills and creativity of students. As an instructor, I have seen many people become involved and, indeed, excited about history in a way they might not have done if offered a class of only lectures, tests and writing assignments."

Secondly, Buckingham said, "the fair is a way for students to take a hands-on approach to the study of history. Whether they know it or not, they are ‘doing’ history."

"Third, it puts students in the position of teaching the University community and the public something about the topic they have just researched," Donald Nieman, chair, history, said he was proud of colleagues and graduate students who have developed the fair.

“We work very hard to get students in our classes involved in doing history rather than being merely passive recipients, and the fair is a very imaginative way of doing that," Nieman said, "it encourages student creativity, engages students in active learning, helps them explore the relationship between the past and the present, and gives them a forum in which to present their insights to members of the community."

Bonnie Chambers honored with statewide award

A statewide organization is creating an award to honor a former University faculty member who died Jan. 18.

The Ohio Council of Teachers of English Language Arts (OCTEAL) is sponsoring an endowed fund supporting the Bonnie Chambers Award.

Chambers, who was OCTEAL president in 1991-92, was a member of the educational curriculum and instruction faculty, and retired in 1992 after 20 years at the University.

The award will be given annually from interest generated by the endowed fund. It will go to a promising elementary teacher in the first three years of her/his career.

Each year, at OCTEAL’s fall conference, the recipient will receive a one-year membership in both that council and the National Council of Teachers of English; registration at OCTEAL’s fall language arts conference; an invitation to give a presentation at a future conference, and a gift certificate to purchase books for his/her classroom and professional libraries.

The award is intended to capture major themes of Chambers’ career, including her work with teachers and promotion of children’s literature.

Donations to the endowment fund may be addressed to: Bonnie Chambers Award/ OCTEAL, 7698 Macrcan Lane, Dublin, Ohio 43016.

April continuing education

The continuing education office will offer the following classes in April. Call the office (2-6181) to register or for more details.

Crossroads: Choosing New Directions, 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays, April 7-May 5, College Park Office Building, $25.

How to Choose the Right Mutual Fund, Session 1, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursdays, April 8 and 15, Session II, 5:30-6:45 p.m. Tuesdays, April 20 and 27, 1104 A and B Offenhauer West. Free.

Y2K Bug Workshop, 6-9 p.m. Thursday, April 8; 9 a.m.-noon Friday, April 9, both Maumee Arrowhead Park, $69.

Adobe Photoshop for Digital Video Specialists, 8 a.m.-p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 9-10, Technology Building, $795 per session.

Herbology: Plants-R-Us, 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 10, College Park Office Building, $25.

Beginning Golf, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, April 12-14, Creason Golf Course, $75.

Total Quality Management—Quality of Work Life Series, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday-Friday, April 15-16, College Park Office Building, $249.

Real World Negotiating for the Entrepreneur—Small Business Institute, 6-8 p.m. Thursday, April 15, College Park Office Building, $40.

College: Who Me? 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 17, or 6-8 p.m. Monday, April 19, College Park Office Building. Free.

Intermediate Golf, 9:15-11 a.m. Saturday; April 17, Creason Golf Course, $65.

Dynamic Business Tools, 9-4 p.m. Friday, April 23, College Park Office Building, $129.

Media 100 Editor Certification, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, Saturday, April 23-24, Technology Building, $595 per session.

April computer classes

The following is the April schedule of free computer classes designed for BGSU faculty and staff. For more information or to register, call continuing education at 2-0818.

Basics for New Users:

Get Started, April 23, 9-11 a.m., Macintosh, and April 30, 8:30-10:30 a.m., PC/Windows 95.

File Management, April 23, 11 a.m.-noon, Macintosh, and April 30, 10:30 a.m.-noon, PC/Windows.

Spreadsheets:

•Excel I, April 13, 1-4 p.m., PC/Windows, and April 14, 9 a.m.-noon, Macintosh.

•Excel II, April 21, 9 a.m.-noon, Macintosh, and 1-4 p.m., PC/Windows.

Word Processing:

•Word I, April 9, 9 a.m.-noon, Macintosh, and April 19, 1-4 p.m., PC/Windows.

•Word II, April 16, 9 a.m.-noon, Macintosh, and April 26, 1-4 p.m., PC/Windows.

Databases:

•Access I, April 12, 1-4 p.m., PC/Windows.

The Net:

•The Web, April 7, 10 a.m.-noon, PC/Windows.

•Create Web Pages/HTML Basics, April 19, 1-4 p.m., Macintosh, and April 22, 9 a.m.-noon, PC/Windows.

•More HTML, April 26, 1-4 p.m., Macintosh.

•Eudora Email, April 7, 1-3 p.m., PC/Windows, and April 14, 1-3 p.m., Macintosh.

Presentations:

•PowerPoint I, April 8, 9 a.m.-noon, Macintosh, and April 20, 1-4 p.m., PC/Windows.

•PowerPoint II, April 8, 9 a.m.-noon, PC/Windows, and April 15, 1-4 p.m., Macintosh.

•PageMaker II, April 29, 9 a.m.-noon, PC/Windows, and April 30, 9 a.m.-noon, Macintosh.

Speed grant funds exhausted

The Faculty Development Committee has announced that funds for speed grants in 1998-99 have been exhausted. Only projects taking place after July 1, 1999, will be considered for funding.
Firelands center gets six-figure gift
A $150,000 gift from former Sandusky Mayor George Mylander is also among the roughly $1.5 million raised to date for Firelands College's planned University Center.

The college announced the Mylander donation one week after receiving $1 million from Cedar Point for the $5 million center. The goal of a fund drive for the building is to generate half its cost through private donations; the state will cover the remainder.

Mylander's gift will be used for the center's atrium lobby and dining area, and furnishings in both.

Construction of the building is expected to begin next year. It will provide learning programs to students from high school age through retirement.

Mylander, a University graduate and retired Sandusky school principal, is a member of the BGSU Foundation Board of Directors.

High-ranking U.N. official to speak
Hirofumi Ando, assistant secretary general of the United Nations and deputy executive secretary of the U.N. Population Fund, will give two April 26 lectures at the University.

"Is the Land Shrinking? A History of Population Policy in Asia" will be the topic of Ando's 10 a.m. lecture in the Student Union's Alumni Room. A reception will follow the presentation from 11:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

From 12:30-1:30 p.m., Ando will discuss "Population Issues and the Role of the United Nations" in 141 Williams Hall. Due to limited space, anyone planning to attend should make a reservation with the history department at 2-2030.

Support for seniors to be discussed
A Friday (April 9) afteroon teleconference in 113 Town Room will feature a presentation on a documentary film that was screened at the University last fall: "The First Day: Life at 80, 90, 100 and Beyond." A reception will follow the presentation from 8-9 p.m.

The film explores the lives of 12 people and has won a number of awards.

Nominations due for team award
The nomination deadline for the new Classified Staff Team Award is April 5 (Friday). Groups of two or more permanently classified staff who work together on a daily basis are eligible. Nominators should indicate how the group works and functions effectively as a team, and how it benefits BGSU.

Nomination forms are available from Classified Staff Council members. Forms, along with three letters of support, should be returned to CSC at PO Box 91.

Presidential Lecture Series to resume
"The Education of Character: The Truth About College" will be the author and educator Will Keim's theme at the second Presidential Lecture Series program, set for 7 p.m. April 15 in the Student Union's Lehntard Grand Ballroom.

Suppose We Put All Our Cards on the Table: Freshman Caring II

Professors (Neil) Browne and (Stu) Keeley's timely editorial in the First Year Focus of the Monitor (March 15), which Professor (John) Hoag then widely distributed via campus mail, raises important questions about directions in which this University is moving and about important developments on the national education scene. I want to try unravel their questions and concerns by seeing our new first-year programs (President's Leadership Academy, Springboard, Freshman Interest Groups, Chapman Learning Community, Health Sciences Residential Community, UNIV courses, etc.) in a larger cultural context.

Professors Browne and Keeley claim that the "real issue is: How much are we willing to penalize other important constituents of the University in order to care more for freshmen?" They proceed to ask which freshmen should benefit from our caring and how we can express our care most effectively. They end with a list of six kinds of "enabling" behaviors (mostly forms of codding intellectual laziness) that they argue are inconsistent with "long-term caring." I see caring in very different terms. What at first appears to be a helpful template for thinking about new developments and for raising academic standards may be a veiled attempt to recapitulate the values of the pre-Kibera/ Middle years. While the surface may appear provocative and challenging (What's gained? What's lost? We need more rigor!), they cover up some assumptions that need examination.

I would start my own analysis of the current first-year developments with a pithy comment: "in which this University used to care more about". They proceed to ask which freshmen should benefit from our caring and how we can express our care most effectively. They end with a list of six kinds of "enabling" behaviors (mostly forms of codding intellectual laziness) that they argue are inconsistent with "long-term caring." I see caring in very different terms. What at first appears to be a helpful template for thinking about new developments and for raising academic standards may be a veiled attempt to recapitulate the values of the pre-Kibera/ Middle years. While the surface may appear provocative and challenging (What's gained? What's lost? We need more rigor!), they cover up some assumptions that need examination.

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Reception planned to honor DeCrane

Gregg DeCrane, dean of students and associate vice president for student affairs, will be honored April 23 for 30 years of contributions to the University community and the student affairs field. DeCrane, who is retiring at month's end, will be the guest of honor at a reception from 4-7 p.m. that Friday in the Student Union's Lenhart Grand Ballroom. A program is scheduled for 5:30-7 p.m. Anyone planning to attend should RSVP by April 19, either by calling Cathy Eckel, student life, at 2-9649 or emailing necare@bgnet.bgsu.edu. Congratulatory messages for DeCrane may be emailed to the same address.

Graduate Student Senate Outstanding Contributor to Graduate Education (OCCGe) Award
- Any graduate student currently registered and in good standing per Graduate College requirements may nominate a faculty member whom they feel has demonstrated "superlative commitment" to graduate education, including professional development, at BGSU.

Administrative/Research Assistant Award
- A supervisor, co-workers or fellow graduate students may nominate any graduate student in a non-teaching administrative or research assistantship position who has demonstrated innovation and initiative, outstanding job performance and a positive contribution to the campus community.

Nomination forms for both awards are in the Graduate Student Senate office, 707 Administration Building. Forms for the OCCGe Award must be returned by 3 p.m. April 16. The office must receive Administrative/Research Assistant Award forms by April 12 and reference letters by April 19. The awards will be presented at the Shanklin Award Ceremony April 30. For more information, call the GSS office, 2-2426.

Tuesday, April 6
- International Business Programs luncheon series, noon-2 p.m., 101B Ogborn Hall. "The Globalization of Data Corporation" will be discussed by Gus Franklin, president of Data International.

- Faculty Senate, 2:30 p.m., Assembly Room, McFall Center.
- Baseball hosts Michigan, 3 p.m., Steller Field.
- Music from Bowling Green at the Manor House, 7:30 p.m., Wildwood MetroPark, Sylvania. The faculty group Veni da Camera will present a chamber music program. Free.
- Classical Guitar Ensemble, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Free.
- Women's Tennis hosts Akron, noon, Keefe Courts. Free.

Wednesday, April 7
- Health Fair, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Student Union.
- Sexual Harassment Workshop, noon, College Park Office Building. For more information, call affirmative action at 2-8472.
- Softball hosts Detroit, doubleheader, 3:30 p.m., Softball Field.
- Recital by pianist Stan Ford, professor of piano at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, 7 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Ford has mentored Bowling Green music students in the University's Aca­demic Year Abroad Program in Salzburg since 1986. Sponsored by the Department of German, Russian and East Asian Languages and the College of Musical Arts. Free.
- Faculty Artist Series: Sean Flanigan, trombone, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Free.

Thursday, April 8
- CITL Workshop, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Alumni Room, Student Union, "Preparing Your Teaching Portfolio for Academic Review." Lunch will be provided. To register, email glaw@bgnet.bgsu.edu.
- Faculty Artist Series: Composers Rick Harris and Brian Doebelhaze, noon, Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Free.
- Administrative Staff Council, 1:30 p.m., Campus Room, Student Union.
- Reading by graduate students Ronald Prather, a fiction writer, and poet Jason Nelson, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel. Sponsored by the MFA Reading Series and the creative writing program. Free.
- Early Music Ensemble, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Free.

Retirement reminders:
- ARP vendors
  On campus: April 12-13 and May 11-12; individual sessions will be scheduled for 30 minutes each from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; contact Dean Gerken, human resources, at 2-7987 or email dean@bgnet.bgsu.edu to set a time. Eligible faculty and staff who choose the ARP option must complete the applicable enrollment application with the vendor of their choice to set up their individual accounts.

- PERS representatives
  On campus: April 27, along with a Social Security representative, to present orientation sessions for staff in the system; presentations at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. in the Student Union's Community Suite. PERS will also conduct interviews April 27-29 in the human resources office with individuals who wish to review their retirement benefits.

If attending an orientation session, supply name and desired session to human resources; to schedule a personal interview, provide name and Social Security number. In either case, or to do both, contact either Yolanda Patton, 2-8421, or Terri Schaller, 2-1121, by April 16.

Campus Calendar

Friday, April 9
- Women's Tennis hosts Buffalo, 1 p.m., Keefe Courts. A Cappella Choir and University Women's Chorus, 8 p.m., Kocaber Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Free.
- Campus Film, "Six Days, Seven Nights," 8 p.m. and 11 p.m., 110 Ogborn Hall. Admission $2.

Saturday, April 10
- Women's Tennis hosts Akron, noon, Keefe Courts.
- Baseball hosts Central Michigan, doubleheader, 1 p.m., Steller Field.
- Women's Tennis hosts Cleveland State, 4 p.m., Keefe Courts.
- Opening reception for MFA and BFA Senior Thesis Exhibitions, 7-9 p.m., Dorothy Uber Bryan and Willard Wankelman galleries, Fine Arts Center. Free. The student artwork will be on display through April 20, with a second round scheduled for April 25-May 4. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 2-5 p.m. Sundays.
- U.S. Air Force Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, 8 p.m., Kocaber Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Free. For tickets, call either the box office (2-8171) or the BGSU band office (2-8166).
- Campus Film, "Six Days, Seven Nights," 8 p.m. and 11 p.m., 110 Ogborn Hall. Admission $2.

Sunday, April 11
- Baseball hosts Western Michigan, doubleheader, 1 p.m., Steller Field.
- Collegiate Chorale, 3 p.m., St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 150 S. University. Free.
- Concert by Shringara Nepal, a Nepalese ensemble, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Free.

Monday, April 12
- Jazz Week '99 opens with Jazz Lab Band II, 8 p.m., Kocaber Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Free.
- Tickets on sale at the Moore Musical Arts Center box office for two April 24 performances by the University Men's Chorus. To order tickets for either the 4 p.m. or 8 p.m. concert, call 2-8171.

Continuing Events
- April 7-10 (8 p.m.) and April 11 (2 p.m.) BGSU Theatre: "A Thor in Her Heart," Joe E. Brown Theatre. All seats $5. For tickets, call the box office, 2-2719.

Through April 23
- BGSU Planetarium, "Is This The End of The World?" Tuesdays and Fridays, 8 p.m., Sundays, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 10, 2 p.m. $1 donation suggested.