Monitor Newsletter January 24, 2000

Bowling Green State University

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Task force studies student financial aid

A group of faculty, staff and students have been examining how the University awards the roughly $25 million in BG-SU funded financial aid it disburses each year, and what effects those aid decisions have had on student recruitment and retention.

The results will guide the University in future planning, according to task force director Steven Ballard, dean of the Graduate College.

At the suggestion of Conrad McRoberts, former director of the student financial aid office and now a senior associate in the institutional research office, the Financial Aid Task Force was formed earlier this year. Ballard presented the proposal to President Sidney Ribeau and his Cabinet last spring. The group agreed that the study would be an important component of the University's strategic planning process.

"I felt it was time to come to review our programs and make sure our policies and practices were in line with the University's goals," McRoberts said. "A systematic review of the ways in which we award financial aid has never been completed at BG-SU."

"Over the last 20 years, we've made many decisions regarding the use of our student aid dollars, but now we need to look at what we all add up to. We hope to improve on what we're doing and identify the programs and policies that are successful for the University," McRoberts added.

The financial aid being studied comes primarily from Bowling Green's general fund and the BG-SU foundation rather than the funding received from state or federal sources. The majority of institutionally funded financial aid is non-need-based and is awarded to students in the form of tuition scholarships and grants, McRoberts said.

"If we changed our strategies—added additional dollars or awarded them differently—how might that affect our undergraduate student population?" he asked.

In addition to Ballard and McRoberts, task force members include Kevin Bailey, interim associate dean of students in student affairs; Mike Coomes, chair of the College Student Recruitment Program in higher education administration; Steve Culpepper, undergraduate student financial aid director; and Doug Smolinsky, director of budgeting in finance and administration; Terry Lawrence, director of graduate admissions; Sallye McKeer, vice provost for enrollment and support services; Terry Richardson, finance; and Michael Walsh, director of admissions.

Together, they are examining the various aid programs that have been in existence or added over the last 20 years. They include the Board of Trustees scholarships, among the University's oldest awards, the merit supplemental award for National Merit finalists, the President's Leadership Scholarship, departmental initiatives, and aid to historically underrepresented minorities.

Ballard said the task force's first priority is to "develop a comprehensive description of what we have now and what it means for BGU, and then to begin to describe some of the impacts of those programs. The group hopes to have a report ready for the Board of Trustees this spring.

Next will be an evaluation of best practices in financial aid design around the country, a study of options available to the University and a deeper analysis of the impact of BG-SU's policies.

The institutional research office has already gathered a considerable amount of data on who is receiving aid—information that could also be helpful to the deans in the form of simple profiles of their student constituent, Ballard said.

"Ultimate results of the financial aid study can be used to help focus policies on attracting and retaining the desired undergraduate population.

The study may also be extended to include the evaluation of any changes made as a result of task force recommendations, McRoberts said.

"Access and equity continue to be key drivers to ensure talent development of our American students," he added.

Thanks from the president

I would like to publicly thank all those of our University community who participated in meeting the Y2K Challenge! I appreciate all your hard work and special effort in ensuring a smooth transition into the year 2000.

Sidney A. Ribeau
President

Borgelt to inform campus on technology project

Monitor Editor Scott Borgelt has a new communications assignment: he will be devoting his full attention to keeping the campus informed about the University's $36 million high-performance technology infrastructure project.

In this capacity, Borgelt will work closely with Project Manager Donald L. Bell in the President's Office, with Information Technology Services staff and with a team of others overseeing various facets of the project. He will report on the project and its impact on campus life through Monitor as well as other media.

"This project is enormous and undertaking," Bell said. "Scott is going to help us to keep the faculty, staff and students informed about each step as we bring high-performance technology to campus.

The project will take about two years and involve construction, cabling and electronics reaching and impacting every area of the campus," he continued. "Good communication with the campus will reduce any potential disruption of normal campus activities to the bare minimum—such as when a parking lot is closed for a day—even as we proceed with a project vital to the future of the University."

Until a new, full-time communications manager is hired, Monitor will be published under the direction of staff writer Bonnie Blankenship and Teri Sharp, director of media relations at the University.
Conner retirement gathering planned

A reception for Eleanor Conner, who is retiring from her secretarial position in the Center for Environmental Programs, will be held from 2-4 p.m. on Jan. 31 in 1 College Park Office Bldg. Those planning to attend should call 2-9809.

Call Issued for grant proposals

The Faculty Development Committee will be accepting proposals for Instructional Improvement grants until Feb. 11. The grants are awarded in amounts up to $1,000 for projects that lead to a demonstrable improvement in pedagogical skills and have a positive effect on student learning.

Copies of the guidelines are available on the Web at http://www.bgsu.edu/colleges/provost/facdev/grants.html or by calling the provost's office at 2-9939.

Videotape of conference available

Faculty and staff unable to attend the Teacher Preparation Summit last week at Ocscamp Hall may view the program on videotape.

More than 80 faculty and staff participated in the event, in which a panel discussed issues of concern to teacher-education programs and how the University can take a leadership role in improving the quality of teacher education.

To borrow a copy of the videotape, contact Sharon Morgart in the provost's office at 2-9915.

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in brief

FACULTY


Contact human resources at 372-4821 for information regarding the following:

CLASSIFIED
Deadline for employees to apply is noon Monday, Jan. 24.
Cashier 2 (C-11-Va) - Bursar's office. Pay grade 3.
Deadline for employees to apply is Wednesday, Jan. 28.
Secretary 1 (C-20-Va) - College of Health and Human Services. Pay grade 6.
Secretary 2 (C-19-Va) - Center for Environmental Programs. Pay grade 7.

ADMINISTRATIVE


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in memory

Eleanor Moore, 89, of Bowling Green, died Jan. 15 at Wood County Nursing Home. He worked as an upholsterer with the University before his retirement.

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campus calendar

Monday, Jan. 24

Dissertation defense, "Molecular and Genetic Biology of Nitrogenase," by Shi Lei, biological sciences, 10 a.m., 310 Life Sciences Bldg.

Arts and Sciences dean candidate forum, Nancy Gutierrez, Arizona State University, 3:15-4 p.m., Pallister Room, Jerome Library.

Tuesday, Jan. 25

Community Time Convocation, 12:30-2 p.m., McCall Center Assembly Room.

Wednesday, Jan. 26

Arts and Sciences Forum, "Freedom Songs: Music from the Underground Railroad," 12:30 p.m. following a noon luncheon, McCall Center Gallery. Cost of the luncheon is $5.75; those interested only in the free presentation may arrive at 12:30 p.m. Reservations are requested; call 2-2340.

Brown Bag Luncheon, "Anti-Choice Terrorism: Reports from the Front Line," with Mary Jane Thompson, American culture studies, noon-1 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall.

Womens basketball hosts Akron, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena. Faculty and staff may pick up four free tickets to the game at the Memorial Hall ticket office, with coupons for free hot dogs and sodas.

Faculty Artist Series: Jeffrey Graves, euphonium, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Thursday, Jan. 27

Arts and Sciences dean candidate forum, Arthur Greenberg, University of North Carolina—Charlotte, 3:15-4 p.m., Pallister Room, Jerome Library.

Friday, Jan. 28

Black History Month event, Women's Research Network, "Minority Women Faculty at BGSU," 3 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall.

The film "Shattering the Silences: The Case of Minority Faculty" will be viewed, followed by a panel discussion.


Black History Month event, "Freedom Songs," with Carney Strange, higher education administration programs, 7:30 p.m., Commons Room, Chapman Learning Community.

Sunday, Jan. 30

Faculty Artist Series: Daniel Burdick, tuba, 3 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Faculty Artist Series: Daniel Lippel, guitar, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Monday, Jan. 31

Discussion group, "Women and Spirituality," 7 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall.

Black History Month Kick-off Celebration, 10 p.m.-1 a.m., Anderson Arena.

NOTE: For expanded calendar and "Briefs" listings, click on "Monitor" on the BGSU website.

Task force

(Continued from page 1)

workforce," McKee said. "Unfortunately, many American institutions of higher learning are under increasing financial pressure—and, yes, the cost of a college education continues to outpace many families' and students' ability to pay. It is our recognition of this cold, hard fact that inspires us to review BGSU's scholarship and financial aid infrastructure so that it continues to be student centered," she said. The work of this committee is very important because there is a great need for financial aid policy to be as relevant as possible to the contemporary needs of students and their families.

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