Task force studies student financial aid

A group of faculty, staff and students met last Tuesday to discuss the assignment of examining how the University awards the roughly $28 million in BGSU-funded student 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 Steve Ballard, dean of the Graduate College.

At the suggestion of Conrad McRoberts, former director of the student financial aid office and now a senior research 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 there had 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 BGSU.

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

The financial aid being studied comes primarily from Bowling Green's general fund and the BGSU 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 Success program in higher education administration; Steve Culpepper, undergraduate director of budgeting in finance and administration; Terry Lawrence, director of graduate admissions; Sallye McKee, vice provost for enrollment and support services; Terry Richardson, finance; Gina Roberts, interim director of student financial aid; Laurie Rodgers, graduate student; Doug Smisek, vice president for University advancement, 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 BG," and then to begin to describe some of the impacts of these 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 across the country, a study of options available to the University and a deeper analysis of the impact of BGSU'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 constituents, 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 (Continued on page 2)
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 2:45 p.m. 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 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 Olescamp 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.

### Job postings

**FACULTY**

- College of Technology, Dean, tenured. Call Carol Engler, 2-2905, Deadline: Feb. 13.
- Contact human resources at 372-8421 for information regarding the following: CLASSIFIED Deadline for employees to apply is noon Monday, Jan. 24.
- Deadline for employees to apply is Wednesday, Jan. 28.
- Secretary 1 (C-20-Va)—College of Health and Human Services. Pay grade 6.
- Secretary 1 (C-19-Va)—Center for Environmental Programs. Pay grade 7.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

- Director (M-121)—Center for Multicultural and Academic Initiatives. Administrative grade level 18. Deadline: Feb. 7.
- Head Women's Soccer Coach (M-080)—Intercollegiate Athletics. Deadline: Feb. 18.
- Director (M-110)—Sponsored Programs and Research (change in qualifications). Graduate College. Review of applications will begin Feb. 1 and continue until position is filled.

### in memory

Oral E. Moor, 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., 330 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., McFaul 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, McFaul 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.
  - Women's 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

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**Task force**

(Continued from page 1)

workforce. McKernan 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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**In brief**

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