Monitor Newsletter August 12, 1985

Bowling Green State University

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The changing of a single digit in a telephone number worried the staff of the Department of Continuing Education.

When the University switches to its new telephone system Aug. 19, the 0 in the fourth digit of the seven-digit number will change to an 8. That seemingly minor alteration affects 229 numbers for 683 people in 59 departments.

Continuing Education officials, however, were looking at dollar figures. About $60,000 worth of folders, promotional mugs and other publications intended to be used for the next 18 months were printed with the department's old number.

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“When the system works, it should be sufficient for our needs,” Dr. Biesbrock-Didham, noting that the department will begin running newspaper ads for the next two weeks promoting courses. She said the ads will contain the department’s old number to avoid confusing potential students.

In other matters relating to the telephone system, training sessions began last week to prepare University employees for the changes ahead. The sessions continue this week.

Employees viewed a video tape that featured comments by Karl E. Vogt, vice president for operations, and a generic explanation of the new telephones by AT&T, which is installing the system.

The tape explained what different rings and tones mean, how to forward and transfer calls, how to put a caller on hold and how to hold a conference call.

To get an off-campus number, a 9 will have to be dialed first. Long distance access codes will no longer be necessary in the new system.

Ramirez wants to break barriers

Salvador J. (Sam) Ramirez knows it will take time to gain the confidence and trust of University employees. But he hopes that will change quickly.

The new employees relations advisor said he wants people to feel comfortable talking with him about their problems.

“I'm trying to build a reputation,” said Ramirez, who was named to the position in July.

“That is the best way to gain someone's trust.”

Richard J. Rehmer, director, personnel support services, said Ramirez will be someone the classified staff will feel confident turning to.

“He has the knowledge and the in-depth interest in working with people problems,” said Rehmer.

Both Rehmer and Ramirez said that workers should not hesitate to contact the employee relations advisor in Shatzel Hall or call him at 372-2225.

Rehmer said the position is intended to provide an avenue of dialogue between the University's various groups of employees.

“A lot of time people just want to talk,” he said. “Sometimes, we, as managers, set up barriers. Sometimes, we’re the problem. Or the manager makes you feel he’s not interested in your problems although he may be.”

Part of Ramirez's job will be to break those barriers. “It's our concern that there be dialogue between the levels of management, which includes the classified staff,” Rehmer said. “This person will have the time to talk. Ramirez said he will adjust his hours to accommodate employees. "I'll be in early or staying late," he said, adding that he can be called any time of day. He also said that he will meet with an employee at his or her campus work station or away from campus, wherever he or she feels most comfortable.

"I want to stress my availability, confidentiality and neutrality," Ramirez said. “I want to ease tensions between groups or people.”

Rehmer said he is confident Ramirez has the capabilities to handle the job. He said the Navy veteran was a unanimous choice of the 11-member search committee. There were 54 applicants for the job.

A University graduate, Ramirez has worked in the Office of Registration and Records and the Bursar's office. But it is his experience with the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services that may prove most beneficial in his new job.

In addition to other duties with the bureau, the bilingual Ramirez served as an ombudsman, mediating differences between supervisors and classified employees. Ramirez also has served as an employment counselor.

Monitor

Monitor is published weekly for faculty and staff of Bowling Green State University. The deadline to submit material for the next issue, Monday, Aug. 19, is 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 13.

Editor: Paul E. Kostyu

“Commentaries” and other notices should be sent to: Monitor
Office of Public Relations
906 Administration Building
Bowling Green, OH 43403
Council seeks representation

Classified Staff Council will seek representation at Board of Trustees meetings as a means of keeping abreast of issues affecting employees. At its meeting Tuesday (Aug. 6), council agreed to pursue representation, which had been one of its goals for the 1984-85 year.

"My feeling is that it's time we have a member attend the board's meetings and report back to us," said David Maley, chair.

Council agreed it is important that it be kept informed of the actions of the trustees, particularly with discussions planned with the administration over the next several months about restructuring the classified system.

A search for volunteers to participate in the restructuring discussions has yielded 15 applicants for the proposed eight-member committee.

Council agreed to develop a job description for committee positions, which will require familiarity with figures and the various areas of the University. Each area of the classified staff is to be represented on the committee.

In reviewing its 1984-85 goals, council decided to discuss at its September meeting the election of members to the 21-seat organization. Members are now appointed. A similar discussion several months ago failed to change the council's charter that specifies appointment rather than election. The issue was raised, in part, by the resignation of Martin McDoyle, biological sciences. McDoyle, who was to become vice chair next month, wrote in his resignation letter that he felt uncomfortable in recent wage discussions making decisions for the classified staff as a non-elected representative of the employees.

Counsel refused to accept McDoyle's resignation until the election issue is discussed. Maley, food operations, said he would ask McDoyle, who was not at Tuesday's meeting, to reconsider.

Maley, whose two-year term as chair ends this month, said he supported election to the council, but added, "it is only going to work if we have participation from the whole campus."

In other matters, the council accepted the resignation of Diane Whitmore, who had served as secretary the past two years. Kathy Phillips was chosen to succeed her.

It was noted that the council now has three openings for representation of operations, student affairs and part-time employees.

The classified staff's "Welcome Back" convocation will be held in the grand ballroom on Sept. 6, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Wakefield will receive honorary degree

Retired Vermilion businessman Theodore W. Wakefield will be awarded an honorary degree during summer commencement exercises at the University.

Wakefield, who has devoted much of his life to preserving the cultural climate of northwest Ohio, restoring historic landmarks and preserving Great Lakes history, will receive an honorary doctor of public service degree.

The commencement ceremonies, at which Wakefield will give remarks, are...