

Wright State University

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The Guardian Student Newspaper

Student Activities

2-26-2018

The Guardian, Week of February 26, 2018

Wright State University Student Body

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Repository Citation

Wright State University Student Body (2018). *The Guardian, Week of February 26, 2018*. : Wright State University.

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Does your GPA matter after college?

Angel Lane

Features Editor

If you've ever seen your grades at the end of a semester and panicked about how they would affect your GPA, you're not alone. The question is, how does GPA actually matter in college, and does it have any effect on your life after college?

"While in college, a GPA can affect many aspects of a student's life. For example, oftentimes there are GPA requirements for admission into academic programs, especially academic programs with a competitive admission process," Amanda Spencer, director at the University of Academic Advising said.

Spencer said the GPAs can affect a student's eligibility to receive scholarships and financial aid. If you receive below a 2.0 for multiple semesters, you can be dismissed from the university completely.

"Students are encouraged to meet with their academic advisors if they have any questions about their GPA," Spencer said.

Assistant Director and Advisor of the Career Center, Lisa Duke believes that after college, GPA is relevant only in the first job search you begin after graduating.

"Potential employers may have a GPA requirement of new graduates based upon the career field yet other employers may be more focused on the degree received and the knowledge level and transferable skills of the student," Duke said, continuing to say that while students should always strive for the highest GPA possible, "I truly believe a low GPA can be overcome in other ways. Many employers do value a high GPA but a GPA doesn't tell the complete story of a candidate. An employer will want to know what else can be brought to the organization. Potential employers always look at the "total package" of each candidate that applies.

If you plan to attend a graduate school after receiving your undergraduate degree, a low GPA can affect the difficulty of getting into a school or program.

"My personal advice is to do as well as you possibly can when it comes to coursework but try not to obsess or stress over it. Get involved on campus, find meaningful volunteer opportunities, look for employment experiences that will let future employers know you are a well-rounded student with a lot of transferable skills that can be an asset to their organization," Duke shared.

This means that you shouldn't let a bad grade or a grade that isn't "A's and B's" take over your mind, because you will still receive your degree as long as everything else falls into place.

Board of Trustees passes furlough policy

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

The Board of Trustees voted 7 – 1 to enact a mandatory furlough policy. By definition a furlough means that employees would be on temporary leave of absence without pay.

Although there have been no furloughs at this point, passing the policy allows the university to impose unpaid days off work for non-union employees if it is deemed necessary.

The policy cannot be imposed on faculty unless it were to be included as part of their contracts, which are still being negotiated, according to Martin Kich, president of the Wright State chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP-WSU).

In response to a news release from University President Cheryl Schrader, AAUP-WSU released a response, holding firm that the administration's proposed furlough is misleading, and that faculty would continue to do the same amount of work, but for less money. "That's not a furlough – it is simply a wage reduction and is unacceptable to the AAUP, especially in light of the fact that the administration continues to be unwilling to make necessary cuts in non-educational programs," the statement reads.

Contract negotiations have taken place in the context of the university's attempts at budget remediation via cuts, which have been described as "draconian" by members of AAUP-WSU.

Currently the administration is offering a three-year contract that includes no raises and reduces health benefits with higher premiums. The union has rallied against for better contracts.

The fact-finding stage of the negotiation process will begin in April. In this stage, an impartial third party, the fact finder, searches for the actualities of the situation. The fact-finder's report will be issued no later than April 19, according to Kich.

"In the event that one or both of the parties reject the fact-finder's report, it is possible that they will return to negotiations; however, it is also possible that faculty would strike," reads the AAUP-WSU statement.

In the meantime, tensions between the union and administration continue. No negotiations or other meetings have been scheduled since March of 2017, according to the AAUP-WSU statement.

In November of 2017, AAUP-WSU members created procedure for authorizing a strike, should a deal not be reached over the course of negotiations. Once voting on strike authorization ends, a strike still cannot take place until the fact finder issues his report.

AAUP-WSU members would also have to reject the report by a 60 percent majority and vote to initiate a strike by the same majority, according to the union's statement.

The university made a \$30.8 million cut to its budget in June of 2017, and it still has further to go. In order to reach its goal of boosting its reserve fund by \$6 million, the university will have to cut another \$10.5 million, according to a report from Dayton Daily News.

RCA bike share program to come to campus

Holly Souther

Features Writer

The Bike Sharing program is an upcoming initiative, introduced by Student Government Association (SGA), and centered around students having access to bikes shares that will allow them to get around on and off campus, provide more student involvement, and serve as a secondary option for commuters and residents living on campus.

The launch may transpire during the spring semester and bring a select number of bikes to determine student interest in them, according to Director of Student Affairs for the Student Government Association Emily Bundesen.

SGA plans on collaborating with certain companies (yet to be determined) to bring the bike share initiative to life on campus. Two potential payment options may be for students to use their Wright1 card and pay for an allotted number of minutes or the choice to pay for a monthly or yearly membership for a certain number of rides, according to Bundesen.

This also allows an inexpensive option for Wright State as the revenue made from student payments goes towards the bike share companies.

The program is also meant to increase interaction between Fairborn and its surrounding cities as a lot of students do not get to venture downtown.

"Our goal is to get our surrounding cities involved with the bike program as well, so it's not just going to be our students using them, but the community as well to create a bigger community picture," Bundesen said.

Bundenen believes having bikes on campus will increase cardiovascular health and physical activity.

"My hope is to see a lot more of student interaction on campus – going on bike rides together as something to do instead of playing video games. I really want to see our campus come together over a program like this and I think it's a great way to get people involved at not a high cost," she said.

Provost search committee collects faculty and student input

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

Wright State's provost search committee held a forum on Friday, Feb. 23 in the Student Union Apollo Room. The event was focused on collecting input from faculty members on what they would like to see in potential candidates for provost.

Joining the committee members were two representatives of Greenwood/Asher, a firm that has been contracted by the university to aid in the search for a new provost.

Speakers at the event included University President Cheryl Schrader, Co-chairs Travis Doom and Stephanie Green, Greenwood/Asher representatives Jan Greenwood and Lisa Hagen.

The majority of the event was dedicated to direct input from the body of attendees, which included faculty members and students of diverse backgrounds and disciplines.

Desirable attributes that attendees expressed wanting to see included: entrepreneurship, relationship management skills, a recognition for graduate education, the ability to define a clear vision, and more.

The typical profile for a provost candidate is someone who has been a professor with tenure, has served as a dean, and has experience as provost at some level, according to Greenwood. However, there are exceptions.

It is possible that potential applicants will not have had experience as a dean, department chair, or provost and still be viable candidates.

Interviews for the position are expected to be held on campus at some point before the end of the spring semester.

This process will continue over the next few months as the search committee tries to reach its goal of finding a new provost by Jul. 1, 2018. The campus community will have more opportunities to share their thoughts as the committee undertakes the job of finding the university's new provost.

How do career fair preps help students?

Holly Souther

Features Writer

Career Fairs are one-day events that occur once a semester and are centered around students meeting employers for information regarding internships, to discuss potential career interests, and network with a variety of contacts. Minor workshops often happen throughout the semester where a student can come in to polish their resume or secure information about a job.

Before a student attends a Career/Job Fair on campus, there's a process called Career Fair Preparation that should be followed to guarantee success at the fair.

"The key to all of that and being successful in a career fair is the preparation. Too many students' kind of take the approach that they're going to show up at the Career Fair - maybe pass the resumes around a little bit and they're going to learn as they go, but the key to success is the preparation that happens upfront," Director of Workforce Development and College of Liberal Arts Administrator Wayne Stark said.

Other measures for preparation include registering with WSU's Career Center Handshake to be entered into the system, research the companies that will be at the event, prepare a 30 second spiel and well-prepared questions, practice interview questions, and attend workshops offered by your college.

"Most importantly, they need to develop a very strong powerful resume and that means that they need to talk to a career advisor - someone who knows what they're talking about to make sure that that resume is very much powerfully oriented," Stark said.

At the Career Fair, a student should bring their resumes, be prepared for interviews and to take notes, be confident and friendly, should seize an opportunity to talk to any company, and be prepared for a follow-up.

Stark emphasized the importance follow-up and a thank-you note, which "will help the recruiter remember you and I think you know that's really powerful too."

Registrar updates grading system

Sarah Cavender

News Writer

The Registrar implemented several new grades in their grading system this past fall semester.

University Registrar Amanda Steele-Middleton explained that these additions were made for federal financial aid compliance.

“Until we implemented the new grades this fall, there was not a systematic way for a faculty member to report that a student had never initiated this required academic activity,” Steele-Middleton said. “There was and is the F grade (student participated in the course but did not successfully complete the course) and an X (student attended or participated in the course but did not complete or officially withdraw), but there was not a way for faculty member to record that there was no record of student attending or participating in the course.”

Grades are also used in the eligibility for student financial aid, if a student does not engage in academic activity it can be noted through the new grades so the aid that was awarded can be returned to the Department of Education.

The addition of the “NR” grade allows a professor to show that a student was not academically active throughout a course.

When this grade is assigned, it indicates that financial aid can return an appropriate portion of financial aid to remain in compliance, according to Steele-Middleton.

“During the review of the grades, we also noticed that there were no equivalent grades for classes graded pass/unsatisfactory,” Steele-Middleton said. “We did not want faculty to use the X or NR (which count like an F in the GPA) for classes graded pass/unsatisfactory, since these grades do not affect the GPA, so we also added the XU (like an X) and an NU (like an NR) to give faculty an option to provide grade information similar to that above for the F, X, and NR, without adversely impacting a student’s GPA.”

These additions don’t really affect students directly. The new grades are a more effective way for the university to track the classes that were not completed and financial aid.

Community dialogues on strategic planning continue

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

Last week another forum on strategic planning was held as part of the university's strategic planning process.

The forums in this series are structured the same way. By hosting multiple open discussions throughout the next few weeks, the university hopes to collect as much input from as many people as possible, according to a campus-wide email from the Office of Communications.

The strategic planning process is currently in its initial phase. These forums will eventually culminate to a refined statement of the university's vision, mission, and values. The planned timeline and process are accessible on the university's [webpage](#) designated to strategic planning.

These events, in combination with the broader strategic planning process will "guide the university into the future by providing a vision and focus that directly links resources to our values and strategic priorities," according to a statement on the university's webpage designated to strategic planning.

Members of the Wright State University community are encouraged to attend these events, regardless of their background or title.

Participation in these forums is "vital," according to University President Cheryl Schrader. "Through the strategic planning process, we are creating an ongoing dialogue that encourages continuous reflection and revision of our hopes and priorities [...] Over time, this process will help us shape both our culture and our future," she said in the email.

Forums will continue all the way into March. Anyone interested in actively participating in a forum can register on the university's strategic planning webpage. Dates and times for future events are also posted online.

Wright State will raise tuition for fall 2018

Sarah Cavender

News Writer

Wright State recently announced they will be raising and locking the price of tuition for incoming new students in the fall of 2018. The Wright Guarantee Tuition Program, will be a fixed cost of tuition, housing and dining for the next four years.

The new cost is a six percent increase from the current tuition price and it will not affect those that are current undergraduate students.

The last tuition guarantee program was done in 2014. These fixed tuition programs are done at most Ohio universities such as Ohio State, Bowling Green State, Kent State, Ohio University, Miami University and Youngstown State University.

Amy Barnhart, assistant vice president and director of financial aid, said that this program will benefit students.

“Students can now plan for tuition, room and meal costs for four years. This program also incentivizes undergraduate students to graduate within four years so that they do not experience a tuition rate increase,” Barnhart says.

The program was approved by the Board of Trustees in December and by the Ohio Department of Higher Education in early February.

“WSU chose to participate because we feel it helps our students budget financial resources, plan for four years of educational expenses and incentivizes students to graduate within four years. Wright State takes pride in being an affordable option within the state of Ohio, and this is just one more way that WSU continues to be affordable,” Barnhart said.

