

Wright State University

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The Guardian Student Newspaper

Student Activities

10-18-2021

The Guardian, Week of October 18, 2021

Wright State Student Body

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Weekly Horoscopes

Kaylee Raines

October 18, 2021

You survived the final Mercury retrograde of 2021; time to celebrate! Here are the desserts you should eat to celebrate the end of Mercury retrograde based on your sign.

ARIES

Aries, you are energetic and bold. The perfect dessert for you is spicy dark chocolate brownies. A twist on a classic, this dessert adds a little bit of *SPICE* that embodies Aries energy. Add a little cayenne seasoning to your brownies and enjoy this Aries-esque dessert.

TAURUS

Taurus, you are all about luxury and indulgence. Tiramisu is the ideal dessert for a Taurus. This delicious dessert is romantic, classic and popular just like you, Taurus. Enjoy!

GEMINI

Gemini, you are dynamic and have many ideas to improve the world. Cheesecake is an excellent dessert for you because there are so many variations. You can start with a basic cheesecake and add whatever toppings suit you that day. Your evolving, polarizing energies can vibrate with the diverse array of cheesecake variations available.

CANCER

Cherry pie is the ideal dessert for Cancerians. It is delicious, sweet and the epitome of American comfort food. These ideals embody the energy of Cancer. You are all about comfort, Cancer. Enjoy a slice of cherry pie and celebrate the end of this Mercury retrograde!

LEO

Leo, cupcakes are the perfect dessert for you. With the various decorations, flavors and combinations available you feel creatively inspired by cupcakes. Slow down and bake some cupcakes to celebrate the end of Mercury retrograde, Leo!

VIRGO

Virgo, your earthy and relaxed energy would pair well with an apple crisp dessert. The sweet taste of apples combined with the savory, buttery flavors of the crisp will embody your Virgo energy. Go to your local farmer's market and get some fresh apples to use for this dessert and enjoy, Virgo!

LIBRA

Libra, you are all about connections, balance and love. For dessert, you can't go wrong with chocolate chip cookies! This classic dessert embodies the charm and positivity of Libras and would make an excellent choice for you to celebrate the end of Mercury retrograde.

SCORPIO

Chocolate lava cake is the perfect choice for you, Scorpio. You come off dark and mysterious on the outside but once people get to know you they see the decadent, soft nature behind that tough facade. Indulge in this dessert and reflect on Mercury retrograde, Scorpio!

SAGITTARIUS

Sagittarius, cookie cake is a dessert suitable for your fun and playful nature. Whether you choose to decorate it with chocolate icing, sprinkles or candy, cookie cake is perfect for you as you reflect on Mercury retrograde. Let your creative side shine, Sagittarius!

CAPRICORN

Capricorn, you are regal and known for your professional nature. Creme Brûlée is a fancy, classic dessert that screams Capricorn energy. This decadent dessert is the perfect choice for Capricorns looking to ring in the end of Mercury retrograde.

AQUARIUS

Aquarius, your quirky and colorful personality is aligned with macarons. Macarons come in all colors of the rainbow, diverse flavors and are a unique dessert. Enjoy multiple flavors of macarons and reflect on the progress you have made during Mercury retrograde.

PISCES

Pisces, strawberry shortcake is an awesome dessert for you to celebrate the end of Mercury retrograde. The vibrant flavors of the strawberry and the rich flavors of the cream and cake are symbolic of the dynamic nature of Pisces energy. Enjoy this dessert, Pisces!

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Events on Campus Week of Oct. 18

Alexis Wisler

October 18, 2021

Here is a list of events happening this week.

Monday, Oct. 18

11:30 a.m. | Fraternity and Sorority Council Hazing Prevention Week Pledge | The Hanger

11:30 a.m. | Student Organization Budget Committee Training | 129 Medical Sciences

12 p.m. | Student Advocacy and Wellness Center Red Flags Event | The Quad

1:30 p.m. | Christians on Campus Bible Study | Rike 044

4 p.m. | Student Organization Budget Committee Training | Online

6 p.m. | Anesthesiology Interest Group Navigating Interview Season | Online

6:45 p.m. | Equip 4 Life Pro-life Apologetics | Discovery Room (Student Union 163A)

7 p.m. | Collegiate eSports Club Wright State Raid | Millett 033

Tuesday, Oct. 19

10 a.m. | African Student Union Tabling | The Quad

11 a.m. | Alpha Phi Omega Tabling | The Hangar

12 p.m. | Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Tabling | Student Union Upper Atrium

5 p.m. | Collin's Law Panel | Medical Sciences 120

5 p.m. | Zeta Tau Alpha Women's Fraternity Chipotle Fundraiser | Zink Rd. Chipotle

5:30 p.m. | Campus Recreation Running | Alumni Tower

5:45 p.m. | Kappa Delta Sorority Second Degree Ceremony | Medical Sciences 143

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7 p.m. | H2O Church Night Life Group | Oelman 109

Wednesday, Oct. 20

10 a.m. | African Student Union Tabling | The Quad

10 a.m. | Mask up with ACE | Student Union Market

11 a.m. | Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Tabling | Student Union Upper Atrium

11 a.m. | SGA Athletics Survey Tabling Event | Student Union Market

12 p.m. | Fraternity and Sorority Council Hazing Prevention Week Penny Wars | The Hanger

3 p.m. | Fraternity and Sorority Council Hazing Prevention Week Case Study Pick Up | Student Union Lower Atrium

5 p.m. | Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Study Tables | Rike 154

6 p.m. | Campus Recreation Hiking | Alumni Tower

7 p.m. | Tabletop Club Magic: The Gathering Nights | Fawcett 204/210

Thursday, Oct. 21

11 a.m. | SGA Athletics Survey Tabling Event | Student Union Market

2 p.m. | Christians on Campus Bible Study | Rike 044

4 p.m. | Neurosurgery Interest Group Journal Club: Spinal Pathology | White Hall

5:30 p.m. | Campus Recreation Running | Alumni Tower

6 p.m. | Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Connexion | Student Success Center 009

6:30 p.m. | Catholic Medical Student Association Medical Ethics Discussion | 1990 Woodson Ct.

7 p.m. | H2O Church Night Life Group | Allyn 124

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7:30 p.m. | Residential Community Association Nightmare on Springwood Lane | Woods Residential Halls

7:45 p.m. | Miracle Makers Steering Meeting | Millett 401

Friday, Oct. 22

6 p.m. | Korean Club Hangul Night Part II | Medical Sciences 125

7 p.m. | Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity Recruitment Event | Lewisburg Haunted Cave

10 p.m. | African Student Union Halloween Party | AlBasha

Saturday, Oct. 23

8 a.m. | Students Teaching Educational Plans for Success Health Initiatives St. Vincent de Paul Gettysburg | St. Vincent de Paul Gettysburg

10 a.m. | Zeta Tau Alpha Women's Fraternity Volleyball Philanthropy Tournament | Setters Volleyball Club

1 p.m. | Women's Soccer VS. UIC | Alumni Field

1 p.m. | Campus Recreation Fall Hiking Series | Hills and Dales

5:45 p.m. | Delta Zeta Spooky Sundaes for SeriousFun Camps | The Woods Basketball Court

Sunday, Oct. 24

11 a.m. | H2O Church Sunday Service | Student Success Center 009

12 p.m. | Amigos Latinos Student Association Dayton Dia de Los Muertos Collaboration | Missing Piece Art Space

1 p.m. | Raider Pre-Health Counsel Stop the Bleed Training | White Hall Room 101

3 p.m. | College Panhellenic Council Junior Panhellenic Leadership Program | Oelman 306

BSOM Faculty Express Concerns at Tuesday Board Meeting

Jamie Naylor

October 18, 2021

Wright State University (WSU) Board of Trustees met to discuss growing concerns in the Boonshoft School of Medicine (BSOM).

The meeting

Wright State's Board of Trustees Special Committee on Medicine and Health met Tuesday afternoon to discuss BSOM enrollment and class size.

Dr. Valerie Webber, Dean of BSOM, addressed the board on the current enrollment and class size numbers for the school.

According to her presentation, during the 2020-2021 academic year, a total of 8,974 students applied for the medical program with 3 percent of them being accepted into the school.

The average class size for the school rests at 132 students, up from 100 students last year. This is below the average class size of most Ohio medical schools. The board expressed a desire for BSOM's class capacity to continue to meet the growing need of medical professionals in the area.

Weber responded that in order for the school to grow and admit more students, more interactive classroom settings, faculty development and additions, as well as more academic support, are needed.

"I think we are on a growth trajectory that we want to balance making sure we're giving the students that they need, while we're really struggling to meet the mission that our country needs to provide doctors," Weber said.

Faculty opinions

BSOM faculty members also expressed their concerns regarding resources in the School. Dr. Irina Overman and Dr. Dean Parmelee addressed the board Tuesday with their concerns.

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“It is a stressed education. So the goal [is] very lofty and good for us to provide more MDS for the Dayton area [and] for the United States, but the foundation of the med school is crumbling, as we keep adding more and more students into the cracking foundation,” Overman said.

Dr. Parmelee seconded these concerns adding that recruiting new faculty, especially in specialized departments like primary care medicine, would help BSOM students.

Student opinions

Medical students like Michael Harrington also notice stressed resources in BSOM. He cited packed classrooms and labs, with students shoulder to shoulder, lack of specialist instructors and lack of technological support as stressors on his education.

“Would I be more likely to become a better doctor someday if there was more room for individual attention?” Harrington said.

The Board plans to discuss business proposals that would accommodate the school’s needs while at the same time growing the school and benefiting the university.

UCIE Event Helps Educate and Share Latin American Culture

Kaylee Raines

October 19, 2021

The University Center for International Education (UCIE) hosted a Latin American Coffee Party on Friday, Oct. 15 to highlight Latin American culture by allowing students to sample coffee from various countries.

Summary of events

UCIE worked with Latin American students and staff to coordinate the event. There were several tables decorated with vibrant table covers and volunteers worked at each table to serve coffee and snacks.

In addition, attendees were given a Latin American flag bingo game to test their knowledge before observing a presentation to highlight the various countries. Three students won a cup and candy for their participation in this game.

Intercultural Specialist for the Latino and Hispanic Culture Center (LHC) Fermín Recarte attended this event to support Latin American students. Recarte oversees the daily operations of the Latino and Hispanic Culture Center in order to promote diversity and inclusion on campus.

“My favorite part about working at WSU is helping more students feel at home and helping to recruit more students. I also enjoy that we can share our culture with everybody,” Recarte said.

Highlighting Latin American students

UCIE Coordinator Megan Trickler indicated that there is a lower percentage of Latin American students at WSU this semester. Currently, there are two Latin American students involved with UCIE.

Carlos Sosa is a graduate student from Guatemala and is studying at WSU for two years to work towards his degree in marketing analytics.

Being involved with UCIE helps Sosa to share his Guatemalan culture while connecting with students and staff at WSU.

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"I've been able to meet and make new friends. The people here at WSU and in Ohio are so friendly in general," Sosa said.

Sarling Clotter is studying abroad at WSU from Honduras this semester. Clotter says her experience at UCIE helped her make a diverse array of friends and made her feel comfortable at WSU. She also encourages people to visit and learn more about Honduras.

"I want everyone to know that Honduras has the best food! Also, if you visit, you'll love our weather which is hot and sunny; there are beautiful beaches. I know you're going to love my country," Clotter said.

Students interested in attending future events can visit UCIE's website by [clicking here](#) or emailing askucie@wright.edu for more information.

Volleyball Player Taylor Bransfield Returns After Injury, Stronger than Before

Noah Kindig

October 19, 2021

An injury for an athlete at an important time will often take away their confidence and stop them from wanting to compete. In the case of Sophomore Volleyball player Taylor Bransfield, her injury has only made her a stronger athlete and better teammate.

The injury

Bransfield's torn ACL came at the worst possible time in the season. A hard fall on her right leg took her out of last year's Horizon League Championship match, a very important match to her and her team.

When she finally returned to the court after six months, she played one of the best matches of her career for the Raiders as they swept Youngstown State 3-0 with fans and teammates cheering her on.

"It feels really good," Bransfield said. "I didn't expect to be ready to play quite yet, but I worked really hard for this, and I recovered well. It feels so good to be back on the court and to play again."

Watching history

On the day of the HL Championship against UIC, Bransfield's confidence was at an all-time high coming into the match.

"I remember thinking, 'This is a big game, I have to put balls away and do whatever I can to play well.' I felt confident in myself, and I felt like everybody was confident in me," Bransfield said.

She played strong until midway through the third set, where she jumped up to look for a kill, but landed hard on her right leg, tearing her ACL instantly.

"I immediately knew what happened," Bransfield said. "I felt two pops and I knew that was it."

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While Raider Volleyball won its first league championship and won a game in the NCAA tournament for the first time, Bransfield was forced to sit on the sidelines.

The sadness of not being able to play melted away as she watched her team move on to the second round.

“It’s definitely tough not being out on the court or being able to help the team, but that was the biggest moment in my sports career that I’ve been a part of,” Bransfield said.

True teammates

From the second Bransfield tore her ACL, she had an entire team and her coaches behind her, supporting her as she recovered.

“We’re super supportive of each other, and it’s one of the best parts about being on the team,” Bransfield said. “I always felt really encouraged and supported through it all.”

Bransfield had help whenever she needed it, as her roommates, Sam Ott and Camryn Hausler, are also on the team and Hausler even tore her ACL earlier in the year.

“Everyone helped each other with everything we needed,” Bransfield said. “We were there for each other in the good days and the bad.”

Because of the support from all around her, Bransfield was able to stay positive, work hard and recover fully faster than expected.

“My mental state through it all was super positive,” Bransfield said. “I had the best support system and athletic trainers and surgeons here and everything I was confident in.”

Self-Reporting and Contact Tracing: WSU Perspective

Brendan Blankenship

October 20, 2021

Late and a lack of self-reports for COVID-19 cases on campus could make contact tracing within Wright State University (WSU) more difficult.

What contact tracing is and why it is important

Contact tracing is used when someone tests positive for COVID to inform those they may have encountered that they were exposed to the virus.

“Contact tracing is an important tool to help mitigate the spread of disease in our community,” Dr. Marietta Orlowski, the Dept. Chair of Population and Public Health Sciences (DPPHS), said.

Orlowski also said that contact tracing helps quarantine people who are not yet showing symptoms but are actively spreading the disease.

“Quarantining breaks the chain of infection,” Orlowski said.

Contact tracing is important in the WSU community, according to Orlowski, because students interact with others in student housing, classes, event and jobs.

“If someone has been exposed to COVID-19, isolating themselves from others keeps other people healthy,” Orlowski said. “Masking is also an important step to minimize the spread of COVID-19.”

Contact tracing at WSU

Students and faculty who test positive for COVID can submit a self-report to the university. WSU’s COVID-19 Dashboard asks students to submit a self-report form as soon as possible for contact tracing to be done.

Dr. Marjorie Markopoulos, the Director of the Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHS), said that getting this self-report as quickly as possible is important for contact tracing to be the most effective.

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“Making that initial report as soon as possible is important so that we can actually be effective at doing a follow-up as quickly as we can,” Markopoulos said.

One problem that can come up with EHS’s contact tracing is when students either do not self-report or they self-report late.

“A lot of times if people are sick, they’re not thinking about filling out that form right away,” Markopoulos said. “If there was a better way to get that initial recording quickly that would probably be the one thing to improve on.”

EHS does not have a specific window of exposure where they will notify a student with a positive case’s other peers. It depends on when the self-report is submitted and when they were on campus according to Markopoulos.

There have been over 100 cases since the 2021-2022 school year began according to WSU’s COVID-19 Dashboard.

Some Students Advocating for More Diversity Among Residential Assistants

Katie Jones

October 20, 2021

Wright State University (WSU) students debate the diversity of the Residential Assistants (RA) as diversity and inclusion become emphasized.

Diversity opinions

Some students felt the RA staff was not diverse enough.

“When I worked there we had like three Asian, maybe two Hispanic and then a handful of African American people work with us. It’s very limited,” former RA Isabelle Hardesty said.

Other students felt there was a measure of diversity among the RAs.

Divine Eziolise is a freshman computer science major who lives in the dorms. For Eziolise, the staff does have diversity.

“In terms of gender, I think it’s diverse. I’ve seen women but I haven’t seen any person of color like an Asian or black person, so I can’t really tell,” Eziolise said.

Currently, the majority of the RA staff is Caucasian with approximately a third of RAs being men. WSU is a predominantly white institution, and often RA applications can reflect that.

“When I first became an RA there was a CD that was diverse and the rest of them were white. It made you feel more welcome, seeing that person, especially considering that I’m not white,” Alyana Barrera, former RA and computer science major, said.

Having diverse staff and student leaders can contribute positively to students. A recent article by the [Association of American Colleges & Universities](#) looks at the effects of diversity on campuses.

“Coethnic peers not only helped students feel like they belonged, but also served as role models, showing students that people from their ethnic group could succeed in college,” according to the article.

Hopes for the future

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One hope for emphasizing the importance of diversity and inclusion in housing staff apart from hiring new students is the trainings that RAs go through.

According to former RAs, they had several trainings, including diversity and inclusion. However, some felt a video or presentation was not enough. Instead, reaching out to student organizations was preferred.

Barrera also hoped that inclusion trainings would extend beyond racial diversity and include trainings to support queer students, students with disabilities and other identities.

“There was one training about diversity, and it was talked about by a white woman who was a doctor. And it was like, okay cool, but that’s not the most diverse person you could ask,” Barrera said.

Overall, some students hope for more diversity in housing staff and their training but still want to acknowledge the work RAs do for campus and for students.

“They do a lot, they are like the hands and feet of campus,” Lauren Onianwa, a current student and former RA, said.

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SGA Discusses Hazing Prevention and Upcoming Events

Katie Jones

October 20, 2021

On Oct. 19, Wright State University's (WSU) Student Government Association (SGA) met to discuss Ohio House Bill 327, Hazing Prevention and upcoming events.

Resolution 21-02

During the meeting, SGA voted on Resolution 21-02. Proposed by Vice President Sabrina D'Alesandro, the resolution condemns Ohio House Bill 327.

Ohio House Bill 327 prohibits teaching about critical race theory and diverse or controversial topics in educational institutions, state agencies and more.

SGA passed Resolution 21-02 unanimously.

Committee changes

According to Commuter Senator Alaina Collins, the University Honors Program Committee also discussed potential changes.

One change was looking at admissions more holistically, not just grades. Others included reviewing specific requirements for honors scholarships and a new 4000 level class that will be available to juniors and seniors spring semester.

The Undergraduate Academic Policies Committee also discussed potential changes. Specifically, a change for international students that would remove the English fluency requirement.

"If they completed a degree at another institution that was predominantly English speaking, there would be no English language fluency requirement from Wright State. So they were going to remove that requirement for international students," Director of Internal Affairs Garret Regan said.

Hazing prevention

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Student Activities Program Director Gina Keucher and Fraternity and Sorority Council President Faith Thompson both attended the SGA meeting to speak about hazing prevention and Collin's Law.

Collin's Law is an anti-hazing law that went into effect on Oct. 7 meant to prevent hazing incidents by increasing consequences for hazing. Collin's Law now requires universities to educate all students on hazing prevention. Plans to implement this requirement are still being finalized.

Keucher hopes to have a system in place by January.

Upcoming events and announcements

On Oct. 18, an athletics survey was sent to students. SGA President Jonathan Ciero encourages students to fill out the survey.

"I know some students are of the opinion that they don't care about athletics, and that is my precise point," Ciero said.

Those who fill out the survey are put in a raffle with the chance to win one of five \$100 gift cards.

Upcoming events

The Halloween Bash will take place on Oct. 30, with several different events. All events can be found [on Engage](#) and include a costume party, a viewing of "Scream" and glow-in-the-dark mini golf.

The College of Science and Math has partnered with the College of Liberal Arts for a Bob Ross paint night on Nov. 10 at 6 p.m.

Michael Griest, Director for Student Enrollment Services Raider Connect, spoke about plans for a campus cleanup event. Tentatively scheduled for Nov. 3, it is an event for faculty, staff and students. Participants can select shifts to sign up and count the time as volunteer hours if needed.

Specific projects are to be determined, but participants would be cleaning up main campus areas such as the Garden of the Senses, the flowerbeds by the Student Union and the Quad.

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“We really love the idea of something where everybody can work together... We also are hoping that we will improve the look of campus,” Griest said.

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Student Engagement and Athletics Survey: Details and How to Participate

Jamie Naylor

October 20, 2021

Wright State University (WSU) sends out a Student Engagement with Athletics Survey, evaluating student opinion on the athletics department.

Survey details

The survey, sent out in a campus-wide communications email, is open to all Wright State students.

Initiated by the WSU Board of Trustees Special Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics, the survey measures student opinions on the athletics department.

Topics included in the survey range from attendance at sports events to needed improvements and perceptions in athletics, according to the survey information.

The survey is unique to each student, with personalized links sent out to WSU emails on Oct. 18, 2021. These links are valid until Oct. 24.

Those who participate in the survey will be entered for the chance to win a \$100 gift card, according to the email.

Survey Background

The survey is part of the Committee's initiative to gather information about the WSU athletics program.

The Committee as well as the full Board will take the data collected in the survey to evaluate the program, according to Dean of Students Chris Taylor.

WSU is partnering with MRJ advising to conduct and analyze the survey.

Stakeholders in WSU Athletics such as the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and Athletics Director Bob Grant also collaborated with the firm to create the survey.

Student Opinion

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The WSU Student Government Association (SGA) is another key stakeholder in the survey. SGA is promoting the survey via tabling and student engagement.

“Every student is important, every single voice is important. Everybody that fills it [the survey] out is going to help make a difference,” SGA President Johathan Ciero said.

Students, like Devin Huelskamp, who have already participated in the survey express optimism about the data collected.

“As long as enough people take the survey they [the Committee] should be able to know what to do to promote them [athletics] more or focus on various areas of athletics that do not get as much attention as others,” Huelskamp said.

The unique survey link sent to students will remain valid until Oct. 24, 2021.

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COLA Staff and Faculty Discuss Reorganization Amidst Retrenchment

Jamie Naylor

October 21, 2021

Wright State University (WSU) College of Liberal Arts (COLA) staff and faculty convene to discuss the reorganization of the college.

The committee

Under the instruction of outgoing COLA Dean Linda Caron, the 19 member board assembled for the fall semester of 2021 to discuss ways to reorganize the college. All proposed changes use the college's existing staff, faculty and resources.

According to Daniel Zehringer, chair of the School of Music and representative on the committee, retrenchment, voluntary separation and retirements in spring 2021, coupled with declining enrollment numbers, caused the need for a reorganization committee.

Potential plans

While the committee is not the final decision maker in the reorganization, they discuss plans to better restructure the college.

Some of the plans discussed include creating new certificate programs, creating new majors and minors, and increasing interdisciplinary among the existing programs, according to Zehringer.

Zehringer also expressed that some programs can be combined, such as the School of Music, the Department of Art and Art History and the Department of Theater, Dance and Motion Pictures.

Laura Luehrmann, a political science professor and member of committee leadership, added that the School of International and Public Affairs (SPIA) and the Department of Modern Languages also have combination potential.

These proposed initiatives and COLA reorganization as a whole were originally proposed in a June 2, 2020, campus-wide communication email.



These plans are still only tentative and must be approved by various governing boards before taking effect.

Concerns

The recommendations by the committee and the final decisions as a result will impact students in the college as well as the faculty and staff.

Luehrmann noted that the main feedback from the faculty she represents is concerns regarding changes in the departments, duties and teams as well as change overall.

Faculty members have yet to be openly vocal about these concerns.

Opinions

Those on the committee feel confident and positive about the group's work and how it will impact COLA and the university as a whole.

"I view this as a positive opportunity to reimagine the College of Liberal Arts, to create some interdisciplinary synergies that already exist," Maralee Leonard, manager of fiscal services and representative on the committee, said.

Zehringer and Luehrmann also expressed hope and positivity over the productiveness and collaboration among members.

The reorganization committee will present these findings as well as their other recommendations to Dean Caron on Nov. 1. They will then be given to the COLA senate and then Faculty Senate to make comments and additional recommendations.

The findings will eventually be presented to the campus community as a whole before heading to the Board of Trustees.

Overcoming the Financial Barrier: Students Share Study Abroad Experiences

Kaylee Raines

October 21, 2021

Wright State University (WSU) offers several forms of financial aid to help students study abroad and pursue their dreams.

How do students afford to study abroad?

To make studying abroad more accessible, Wright State University (WSU) offers many programs that help students afford these opportunities.

For Pell Grant recipients, the Gilman Scholarship is one of the largest sources of funding available. Recipients of this scholarship can receive up to \$8,000. With application cycles throughout the year, this scholarship by the United States Department of State seeks to encourage college students in their journey of becoming cultural ambassadors for the US.

WSU student Rynn Ragland received the Gilman Scholarship this fall and is currently spending a semester in South Korea. They were reluctant to apply for this scholarship, but by taking that chance they were able to fully fund their experience.

“The worst that could happen is that you don’t get chosen, but the best that could happen is that you get to go abroad and have your own adventure,” Ragland said.

WSU student Madison Knab used a combination of scholarships, financial aid and personal savings to afford her trip to France.

“I never thought I would study abroad, but with the support of my professors, peers, advisors and family I was able to overcome my financial concerns and anxiety so I could just go for it,” Knab said.

The University Center for International Education (UCIE) has advisors available to students to ensure that they choose an experience that makes sense for their professional goals and budget.

Advisors are available to work individually with students to analyze their financial aid packages, determine which scholarships students are eligible for and any other challenges along the way.

Benefits of studying abroad

Studying abroad allows students to gain international experience and broaden their horizons. Having international experience can also enhance resumes and marketability upon graduation.

Ragland credits studying abroad as essential to their professional development by allowing them to learn multiple languages and experience cultural immersion. They are currently in Yeosu, South Korea but have also studied abroad in Xi'an, China.

“Being abroad on my own made me learn very quickly how to do things independently. In addition, my future career as a translator will benefit from the fact that I am learning several languages,” Ragland said.

WSU graduate student Jesse Liu completed his Bachelors in Computer Science in 2019 and is currently pursuing his Masters in Business Administration. As an undergraduate, Liu studied in China in order to enhance his understanding of the Chinese language and culture but ended up making life-long friendships as well.

“The year after my study abroad, one of the students I met there ended up coming to WSU for a semester,” Liu said.

Knab believes that studying abroad promotes diversity and cultural immersion. While in France, Knab was able to interact with locals and witness cultural wonders like the Arc de Triomphe and Luxembourg Palace.

“Having study abroad experience shows that you’re willing to work with diverse groups and have a desire to continue learning more,” Knab said.

Students interested in studying abroad should reach out to UCIE by [clicking here](#) or emailing studyabroad@wright.edu to schedule an appointment with a Coordinator.

WSU Students on Why They Chose Graduate School

Emily Mancuso

October 21, 2021

Many Wright State University (WSU) students are faced with the question of whether or not to go to graduate school each year.

Statistics

There are many factors to consider such as cost, job prospects and time management as the modern workforce requires more and more higher education.

According to [Harvard Business Review](#), “In the U.S., the number of graduate students [has tripled](#) since the 1970s, and according to [some estimates](#), 27% of employers now require master’s degrees for roles in which historically undergraduate degrees sufficed.”

WSU currently provides 136 graduate programs to over 2,200 graduate students.

Students and faculty provide a window into the graduate experience and if graduate school was truly the right decision for them.

Student life

Helen Harris is currently enrolled in WSU’s International and Comparative Politics master’s program to meet the growing demand for advanced degrees in her desired career of analyzing data and trends.

“A lot of the types of jobs I wanted were ones where they kind of wanted you to have a master’s degree under your belt to be able to even get into entry-level stuff,” Harris said.

The International and Comparative Politics master’s program currently requires a minimum of 32 credit hours compared to the 36 credit hours required for the International Studies bachelor’s degree.

Abigail Bonifas, a sophomore psychology undergraduate student, plans on furthering her education in graduate school with either a master’s or P.H.D even though she knows it will be difficult.

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“I feel like a lot of people talk about how hard [graduate school] is,” Bonifas said.

Graduate faculty

One such faculty member is Bridgett Severt, who teaches microanatomy in the Masters of Anatomy Program in the Neuroscience, Cell Biology and Physiology (NCBP) department.

Severt received her Master’s from WSU in 2013.

Severt encourages students on the fence with graduate school to try the program even in the face of the pandemic.

“Not only do students go on to become healthcare providers, but some go on to teach, do research, develop curriculum for medical schools, etc.,” Severt said.

WSU students can learn more about graduate school at:

<https://www.wright.edu/graduate-school>

Students Voice Frustration About Raider Mart Prices

Peter Murphy

October 22, 2021

Items that one would normally find inexpensive at a normal grocery store can be generally higher at Raider Mart, which drives some students to voice their frustrations.

What's Raider Mart?

Raider Mart is Wright State University's (WSU) interpretation of an on-campus grocery store. While appearing small, Raider Mart does offer a decent amount of variety in selection. Located at the bottom of Honors Hall, in a quaint cutout, Raider Mart has one competitive edge compared to its major grocery store competitors: convenience.

"Raider Mart is so much easier to get to than Meijer or Walmart," Seth Lubic, a resident of Forest Lane, said. "I don't have to cross two hot parking lots and then carry everything back."

While it is not a full-fledged store, Raider Mart carries items that students who are living alone for the first time might find themselves needing. Items on the shelf can range from a small snack or drink to full meals.

"I usually like all the things at the Raider Mart, but if I don't have swipes or if I was paying with cash I can see why you wouldn't want to go there," Lubic said.

Pricing

With all the convenience that Raider Mart offers, the biggest downside is the pricing of a lot of items. A thrifty shopper may notice the large price disparities between items at Raider Mart and with grocery stores nearby.

"I never really understood why someone who isn't on a meal plan would go and shop there," Zach Buck, an off-campus student, said. "They have like a 100% markup on items."

When comparing items in Raider Mart to items found in other stores like Meijer, there can be a significant price difference. For example, a 24 oz. bottle of Hershey syrup is priced at \$4.59. Compared to the same item found at Meijer, the nearest full-fledged grocery store, which is

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priced at \$2.59. These price discrepancies can be found in most items, anything from candy bars to microwavable meals.

“It’s super frustrating,” Abigail Deeken, a resident of University Park Apartments, said. “I’ve lived on campus the whole time I’ve gone to Wright State and if you want to save any money you have to go off campus and shop at Walmart or Meijer.”

While many on campus wish the Raider Mart was more consumer friendly, the convenience of being able to walk from your dorm or apartment to get groceries on a safe and secure campus or the ability to incorporate your groceries into your meal plan appeals to students.

Dorm vs. Apartment Living at WSU

Emily Mancuso

October 22, 2021

Students wishing to live on campus at Wright State University (WSU) can either live in the dorms or campus apartments, both of which have unique pros and cons.

Dorm living

There are three dorm options: Hamilton Hall, Honors Community and the Woods.

Dylan Wolfe, President of the National Residence Hall Honorary, is a Residential Academic Ambassador (RAA) for the Honors Community Residence Hall.

Each residence hall has two RAAs. The ambassador's have office hours to assist students academically and are exclusive to the residence halls.

Residential Assistants (RA) are in every building including apartments, except The Village Apartments, to assist residents.

Wolfe has lived in the dorms for about a year and a half.

"I believe living in the dorms allows you to be more connected with your resident assistants. They are there to help you adjust to living away from home. They are also there to help with disputes between residents and any rule violations," Wolfe said.

Jared Hess, a sophomore English major, is in his first year of living in the dorms.

"The dorms are fairly good quality for the value," Hess said.

While the overall opinion of the dorms has been good, there have been some recent issues.

"I know that some people complained about some of the maintenance issues in the Honors dorms. They had some issues with these fire alarms randomly going off for about a month," Hess said.

The developer Crawford-Hoying has committed to remodeling the Honors Community as well as investing in other dorms and apartments.

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This recent change has cut housing prices in some dorms and apartments. A super single room in Hamilton Hall in the 2020-2021 school year costs around \$6,698 and the same room in the 2021-2022 school year costs around \$5,400.

Apartment living

Students can choose between College Park, Forest Lane, University Park and the Village for apartments.

For The Village and other apartments, only students who have lived in housing for two semesters, transfer students, sophomore students or students at least 21 years old are eligible to live there.

The apartments are often the cheaper option for older students. Sierra Ward, a junior transfer student, went to the apartments for this reason.

While the apartments can often be cheaper, it can be harder to meet new people.

“It’s easier to make friends and meet people and talk with people, have conversations and actually run into people [in the dorms],” Ward said.

For more information on dorms and apartments and how to apply visit:

<https://www.wright.edu/residence-life-and-housing>

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WSU Faculty Senate Advances Dean Searches and Academic Changes
Brendan Blankenship
October 22, 2021

Wright State University's (WSU) Faculty Senate discussed changes in the College of Liberal Arts (COLA) and other current academic plans during their meeting on Oct. 18.

COLA changes

The Senate is discussing transferring the Bachelor's Degree (BA) in Economics from the program in COLA entirely to the College of Business.

The search for a new COLA dean will begin once discussions for the reorganization are complete according to interim Provost Dr. Oliver Evans.

"We will wait on the search for the dean of that college [COLA] until the reorganization discussions have reached their conclusion," Evans said.

The COLA reorganization committee is set to conclude discussion Nov. 1, 2021.

Read more on COLA reorganization here: ['Staff and Faculty Discuss Reorganization Amidst Retrenchment.'](#)

Dean searches

The university is also searching for deans in the College of Health Education and Human Services (CHEHS) and the College of Science and Mathematics(COSM).

CHEHS is refining its candidate search while the search in COSM is still in the discussion process.

"I've had the opportunity to meet with [the search committee] and discuss the change to the committee. It has since been meeting, and is now reviewing candidates, and is very close to selecting candidates for WebEx interviews at this point," Evans said.

COVID campus guidelines

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The Senate also covered COVID-19 campus policies including overall compliance with mask mandates from students and faculty.

Faculty President Brian Boyd expressed that some areas of campus could include more mask messaging outside of the classroom.

“There were some questions and suggestions around some updated messaging not just in classrooms but more so in hallways and tunnels,” Boyd said.

Boyd did not specify what mask messaging would be put in the tunnels. He did recommend that hosts of large gatherings remind guests to wear masks when not actively eating or drinking anything at the start of an event.

Pres. Boyd’s reasoning for this updated mask messaging is due to students violating mask mandates in areas like the tunnels; students are overall complying despite these few violations.

According to Senator Dawn Wooley, self-reporting of COVID cases remains an issue at WSU. The Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) is currently addressing the issue.

The Faculty Senate will meet again on Nov. 15, 2021.