

PSC Happy Hour!



Calling All
Professional Staff!!!

Would you be
interested in attending
a PSC Happy Hour at
Campus House?

The planned date is
Monday, May 18
at **4:30 p.m.**

Proposed cost is \$10
per person for a
variety of hors
d'oeuvres. Cash bar
will be available.

Come relax in a
comfortable
atmosphere and
celebrate the start of
summer!

Socialize with
professional staff from
across the campus.

If you are interested in
participating, please
email Karen Johnson
by **March 13** at
johnsokl@buffalostate.edu.

The Chronicle

The official newsletter of the Buffalo State College Professional Staff Caucus

Spring-Issue 3, March 2009

Notes from the Chair

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!!!

While writing this on a cold day in Buffalo, my thoughts are for warmer weather, and bright sunshine. With Buffalo weather, settling for sunshine, warmer temperatures and shedding boots is the answer to my wish. Wouldn't it be nice to take a walk around the campus before all the beautification begins? If you haven't heard, we (BSC) are getting an extreme makeover starting May 2009. Listen to the podcast at <http://www.buffalostate.edu/financeandmanagement/projects.xml> and get your mind, body, and workplace ready for the renovations occurring this summer.

As we get prepared for the changes to our infrastructure, let's not forget the Strategic Direction, Mission, Core Values, and Vision for Buffalo State College. <http://www.buffalostate.edu/strategicplanning/vision.xml>. When you review the document envision the direction these improvements will have for our institution. For many of us spring reminds us to review our performance program. Marking this as our mid-year review, and making sure we are on target with completing our yearly goals.

Also, mark your calendar and come join PSC on March 4th for the presentation by Dr. Bruce Baum on "Laugh Harder, Live Longer". This should get us ready for the major changes occurring this summer, and keep us laughing. Parking will probably be an issue, but at least the weather will be nicer! While you're at it mark April 15th for our annual meeting with President Howard. At this session you will gather answers to questions or concerns and possibly clarification of the Strategic Plans and any others you have that must be submitted by March 27th. This year's Professional Development session will close with a panel discussion on the "State of the State" with our statewide and local union leadership.

The warmth is coming so come join us at one or both sessions, because PSC... We Make It Happen!

Keep the Faith,
Ottilie M. Woodruff



PSC Volunteers Needed!

Need an idea for your college community service activity? Each year, Buffalo State College hosts Community Service Day to connect with the wider community, helping area organizations, parks, and neighborhoods with projects that improve the quality of life in the city. Community Service Day 2009 will take place on Saturday, April 25th from 8:30a.m. – 1:00pm. Professional staff volunteers are needed to assist as site coordinators and/or lunch crew members. Call (716) 878-3916 or (716) 878-3692 or e-mail yslc@buffalostate.edu to sign up as a PSC volunteer. Perform a service to the campus community and contribute to recognized efforts of the PSC.

SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT!!



Wednesday, April 15, will be our annual meeting with President Howard. We encourage all professionals to gather your thoughts and submit questions or topics that you would like the President to discuss at our meeting. This is our most popular event annually! So submit your thoughts to Ottilie Woodruff, at woodruom@buffalostate.edu by **Wednesday, March 27**.

PSC-We Make It Happen!

PSC General Meeting Spring Schedule

Laugh Harder, Live Longer-March 4th

Presenter: Dr. Bruce Baum, Professor, Exceptional Education

Annual Meeting with President Muriel Howard-April 15th

State of the State-May 6th

Presenters: Phil Smith, UUP Statewide President; Dick Bihl, BSC Chapter VP for Professionals

The meeting will be held in Butler 210, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. Please RSVP! Lunch will be provided to those who RSVP in advance. Contact Otilie Woodruff at woodrूम@buffalostate.edu.

Current Issue in Buffalo State College Senate

Share your thoughts...

A motion related to the University Faculty Senate (UFS) - the SUNY governance body for all professional staff which includes both staff and faculty - was discussed at the February 2009 Buffalo State College Senate (BSCS) meeting. The motion is scheduled to be voted on at the March 2009 BSCS meeting. The point of the motion is to change *how* Buffalo State's two University Faculty Senators and alternates are elected by the Buffalo State community. However, a larger question of *who* can be elected to serve as a University Faculty Senator or alternate may be of concern to the professional staff at Buffalo State.

The current by-laws of the BSCS state: Two University Faculty Senators elected by the College who must be full-time faculty members and an alternate University Senator appointed by the Chair for a one year term to serve in case of need by the elected Senators, who must be a full-time faculty member.

The motion proposes to change the BSCS by-laws to read: Two University Faculty Senators [ex-officio] elected by the College who must be full-time faculty members.

Background information related to these two governance bodies is important for all Buffalo State professional staff to know. Here are the highlights:

1. The BSCS is a representative campus governance body comprised of the President and Provost of the college, members of the faculty and professional staff, representation from each of the four schools, a delegate from the library, one member from the support staff, 12 students, and two non-voting members appointed by the President of the college.
2. In spring 2006, the BSCS voted on eight motions changing the structure and representation of the BSCS. One of those motions (#7) addressed the election of UFS Senators. Historically – prior to this motion - UFS Senators were faculty members; the motion explicitly changed the eligibility for UFS Senators to full-time faculty members. During the discussion of this motion, a question was posed to determine if the UFS by-laws stipulated that UFS Senators must be full-time faculty member and the answer, by the by-laws committee who drafted the motion, was “we don't know.” The vote was cast and passed (37 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention); the BSCS by-laws were change accordingly.
3. The UFS by-laws (<http://www.suny.edu/facultysenate/bylaws07.cfm>) state the following purpose of the UFS: “The senate shall be the official agency through which the University Faculty engages in the governance of the University. The Senate shall be concerned with effective educational policies and other professional matters within the University.”
4. The UFS by-laws define campus representation as:
 - a. **one representative from each unit, independent of the size of the professional staff,** and
 - b. additional representatives shall be authorized from units on the basis of the number of full-time professional staff according to the following: **a second representative for units whose full-time professional staff is greater than or equal to 600 but less than 1,100;** a third representative for units whose professional staff is greater than or equal to 1,100 but less than 1,600; and a fourth representative for units whose professional staff is greater or equal to 1,600

Don't forget about
our website!

www.buffalostate.edu/pscl

Check the site often for
updates and
announcements about
PSC!

To submit information
or articles to The
Chronicle, contact
Mary Finger at
fingermc@buffalostate.edu.

Current Issue (continued)

This schematic would mean that Buffalo State's UFS two senators are based on both the full-time faculty (426 in 2007-2008) employed at Buffalo State and the full-time professional staff (300 in 2007-2008) employed at Buffalo State.

5. The standing committees of the UFS include the *Executive Committee, Governance Committee, Graduate Academic Programs and Research Committee, Student Life Committee, Undergraduate Academic Programs and Policies Committee, University Operations Committee, and the University Programs and Awards Committee.*
The committee charges can be found in the UFS by-laws.

Given the important role Buffalo State professional staff play in the running of our campus (in daily operations and campus governance), the expertise that could be imparted to the standing committees of the UFS by our professional staff, and the UFS by-laws inclusive representation language, it appears that the current by-laws of the BSCS have disenfranchised the professional staff of Buffalo State from enhancing their leadership potential and contributing their professional expertise on the behalf of Buffalo State to shared governance at the SUNY system level.

If this is an issue that concerns you – either because of the philosophical problem of disenfranchised professional staff from serving on the UFS or because you would potentially like to run for one of the UFS Senator seats if the BSCS by-laws were altered to allow professional staff service - please contact one of your Professional Staff BSCS Senators or a BSCS Senator-at-Large by March 11 to express your opinion before the next BSCS meeting (March 13 at 3 p.m. in Classroom C-122).

Senator listings and contact information can be found on the Buffalo State College Senate website: <http://www.buffalostate.edu/collegesenate/senators.xml>. Save this link to contact us about other campus governance issues that may concern you as well!

PSC's concern about professional staff eligibility for University Faculty Senate was forwarded to Sharon Cramer, the Buffalo State College Senate Chair, in advance of the March 13th BSCS meeting to enable the relevant parties to prepare a response to the concern. Dr. Cramer charged the BSCS by-laws committee and parliamentarian with investigating this issue. Currently a lively review is being conducted on campus and with the UFS parliamentarian; preliminary indications are that professional staff should, in fact, be eligible for UFS Senator seats. If this turns out to be true, new issues emerge in relation to the BSCS composition that will need to be remedied. Look for an update to this interesting campus governance issue in the next issue of *The Chronicle*!

Prepared at PSC's request by Heather Maldonado, At-Large BSCS Senator