

THE BENT TREE

March 8, 1994

EXTRA

Administrators Respond To Questions Asked By Reporter

Questions Raised At Dialogue And Donuts Are Answered In This Special Edition

In January and February, the Clayton State College Student Government Association sponsored a number of "feedback" sessions entitled Dialogue and Donuts with the Dean of Students. These sessions gave student the opportunity to share their concerns, ask questions important to them and to even compliment the Dean on the success of some program or activity. Hundreds of students stopped by the upper lobby of the Student Center building to share their thoughts.

Bent Tree Reporter - Question:

Many students would like to stay at Clayton State, but the College does not offer their major. Will there be any additional programs of study? If so, when?

Richard Skinner, President - Response:

Over the next three-five years, students can expect to see CSC bring online eight-twelve new baccalaureate degree programs. At this moment, the College is finalizing proposals for submissions to the Chancellor's office in Marketing, Interdisciplinary Studies, Health Care management, and Music Education. Other programs under consideration include additional bachelor's degrees in teacher education, industrial and technology management, and child development.

All of our thinking and planning is guided by what we learn from employers out in the field, by trying to anticipate needs rather than simply to react, and by a commitment to prepare graduates for CAREERS, not just a job. Accordingly, we will emphasize student skills in communication, critical thinking, the use of technology (especially information technologies), human relations, as well as international awareness.

In addition, we will explore how we might develop bachelor's degree programs that build on strong technical education in areas such as the health sciences and technology.

Bent Tree Reporter - Question:

Several students have asked if the library's hours on the weekends (including Friday nights) could be expanded. Is this a possibility?

Elliott McElroy, Vice President for Academic Affairs - Response:

It is College Policy to keep the library open for as many hours as possible consistent with anticipated student demand and reasonable costs. Library hours on Saturday and Sunday were expanded in response to student demand in past years. At that time it was determined that the amount of usage on Friday evening would not justify the cost of keeping the library open even though some students would probably come. We will study this to determine if circumstance have changed.

Dean Robert C. Bolander hosted CSC President Richard Skinner at several of the sessions. Although dozens of different questions were raised, several common themes emerged. The questions listed below are samples of questions asked by several students over the course of the event. Appropriate administrators were asked for their responses. The results are below:

Bent Tree Reporter - Question:

Numerous questions (especially about "transferability") were raised because of the four hour (versus five hour) courses. Is this a real problem? If so, can anything be done? If not, how can this perception be corrected?

Elliott McElroy, Vice President for Academic Affairs - Response:

All aspects of the Clayton State College curriculum conform to Board of Regents guidelines, and all courses are fully transferable within the University System with the exception of some career and institutional credit courses that are clearly identified in the catalog.

The only place the College has four-hour courses are in Area I (Humanities) and III (Social Sciences) of the Core Curriculum. These courses meet Board of Regents regulations and are fully transferable to meet Area I and III requirements at other University System institutions including Georgia State University and the University of Georgia.

Sometimes students who transfer encounter advisors who are not fully aware of University Core Curriculum rules. In all such cases that have come to our attention, the Registrar's Office or other individuals at Clayton State have been able to resolve the perceived problem. The Office of the Registrar is happy to help students who think that a receiving institution is not giving them the full credit they deserve. A recent University System study showed a Clayton State College students actually had fewer transfer difficulties that students from other colleges.

Receiving institutions within the System can require transfer students to take specific courses to meet their requirements as long as they make adjustments or substitutions so that the transferring student will not have to take more hours to graduate than a student who started at that college or university. Please direct any questions to the Registrar's Office. That office has a University System brochure that explains the Core Curriculum.

Task Force Studying Four-Hour vs. Five-Hour Classes

Vice President McElroy has appointed a task force to review and make possible revisions of Areas I and III of CSC's Core Curriculum. This includes the possibility of changing the courses in these areas from four-quarter-credit-hours to five-quarter-credit-hours. Proposals for these and other curriculum changes need to be submitted for review by mid-April. Watch *The Bent Tree* for future news on this particular area of student concern.

Bent Tree Reporter - Question:

Several students asked why does the College not offer more in the area of intercollegiate athletics?

Mason Barfield, Athletic Director: Response:

In 1989, the College began the development of an intercollegiate athletic program appropriate to and commensurate with its status as a senior college of the University System. The plan at that time was to bring a new sport into competition each year thereafter. Men's and women's basketball, mens soccer, and golf were added accordingly (albeit, golf was reduced subsequently to a club sport).

During the recent years when the state and the University System experienced severe financial cutbacks, the College elected to delay the implementation of the commitment to the athletic program's development. With the economy improving, and funding to the University System showing signs of modest improvement, the time is right to renew the development of athletics as one element of a comprehensive undergraduate college experience.

The Athletic Committee, made up of students, faculty, and staff, are set to meet this spring to discuss a plan to recommit the College to the original athletic proposal of 1989. The continued development of our athletic program can, and will, serve this institution, community, and region.

Bent Tree Reporter - Question:

How does the School of Business develop its course schedule? Will there ever be yearly schedules available to help with infrequently offered classes? How can students give input into this process?

Norm Oglesby, Dean of the School of Business: Response:

The School of Business is committed to customer service and has worked to maintain open communications with students on all matters of concern, including scheduling. In past meetings with the Dean and his staff, students suggested that more student input be obtained on scheduling needs. That suggestion was implemented, on a trial basis, this quarter. Business students enrolled in Winter quarter were contacted and given a chance to specify their scheduling preferences for Summer quarter, 1994. This input is being used to plan the summer schedule, and to accommodate as many student preferences as student surveys, plus definite continuation of the very popular "Pizza and Plain Talk" rap sessions begun last year. In these sessions, business students have an opportunity to meet with the Dean and the faculty, in an informal setting, to discuss matters of mutual interest. Following each session, the Dean provides written feedback to all participants on matters discussed.

The next "Pizza and Plain Talk" sessions will be held during Spring quarter and announced well in advance. Two separate sessions are planned, in order to serve both day and evening business students.

As for advance scheduling, the School of Business has published a one-year advance schedule of classes every year for the last six years. Copies are available in the School office. Student suggestions for improvement are always welcomed and, in fact, have led to several scheduling innovations including Saturday classes and one day per week classes at off-campus locations.

Got a better idea? Share it by calling the School at: 961-3410, anytime.

Bent Tree Reporter - Question:

Several students expressed concern over campus safety. How safe is the campus?

Scott Doner, Director of Public Safety - Response:

As you can see from the statistics (in the next column), this is a very safe campus, especially considering how close it is to a metropolitan area. In fact, when you compare our statistics to the other 34 states colleges and universities, we're very near the bottom for all crimes.

There are eight emergency phones throughout the campus. They are located in the parking lots and can be identified at

night by the blue flashing light. All you have to do is push the red button and you are automatically connected to the Public Safety Office or a police officer. A computer tells the Public Safety Office exactly where you are even if you don't know. Also, you can not hang up the phone. Only the Public Safety Office can disconnect the line. One nice feature about the phone, it can hear for some distance away from the phone, so even if you can't pick up the phone, Public Safety can hear you.

Escort service is available to any student, faculty, or staff member that requests it. An officer will walk with you from a building to your car.

State certified police officers are on patrol 24 hours a day, year round. We never close. All police officers must pass a state police academy, numerous tests, and physical agility tests. They must also pass 20 hours of in-service training a year.

The Clayton State College Department of Public Safety has won several awards in the past 4 years. In 1991, it received the most improved police department. In 1993, it won the College Police Pistol Championship and also the Director won the Campus Police Chief of the year. These accomplishments speak highly of the Department as a whole and should serve notice to the Clayton State College community that they have some of the best officers in the State.

The Department of Public Safety is always available for assistance and will be glad to answer any questions. We are also available to the College community to put on any classes that are requested, such as crime prevention, self defense, date rape, etc. If you are interested in one of these classes or have any questions, please contact us at 961-3540 or stop by room D-206.

CRIME	1991	1992	1993
MURDER	0	0	0
RAPE	0	0	0
ROBBERY	0	0	0
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	0	0	0
BURGLARY	17*	6	2
AUTO THEFT	0	1#	0
ARSON	0	0	0

*INCLUDES ALL THEFTS

#VEHICLE WAS RECOVERED AND ARREST MADE TWENTY MINUTES AFTER IT WAS REPORTED

NUMBER OF ARRESTS

	1991	1992	1993
CRIME	1	4	1
ALCOHOL	1	0	0
DRUG ABUSE	0	0	0

Bent Tree Reporter - Question:

Several students asked why does the College not have more "fun" activities?

Rob Taylor, Director of Student Activities - Response:

Student Activities at CSC have started to focus on developing more "fun" events for the overall activities "mix." Many ideas for new activities come from the students. I agree that we need to have more "fun" activities that can add to the life of the campus. Your input can help make this happen.

The Festival Fridays events, which began in mid-January, are an example of a new "fun" activity that grew out of student comments at the fall quarter "Dialogue with the Dean." Student Government and the General Entertainment Committee joined together to develop a series of seven of these events for the winter and spring quarters. They turned out to be so successful that it was extended for an additional week. Plans are to continue this event for seven Fridays in the spring quarter.

Let me know your ideas for "fun" activities. Attend a Friday night film. Enjoy the Not-Quite-Annual Magical Extravaganza in late April. Talk to the Student Government Association. Go to their meetings. Participate in the SGA "Spring Fling" this May. Get involved in campus life as much as your schedule will allow. We realize you have multiple commitments in your life, but we hope you will want to get involved in the life of the College.