TRUSTEES APPROVE REORGANIZATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

COLUMBUS -- Trustees of The Ohio State University on Friday (7/12) approved reorganization of several areas of the university's administration on the recommendation of President E. Gordon Gee.

The action affects Student Affairs, Communications, Development, Human Resources and Relations, Legal Affairs, and Business and Community Relations.

With the exception of a special assistant for Business and Community Relations, no new positions were created; instead existing positions and personnel were reconfigured.

The restructuring is necessary to address budgetary reductions, better serve the academic and intellectual mission of the university, and improve efficiency, Gee told the trustees.

"Our administrative structure must no longer define and confine the limits of our scholarly aspirations -- rather, our aspirations should define that administrative structure," he said.

"In short, the central administration must be made more responsive to the institution's primary goals of teaching, research and service."

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Business/Community Relations. Gee recommended appointment of a special assistant for business and community relations to help build support networks for higher education in general, and Ohio State in particular, throughout the state. The person appointed to this post will be expected to develop working relationships with business, industry, labor, and civic and community leaders throughout the state. The position was advertised several months ago, and Gee said he expects to recommend an individual for appointment by the trustees before the beginning of autumn quarter. "I believe that extraordinary opportunity exists to enhance relationships with groups that have traditionally not been identified as supporters of the university and that the business/community relations function will provide the necessary linkage," he said.
Gee plans to add ‘friend-raiser’ to OSU staff

By Tim Doulin
Dispatch Higher Education Reporter

In tough economic times, The Ohio State University figures it can use all the friends it can get.

With that in mind, the university plans to hire a “friend-raiser” in the fall.

The special assistant for business and community relations will cultivate support from the state’s business, industry, labor, civic and community leaders. The salary for the special assistant has not been set.

“The reason for the position is to have someone doing what I have been doing myself,” OSU President Gordon Gee said.

Since coming to OSU last fall, Gee has spent many days traveling Ohio promoting the university.

“This university needs to have all the friends it can get. Without friends, you don’t have funds,” Gee said. “We want to make sure the business community more clearly understands that their future is tied to the university, and that we get support from them. We are working with a number of communities that need to be served by the university and that need to serve the university.”

The assistant will be assigned to the president’s office. Gee created a similar position while president of the University of Colorado.

“We can’t look just to state government for support,” Gee said. “We have to look at private partnerships and more of an array of resources than we have in the past.”

“We would like to enlist (help) in making our case to the state that says we need more support for higher education,” said Herb Asher, OSU’s Statehouse lobbyist. “When you have respected labor, business and civic leaders also making that claim, you strengthen the message you send.”

With more competition for state money, universities must intensify lobbying efforts, Asher said.

“There really are now a lot of other demands on the state,” Asher said. “Higher education has to be in there making its case as effectively as possible.”