Student-run radio considered for campus

By H.J. Chiu
Lantern staff writer

About 20 people gathered Tuesday at the Ohio Union to discuss the possibility of establishing a new campus radio station; currently Ohio State has no student-run radio station.

"All ideas are open and can be discussed," said Torsten Moeller, a graduate student in computer information science systems who organized the group.

He said most Columbus radio stations do not provide enough alternative music, and he hopes a new radio station will offer a variety of music, including ethnic and non-mainstream music.

In addition, Moeller would like to include hourly news briefs in his programming.

"It will be great to have a campus radio station," he said.

"And somebody has to start it."

Ohio State had a campus radio station, WOSR, which was registered as a student organization, but signed off the air last summer because of debts and lack of financial support.

WOSR used an AM frequency, and broadcast from Drake Union. It was later moved to the Ohio Union in 1990. The station was only available to people who had cable radio or residents who lived in dormitories equipped with transmitters.

The equipment of WOSR is now stored in the broadcast engineer's office in the Journalism Building; the equipment needs to be maintained and examined, said James Harless, associate professor of journalism.

The station provided a place for disc jockeys and broadcast journalism students to acquire on-air experience. It also served as a voice for students.

WOSR encountered many problems, one of which stemmed from its lack of a FCC license. Currently, Ohio State owns three licenses for radio WOSU-AM and FM, and a television station, WOSU.

Former WOSR DJ Mark Gunderson, who attended the meeting, said when the station was running, it was discussed if the station would become a part of the School of Journalism. Many members of WOSR did not want the station to be taken over by the university because they thought it would lose its independence.

The current broadcast students have little chance to get on-air experience on WOSU radios. WOSU is operated primarily as a business, not as a learning laboratory for broadcast students. Broadcast students can get internships to work on commercial radio stations downtown.

Harless said the School of Journalism is considering providing a radio station for students, but no formal action has been initiated.

"We are not sure exactly what will happen," he said. "But the intention is there."

Gunderson said there is a need for a new radio station in Columbus to provide alternative music, too. Many non-mainstream musicians and good local bands do not get enough airtime.

He said CD 101, the first progressive radio station in Columbus set up two years ago, lost its alternative focus.
Student-run radio gets some support

By T. Carter Scholl
Lantern staff writer

Active Radio, a student-run organization dedicated to bringing college radio to Ohio State, is gaining community support and might soon have a voice in WOSR, the student-run radio station. However, as The Lantern reported earlier this year, mounting debts and a lack of financial support led to the station's untimely demise.

Clifford said the failure of WOSR, and the debt that it left behind, is an obstacle for Active Radio in dealing with the WOSU Stations. He said it is unfortunate that the WOSU Stations are unwilling to work with Active Radio.

"(Students) are the single largest contributor (to the WOSU Stations budget), yet we have no say in the play list," Clifford said.

"We're not WOSR again, we're not trying to be. We don't want to take over where WOSR left off," he said.

Beeker said he is aware of the problems in the past and has cautioned Active Radio to avoid such problems. At this point it's really up to them (Active Radio) to make it work," Beeker said. He said that if the effort is made by Active Radio, WCBE would be willing to provide airtime.

But he cautioned Active Radio would need serious and qualified people, possibly trained at WCBE through student internships. "We are talking about putting out a professional product," he said.

Active Radio is also being promoted at "Alternative Rooterfestival," an eclectic show featuring a wide variety of entertainment at the Newport Music Hall at 6 p.m., October 9.

In addition to promoting the local music scene, the festival hopes to help Active Radio. There will be a booth providing students with information about Active Radio at the event.

Local bands performing at "Alternative Rooterfestival" in order of appearance, are Rustic Bucket, Hot Sink, a special appearance by Kathy Miller (a.k.a. Roller Girl), Fyversmile, My Mother's Creation and King of Iowa.

"It's going to be a constant entertainment," Blake Squires of S.P.I. Presents, Inc. said, stressing the fact that no one act is headlining.

Squires said the event is to help make students aware of local bands and artists. Calling the event an "indoor club festival," he said there will be art exhibits, tarot card readings, tattoo information and the OSU calendar girls.

Tickets are $6 in advance and $7 at the door. Advance tickets are available at Singing Dog Records, Aardvard Video, World Record, Viking Tattoo and at Player's Sports Bar and Grill in the Ohio Center.

Active Radio meets at 7 p.m. every Tuesday in the Ohio Union; all interested students are welcome.

We think it's ridiculous that OSU won't work with their students on this."

—WCBE's Norm Beeker

See ACTIVE / Page two
Concert to benefit student radio

By T. Carter Scholl
Lantern arts writer

Active Radio is one step closer to establishing a student-run radio show in Columbus.

The organization, which includes students for College Radio, is hosting a benefit concert featuring local bands at Bernie's Distillery tonight.

Active Radio has been working with WCBE, the radio station operated by the Columbus Board of Education, to prepare for a weekly six-hour program run by students. Many members of the organization are currently interning at the station.

"Everything is in place, we are just waiting to get everyone trained," said Norm Beeker, program director of WCBE. Beeker said that the show, which is to be named "Active Radio," should be on the air sometime this spring.

The show will probably air every Saturday from midnight to 6 a.m., Beeker said.

While Active Radio is appreciative of the opportunity that WCBE is giving it, its ultimate goal is to establish a student-run radio station, said Mark Gunderson, a member of the organization.

"WCBE, right now, is really more of a means to the end," Gunderson said.

John McCluskey, an OSU senior majoring in communications and a member of Active Radio, is currently an intern at WCBE. He said that hosting a concert has a dual purpose. "We've never had a huge draw... but we manage to make a little bit of money," McCluskey said.

Making money is not the real purpose.

"We are mainly just trying to get the word out, trying to get the public to be aware of our existence," McCluskey said.

Gunderson said that the organization will provide information at tonight's show to anyone interested.

Tonight's entertainment includes punk rockers Gaunt, who have just finished recording with Steve Albini (he produced Nirvana's In Utero); The Kosher Spears, whose Tim Easton has just finished backing his Podulka release Goody Boy in Europe; and Moviola, whose members have played in the Econothugs, Hangnail, Stupid Fuckin' Hippie and Ten Tongue Chain.
Two groups make plans to revive student-run radio

By Johnny Wilson
Lantern staff writer

Two student organizations are offering separate proposals for the comeback of a student-run radio station at Ohio State.

Undergraduate Student Government and Active Radio are separately developing proposals for a student radio.

One of the proposals will be chosen to be put into action as early as Spring Quarter.

OSU students have been without their own station since the last student-run radio station, WOSR, aired its last broadcast in 1991 after a brief existence.

WOSU radio, which currently airs news, talk shows and classical music, has not been used as a facility for students since the 1960s.

After researching the feasibility of a new student-run radio, USG said they think WOSR went wrong because it operated by "carrier current," a method of sending radio signals to homes through telephone wiring.

"It was not well received because it was not heard by enough people," said Kevin Sheriff, USG member. "It wasn't as well organized and lacked cohesion."

The central feature of USG's proposal is to acquire a channel on UNITS, the cable network serving campus buildings.

If the cable radio broadcast becomes a viable service for OSU students, it could be routed to the subscribers of larger cable networks such as Warner Cable and Coaxial Communications, Sheriff said.

This type of system has proven successful on college campuses including Indiana, Minnesota and Michigan State universities, Sheriff said.

A majority of Big Ten schools have student radio, and no college the size of Ohio State is without such a service, Sheriff said.

The student group Active Radio is offering their own proposal to begin a student station with a low-power AM signal, which would immediately reach more students.

Active Radio has been fine-tuning their strategy since May 1993, and they are intent on using low-power AM because it can be received within a radius of about a mile around the OSU campus, Gunderson said.

The Active Radio plan would cost less than the USG plan. Gunderson said the Active Radio start-up cost would be less than $10,000, while Sheriff said the USG plan would cost about $15,000.

The Office of Student Affairs will make the decision on which student radio plan will be put into effect after both groups submit written proposals.

David Williams II, vice president of student affairs, said he was surprised to find no student radio station when he came to Ohio State in July 1993.

"I've wondered why we don't have student involvement in a radio station," Williams said. "I'm really committed to trying to help a group get student-run radio going."

To that end, Williams has a plan to appropriate about $15,000 toward a student-run radio station.

Funds for the station would come from concert revenues, OSU-licensed merchandise earnings and the Student Affairs Administration project budget.
Student-run radio to start broadcasts by Spring Quarter

By Johnny Wilson
Lantern staff writer

USG's student-run radio plan has received a green light from OSU administration. The first broadcast is scheduled for the first day of Spring Quarter.

USG members presented David Williams, vice president for student affairs, with a detailed outline for the student radio station.

The approval comes after both USG and a student organization, Active Radio, developed proposals for the student radio station. While USG proposed the cable-based station, Active Radio proposed a station on a low-power AM format.

The USG plan will only reach on-campus buildings that are hooked up with UNIFS cable system. Williams approved the plan and has allocated $15,000 toward start-up costs for the station.

"Williams was excited, we are excited, hopefully we can get students excited about student radio," said USG member Kevin Sheriffs.

Williams said student radio is long overdue and he is behind the idea 100 percent.

"Believe me, the students did all the work, and I have played such a small role," Williams said. "We happened to be able to find the money for them, but they have done all the work."

Funds for the new station will come from concert revenues, earnings from OSU licensed merchandise and the Student Affairs budget.

Williams said he approved the USG cable plan because he never received the finalized Active Radio plan.

"We never really had a proposal from Active Radio," said Williams. "They idea that there were two proposals and we were choosing one or the other is somewhat incorrect."

Williams said Active Radio approached Student Affairs about two years ago with an idea for student radio and he has not heard from them since.

Mark Gundersen, a member of Active Radio, said the organization tried unsuccessfully to meet with USG and Student Affairs, and it was unfortunate Williams made his decision without first seeing both plans.

"I'm a little disappointed," Gundersen said. "I would like to have given Mr. Williams the Active Radio plan to compare the USG plan against."

Gundersen said his group would still be interested in helping USG with the approved cable radio plan. Sheriffs said although he was not able to work out a joint proposal with Active Radio, he would still like to have their input with the cable radio plan.

"I am still really hoping to work with them (Active Radio) and in the near future use a form of low-power AM to supplement the cable radio," Sheriffs said. "They've been working on this for quite some time, and to not have their input, would be fairly stupid on our part."

Sheriffs said work on the USG radio plan will begin immediately, and the first detail to consider is the needs of students.

USG will survey students to learn about tastes in music, most common listening hours and what other kinds of programming students want to hear.

Students can attend an information radio forum, to be scheduled within the next few days, to learn more about the new station and express their opinions, Sheriffs said.

The first broadcast is scheduled for March 27, 1995, the first day of Spring Quarter. Meanwhile, USG will be busy equipping the station's studio, conducting and tabulating the surveys and training staff to run the station.
Student groups discuss broadcast possibilities for radio station

By Johnny Wilson
Lantern staff writer

Two student groups have competing proposals for starting a student-run radio station at Ohio State.

Undergraduate Student Government and Active Radio are both offering plans to the Office of Student Affairs for a student radio station. The plan chosen could be enacted as early as Spring Quarter.

David Williams, vice president of student affairs, will decide the fate of the radio station.

Williams said student radio services should include use by journalism and communications majors, campus news, sporting events, diverse music and talk shows featuring a dialogue between students and faculty.

While USG proposes a station broadcasting through the UNITS cable system, Active Radio proposes a low-frequency AM station.

Mark Gunderson, organizer for Active Radio, said UNITS cable is too limited because it only serves the Ohio State campus.

"An AM broadcast, on the other hand, will reach all the students on campus and the area beyond that," Gunderson said. "We want to ensure all students have access to student radio."

"Low-power AM would reach students not living in dorms, and could be heard when away from the cable, between classes, walking to and from school, or in your car if near campus," Gunderson said.

The Active Radio format would emphasize jazz and alternative music, largely ignored by local radio programmers, Gunderson said.

Kevin Sheriff, a USG member, said he sees the benefits of low-power AM, but student radio should be perfected on a smaller scale cable system first.

"We're hoping that if we get it down to a science we can then go low-power AM radio and have a better chance of success," Sheriff said.

The USG plan sends a stereo signal via cable to television, and can be re-erected to a home-stereo amplifier.

USG has been offered a cable channel for a one-time fee of $2,500, to run an AM from the radio control room to the UNITS center, Sheriff said. After the initial cost, UNITS would provide the channel at no charge.

Though the cable plan will make the original audience relatively small, Sheriff said this is only a temporary step to much wider access.

"The initial goal is that it will not take more than a year to get student radio to off-campus locations via one of the larger cable companies," Sheriff said.

Other Big Ten schools have had success with various radio systems, and most campuses maintain two systems to reach the widest audience possible.

Jim Muehl, operations manager at KWOM, University of Minnesota, said the simplicity of a wireless signal makes it the best choice.

"Anytime a listener doesn't have to do anything else but turn on a radio, that's better," Muehl said.

KWOM switches to cable at the end of its broadcast day, and also transmits through a carrier current to campus dormitories.

Michigan State University students maintain two stations: WFXL, a city-wide cable radio program, and WDBM, a 2,000-watt FM station ranked third in Lansing.

"Low-power AM is inexpensive, fairly easy to get into, and has no FCC requirement," said Gary Reed, general manager at the MSU stations. "The downside is that AM is not going to be in stereo, and for the music programming, the average student will have a problem going to mono."

OSU students said they would like to see student radio provide a wide variety of services.

"Most students would like to know what's going on around campus," said James Bearden, an engineering major from Columbus. "I'd like to see controversial issues discussed, like parking and the new student union."

Other students expressed a desire to hear diverse styles of music like classic rock, alternative, reggae, and country.

Leyla Gonzalez, a microbiology major from Hilliard, said student radio should serve the different cultures at Ohio State.

"I'm more concerned about informing the student body about extra-curricular events," Gonzalez said. "Not only the Hispanic community, but all the cultural organizations at the university could benefit greatly."

Student Affairs can only fund one plan for student radio and, although the proposals by Active Radio and USG are quite different, the groups are hoping to find common ground and work together.

"The situation has potential to put us on different sides, but I hope that doesn't happen," Gunderson said. "I'm hoping USG and Active Radio will be working on the same proposal together."
Airwaves still silent despite student-run radio promise

Finding location stalls plans, USG says

Editor’s note: This is the first of a two-part series.

By Alyson Borgerding
Lantern staff writer

Student-run radio at Ohio State still hasn’t materialized despite promises last quarter that the station would be broadcasting by the first day of Spring Quarter.

The largest obstacle facing the station was finding a space to locate the studio, said USG member Kevin Sheriff, who is in charge of the project. Sheriff said he submitted a room request to the Ohio Union in the middle of Winter Quarter, but didn’t get a room assignment until spring break.

Sheriff said his first choice was a Scarlet suite in the Ohio Union because the rooms have large glass windows which would increase the station’s visibility. The Ohio Union staff assigned the station to room 105P, which has no such windows.

Sheriff said he is trying to get the room assignment changed, although he plans to begin operating out of that room next week.

Equipment to begin broadcasting will be purchased this week, Sheriff said. He hopes to have it set up in the union by the middle of next week. The equipment and cable line can be easily moved to a different room if necessary, he said.

Union officials said the room assignment has not been secured. Becky Parker, director of the Ohio and Drake Unions, said she did not receive a request. The other problem plagues the station’s beginning is whether it will be able to broadcast from the union studio 24-hours-a-day because of security concerns.

Sheriff said he would like to broadcast around the clock to accommodate the nearly 150 students who applied to work at the station.

The station will more than likely begin with an on-air day of 12 or 16 hours because the Ohio Union staff rejected a request for 24-hour access to the room, Sheriff said.

Sheriff also said he is frustrated because the Crimewatch director had access to the office 24-hours-a-day when the Crimewatch Escort Service had their office in the union.

Parker said that Crimewatch did have 24-hour access to the union when they were located there, however they moved their office to the Public Safety Building before she became director of the Ohio Unions.

She said she is not comfortable granting anyone 24-hour access to the union because there were security-related problems with Crimewatch’s 24-hour access. Parker also said she does not want people in the building when the staff is not there.

“It’s not responsible from a security perspective,” Parker said.

The station should begin broadcasting in two to three weeks, Sheriff said.

“I would be shocked if that didn’t happen,” he said.
Student-run radio could be broadcasting in three weeks

By Alyson Borgerding
Lantern staff writer

Within three weeks, OSU students will be able to tune in to a new campus radio station that is completely staffed and run by students, said Kevin Sheriff, station organizer.

Over 150 applications have been sent in by students, many of whom have extensive radio experience, Sheriff said. Students have applied for many positions including, disc jocket, music, programming, promotions, and news and sports director.

"We're still sifting through some of the applications," Sheriff said. "We've made some decisions and we're trying to involve as many people as possible."

The positions will be available on a volunteer basis at first, Sheriff said. The station may be able to pay small stipends to student staffers as soon as it is able to begin selling airtime for advertisements, he said.

The Department of Athletics has expressed interest in having the station do remote broadcasts of student athletic events, Sheriff said. They would provide the technology needed to broadcast from anywhere that has a phone jack, he said.

The station's programming will be a combination of regularly scheduled shows, news and sports coverage, Sheriff said. Music programming will be left primarily to disc jockeys, he said.

In order for students to hear the station they must have a television. The television must be equipped with UNITS cable service, which is only available in residence halls and campus buildings.

The station will broadcast on television through channel 62. The music will be in stereo and the station's programming schedule will play on the screen.

In order to tune into the radio, a device to split the television cable and connect it to the radio needs to be added to the television. "Splitter" devices cost around $2, Sheriff said.

Sheriff has looked into connecting the broadcast to Warner and Coaxial cable so off-campus students will be able to tune in to the new radio station.

According to information Sheriff received from the National Association of College Broadcasters, local commercial cable companies have picked up other universities' radio broadcasts and covered the cost of connecting cables to the studio.

Connecting a cable to the studio is easy and cheap, and shouldn't increase cable subscribers' costs, Sheriff said.

"It's a simple, basic thing," Sheriff said. It costs $3,000 at the most, "which is pennies for (cable companies)."

Sheriff is also researching the possibility of supplementing the cable broadcast with a low-power AM broadcast. Cable and AM service would broadcast simultaneously and would reach listeners within a one to three mile radius.

Setting up the AM simulcast requires applying for a license from the Federal Communications Commission and buying a broadcast transmitter, which costs between $3,000 and $5,000, said Ellis Ford, a graduate student in public policy and management who will be general manager of the new station. Sheriff said he plans to work on setting up the AM broadcast over the summer and hope to have it on the air by Fall Quarter.

"We'd like to get it to the point that every student can listen to the radio, whether they live in Bexley or Gahanna," Sheriff said.

An FM frequency is the ultimate goal for student radio at Ohio State, but there aren't any FM frequencies available in the Columbus area, Sheriff said.

One possibility to get an FM student broadcast on the air would be to use WOSU's antenna, Sheriff said. It is possible to broadcast more than one frequency on the antenna and it would only require running a cable from the student station's studio to the WOSU studio, he said.

Since there are no available FM frequencies at this time, getting an FM student broadcast is at least two to four years down the road, Sheriff said.

Once the UNITS cable broadcast is up and running, programming will be totally in students' hands. The Office of Student Affairs has given the station $15,000 in start-up costs, Sheriff said.

"They are giving us complete autonomy," Sheriff said. "They want it to be a student-run station."
More problems delay OSU student radio debut

By Alyson Borgerding
Lantern staff writer

Student-run radio at Ohio State has been in the works all quarter, but problem after problem has blocked its debut.

Radio station staffers and USG officials hope to begin broadcasting by Memorial Day weekend, but administration officials familiar with the project have called the May 30 goal unrealistic. It remains unclear when the station will get off the ground.

The radio station will transmit over cables provided by UNITUS. The signal can only be heard through televisions in residence halls and academic buildings on campus equipped with UNITUS cable.

The station’s first broadcast has been delayed because room assignment from the Ohio Union was not accepted by USG, a Union official said. There were also problems determining what studio equipment was needed along with getting a budget: approved by Student Affairs.

Kevin Sheriff, the USG member in charge of the radio project, accepted a proposal for room 15P from Ohio Union Director Becky Parker on Tuesday.

Parker said Ohio Union Marketing and Graphics, which is currently located in room 15P, will move, but not until Sheriff produces a finalized budget that includes rent for the room.

Parker said she suggested that Sheriff make a timeline to chart how long it would take to get the room vacated and wired and to get the budget approved.

The project was delayed because of the resignations of some of USG’s members and because of the elections, Parker said.

“Student radio” was on the back burner for awhile and it didn’t have the momentum behind it earlier to get it in place by now,” Parker said.

Parker said she will allow 24-hour access to the room, but only if the station hires its own security, which can cost around $30 per hour.

After the room is vacated, it will take UNITUS approximately two weeks to check the wiring and to install cable jacks, said Tom Ryan, outside plant manager at UNITUS.

UNITUS will charge the station for the service, and the amount will be determined once the station is set up, Ryan said.

Sheriff said he has not purchased any equipment because the $15,000 allocated to student radio by Student Affairs is still being held by that office.

Late last week, Sheriff presented a station handbook that included a preliminary budget to Richard Hollingsworth, assistant vice president for student affairs and dean of students.

Student Affairs will not release any money to the station until Sheriff clarifies the budget and documents the agreements the station has with Ohio Union and other agencies, Hollingsworth said.

Sheriff’s preliminary budget set aside nearly $7,500 to purchase studio equipment.

The station could save money by using equipment from the former student radio station, WOSR, which went off the air in 1992, said Ellis Ford, the old station’s general manager.

The amount in Sheriff’s budget assumed no WOSR equipment would be used.

The WOSR equipment is now stored in the basement of the Journalism Building, Ford said. He has tried to gain access to the equipment on multiple occasions but has had problems locating the person who has the keys, Ford said.

Once he is able to see the equipment, a decision can be made about what new equipment needs to be purchased, said Kevin Pettrilla, the program director of the station.

Pettrilla said after sizing up the equipment situation, it could take a month to get the station on the air.

Since no radio staff member has seen the old WOSR equipment, the first day of broadcasting may be further delayed.

Some consideration has been given to waiting until the fall, but both Sheriff and Ford said they are looking for a solution to the immediate problem.
USG gives $4,000 for used radio transmitter

By Misti Crane
Lantern staff writer

At the last meeting of the 1994-95 school year, the Undergraduate Student Government spent some leftover money and appointed assembly officers, committee chairs and cabinet members.

USG gave $4,000 to student-run radio for the purchase of a used transmitter to help get the program off the ground.

"There is no question it will be up and running by fall quarter," said USG President Kevin Sheriff.

Sheriff has been working to start a student-run radio station since last fall.

Sheriff said much of the criticism of student radio in the past has been about the station's limited broadcast to a very limited audience.

The new transmitter will allow for around 40,000 more listeners to be reached, he said.

The station's General Manager Ellie Ford said he is committed to the project, despite criticism and questions over whether student radio will ever become a reality.

"It's not something I'm just going to forget about," Ford said.

He said although student-run radio is ten weeks behind the initial broadcast date, it will not fizzle away. He said he hopes the new transmitter will enable them to go forward and get programming underway as soon as this summer.

The $4,000 for the transmitter came from a more than $10,000 balance remaining from the last assembly.

That assembly, particularly the fiscal committee, recommended some of the money be spent to start the radio program going.

USG spent another $4,000 of the carryover funds to improve teacher evaluations, which was another recommendation of the last USG Assembly.

Approximately $400 will be spent on the summer conference of the Association of Big Ten Schools (ABTS), of which USG is traditionally a part.

Brian Hemker, ABTS representative, said he estimates it will cost $400 for six to eight USG Assembly and Cabinet members to take the trip.

The Living Gift Program, started last year by former president and vice president Rob Edmund and Steve Trenta, got $300.

"The program's purpose is to encourage incoming freshmen to volunteer community service.

During the meeting, USG's speaker, parliamentarian and clerk, were elected by the assembly after each candidate had a chance to explain why he or she would be an appropriate choice.

Keir Gumbs, a third-year International Relations major, is the new USG Speaker. The speaker is responsible for directing the assembly meetings.

Gumbs said he has always wanted to get involved with USG. He said he wants to take the focus of USG away from internal fighting and put it on communication with the student body.

New USG Parliamentarian Adam Brinegar is a first-year commuter student. The parliamentarian serves as a consultant to the speaker on issues of order.

"I'm here to try and help renew USG," Brinegar said.

Nick Parrish, a third-year student majoring in pharmacy, was chosen as the clerk of USG. The clerk is responsible for such tasks as taking the minutes and attendance at every meetings.

USG Assembly will resume formal meetings next fall.
Logistical problems could delay start of student-run radio station

By Dan Rapp
Lantern staff writer

Student-run radio could be broadcasting by the first week of Fall Quarter, if logistical problems can be solved in time.

Key staff members of the new radio station were optimistic about the start-up at a meeting Thursday. However, after the meeting, when the group went to look at the proposed broadcast room, they discovered that the room, 15P of the Ohio Union, is small, and needs to be split into two sections.

One section, where the disc jockeys will work, needs to be quiet so that background noises do not interfere with the broadcast. The other section will house telephones and other machines that make noise.

There is no partition dividing the room to prevent noise from traveling from one side to the other.

USG President Kevin Sheriff, who has been working on student-run radio for the past year, said that he feels the room will not be a problem.

"The room is not ideal, but we're going to work with it," Sheriff said. "It shouldn't be noisy enough to prohibit us from broadcasting."

"I think there is a tremendous amount of potential," said WOSU Program Director Dave Carwile. "There is enough room, but modification will be necessary."

Carwile said he can't judge whether the station will be broadcasting by the first day of Fall Quarter because it takes time to purchase and install equipment.

The radio meeting was intended to "tie up a lot of loose ends," Sheriff said.

The most critical advancements that need to be made to get the station running are the purchasing and setting up of equipment such as a soundboard, amplifiers, compact disc players and microphones, Sheriff said.

The station has allocated about $8,000 of its budget for equipment.

The next step in purchasing equipment is to meet with WOSU officials and document that the student station is buying what it needs.

"Once we get the studio set up, everything should be in place," Sheriff said.

The radio station needs to find a person who can install the equipment properly, said Sam Eiler, station manager for the WOSU stations, who is advising USG on how to start the student-run station.

"How the equipment is put together needs to be documented so it can be fixed without having to take it all apart," Eiler said.

Sheriff said that the student station will probably use a WOSU engineer to assemble the equipment.

Another task that the station must do quickly is assemble an advisory board of people who have expertise in radio, said Richard Hollingsworth, assistant vice president of Student Affairs, who has been working with and advising Sheriff.

The radio station will transmit over cables provided by UNITS, Ohio State's telephone provider.

The signal can be heard only through televisions equipped with UNITS cable in residence halls and academic buildings.

The equipment to broadcast through UNITS is in place and can be activated within two weeks of USG sending a letter agreeing to pay the one-time installation charge of $2,900 and an annual service charge of $53, said Christopher Pazzutti, a senior programmer and analyst at UNITS.

Station programming will feature music, news and sports and will highlight student activities around campus.

Ellis Ford, general manager of the station, said he has been busy selecting the DJs who will broadcast.

"I selected a number of announcers who I feel are qualified and want to give their 100 percent commitment," he said.

Initially, the announcers will have already had experience in radio or broadcasting, Ford said.

Sports Director James Heath said he would like to feature interviews with current and past Buckeye athletes.

The possibility was also raised that the station may be able to broadcast sporting events other than football and basketball, he said.

"I think there is a tremendous amount of potential."

-Dave Carwile, WOSU program director
Student-run radio to air soon, USG says

By Jennifer Paul
Lantern staff writer

After a year of planning, Undergraduate Student Government is hopeful to have student-run radio on the air, but a definite date still has not been established.

USG is hard at work on student-run radio and hopes to have it up and running soon, said USG President Kevin Sheriff.

Last Autumn Quarter, USG took on the task of organizing the plans for a new station. Soon thereafter another student group, Active Radio, formed and said it wanted to be responsible for getting the station up and running.

The following quarter David Williams, vice president for student affairs decided that USG would be responsible for getting the station on the air.

Since that time, at least three deadlines have been set by Sheriff to make the station a reality — none of which has been met.

The radio station — once it is on the air — will run through UNITS cable system. The station will only reach campus buildings.

“We have our room at the Ohio Union, and the only thing we are waiting on now is the equipment and UNITS to run the cable lines for it,” Sheriff said on Friday.

Sheriff would not set a new deadline to have the station on the air.

“The equipment should be here in a week or two and the lines from UNITS should be hooked up in that same time,” Sheriff said.

Budget and space problems that have been slowing things down have been solved, Sheriff said. The station will begin operation after the equipment arrives and is installed, he said.

“We are still in need of people to run the station, like DJs and producers,” Sheriff said.

Rebecca Parker, director of the Ohio Union, said USG has signed a lease for a room in the basement of the union.

“They have been making decisions about what they want to do with the room so they can get it up and running,” said Parker.
Student-run radio kicks off, stay tuned for FM frequency

By Michael Racey
Lantern staff writer

After several delays, Ohio State once again has a student-run radio station. Just don’t try to find it on the radio dial.

Programming of KBUX officially starts at 4 p.m. today, as the station kicks off its opening weekend using local professional disc jockeys.

The station goes on the air after a series of delays dating back to the beginning of last Spring Quarter, the original start-up date.

Budget concerns then pushed the date back to the end of the Spring Quarter. Operational delays, such as the size and space of the room available, further pushed the time of operation to Autumn Quarter.

Students can now turn to channel 52 on the UNITS television cable system in dormitories and other campus buildings to listen to the new station. USG hopes the station will soon be able to broadcast by radio.

"Hopefully, in a month we’ll be on a low-frequency FM broadcast," said Eric Richards, KBUX’s general manager and USG cabinet member.

KBUX, which operates from a room in the basement of the Ohio Union, was given a $16,000 start-up budget from the Office of Student Affairs, according to Kevin Sheriff, USG President.

"After working on this for over a year, to see it come to fruition is a great accomplishment for USG," Sheriff said.

Students could actually listen to the station as early as 7 p.m. last night when the station began its official on-air system testing.

After this weekend, the station will have approximately 35 DJs working on a volunteer basis, Richards said.

Many of them have little or no experience, including Brian Reed, a Columbus resident who has been a D.J. in local bars but never a radio station.

"It’s something new to me that I hope I can benefit from," said Reed, who will make his radio debut tonight at 7 p.m.

Although the station hopes to become self-sufficient through advertising, KBUX has not begun actively seeking advertisers, Richards said.

"We don’t have a product yet," he said. "We’re going to wait until Monday when we’ve had a chance to show what we’re about."

The format of the station will largely depend on the DJs, Richards said.

"We’ve got a little bit of everything," he said.

Richards said he believes there is a niche for the kind of programming KBUX will offer.

"There’s nothing in Columbus to compare with a college radio station that covers all different kinds of music," he said. "Down the road, I’d like to see this become the leading radio station in Columbus."

Programming will most likely run from 3 a.m. to 11 p.m., Monday through Saturday, although Richards hopes to have DJs eventually working from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Scheduling for Sundays has not been finalized.

Richards said he would like to operate 24 hours a day, but Ohio Union security concern won’t allow it.

"We don’t want students in the union overnight without some sort of security," Richards said. "We are going to try to find a secure way to have (station volunteers) in the union 24 hours a day."

Richards said the station will do more than just play music. KBUX will do play-by-play coverage of home football games, beginning with tomorrow’s homecoming game against Purdue. It will also cover OSU teams that do not get the coverage of football or basketball.

While stations in Columbus that play music from local bands only dedicate a few hours a week to it, KBUX plans to do much more to promote local music, Richards said.

"If bands bring in demos they’ve cut, I can almost guarantee we’ll get them on the air," he said.

KBUX wants as many volunteers as it can get to go along with its wide-open format, Richards said.

"We want to let anyone who is serious about doing this get a chance," he said.
Cruising the airwaves

Steve Lapinski, a DJ at Ohio State's student radio station KBUX, and Eric Richards, KBUX station manager, produce the daily broadcast.
Student-run radio station awaits FCC licensing

KBUX under new management; staff prepares for future

By Pauliee Denison
Lantern arts writer

As a school with the biggest campus and biggest college newspaper in the Big Ten, it's a pretty big deal that Ohio State is the only school lacking a licensed student-run radio station.

"We (OSU) are actually the only Big Ten school without a licensed station," said Tracy Brownfield, KBUX station manager.

Since the idea was initiated by former USG President Rob Edmund, the hard-working students that launched student-run radio have been ridiculed, said Brownfield. They've been laughed right out of the offices of faculty and staff who thought the notion was infeasible. Yet just last week, KBUX, which recently moved to 91.1 on the FM dial, said "take that" to the OSU president, as it became a recognized member of the College Music Journal, according to Brownfield.

While the recognition may not seem impressive, membership to the journal means more than just a plaque on the wall, Brownfield said.

Brownfield, a junior criminology major, said now that KBUX holds membership in this organization, it will start to have all types of music sent directly from various record labels.

Brownfield and the rest of the KBUX staff feel membership is a small step on the enormous path ahead of them.

While the station can finally bask in their first taste of success, USG Chief of Staff (and former KBUX General Manager) John Carney wants students to know that they shouldn't expect to see flashy bumper stickers and other promotional items any time yet.

"Once we get the FCC license, our call letters and location on the dial will change," he said.

Carney said the station is currently operating under special privileges from the FCC, which allows them to operate only under a certain amount of wattage (about one watt).

"We're kind of playing with that — that's not something you want to joke around with. The FCC can shut you down pretty quick," he said.

So far, the station has been playing a myriad of different types of music including two hours in which professional deejays broadcast.

"I'm overwhelmed by how many reputable DJ's have come forward and were interested in helping out for free on a regular basis," said Brownfield, who personally selects them. "Every Monday through Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m. we have the Dee Jay Delight Show which features big-time club DJ's and recording artists, but the good thing is that they're not all playing the same genre." In addition, KBUX offers airtime to College Republicans and other organizations that take an interest in broadcasting their ideas.

However, Brownfield and Carney both agree that the biggest amenity the station lacks is a facility advisor.

"Right now we're looking in the communications department. Hopefully that person will become the general manager," Carney said.

"We've set the foundation for something that can be much bigger than it is now," Brownfield said. "Eventually, we'd like to have everyone listen at least one part of the day that they can tune in and say, "This is really good music — this is what I want to hear."
OSU students can go Underground for their tunes

By Tim Feran
Dispatch TV-Radio Crisis

The Underground has surfaced.
Ohio State University's student-run radio station, once available only in a small area, now airs to the entire Columbus market from midnight to 2 a.m. on the university-owned public station WOSU (883 AM).

Until a few weeks ago, the Underground's signal was available only via audio stream on the Internet (www.underground.fm), on cable and on its extremely low-power signal at 81.1 FM.

This is the first time in 50 years a student radio station at Ohio State has had a license for a full-power signal. Although Ohio State owns WOSU radio and television, the public stations never have been student operations. Students have run their own studios on campus.

The Underground began in 1995 and has been on the Internet for 2½ years.

More than a year ago, Joe Atzheimer, a senior and general manager of the Underground, met with his predecessor at the student station to look at research data.

A survey asked students if they listened to WOSU-AM. "The result was pretty dire," Atzheimer said. Most students never tuned in.

"When we found out the AM station was licensed 24 hours and choosing not to go overnight, we decided it was a perfect case of

pairing needs with resources," Atzheimer said. The students originally asked for the entire five hours that WOSU-AM was off the air—midnight to 5 a.m.—but WOSU officials asked for a two-hour slot as a six-month test run.

Part of the reason was cost: WOSU's expenses for the two-hour slot, including electricity for the transmitter, payroll for a board operator and other costs associated with handling the tapes add up to about $2,000 over six months. The university has agreed that the potentially cash-strapped WOSU will be reimbursed for the expenses.

WOSU officials also were apprehensive that the students might not be able to fill the entire five hours—or at least fill it with programming that wouldn't alienate some listeners.

"I'm sure they think we're stick-in-the-wall fuddy-duddies," WOSU General Manager Dale Ouzts said. "But we really don't want to put the station in jeopardy by trying to be this counterculture thing with language that none of us would put in our homes. At the same time, so far I think it's been very acceptable."

To eliminate objections about programming, the students produce their shows at the Underground's studios in the Ohio Union and provide digital audiotapes to

Production Director Jessica Miller, left, and Program Director Michael Hinz put together the Underground program for WOSU-AM.

WOSU for approval. The students also provide a playlist of performers and song titles.

"We have found a couple of problems," Ouzts said. "People listening to bluegrass late Saturday night may not appreciate some of the words."

But such problems are diminishing, both sides say.

"A lot of the people I've worked with or respect had their start in student radio," WOSU Radio Stations Manager Sam Eiler said. "We're very supportive of the mission. At the same time we're protective of the reputation of the university."

"We can safely say most problems have been eliminated," Atzheimer said, "and it's... going to be smoother and smoother sailing."

About half of the two-hour programs is condensed from the Underground's regular programming, and the other half is produced specifically for use on WOSU-AM. WOSU officials are intrigued by the students' freeform programming.

"I have to say there were several instrumentals that I believe were written by a Martian," Ouzts said. "I couldn't find a beat, but it was not in violation with any rules."

"Some of it is really nice," Eiler said. "It doesn't fit my generation, but for those who like it, it's great."

"Our format is a diversified, heterogeneous mix," Atzheimer said. A recent playlist included new independent rock, hip-hop, electronic, acid jazz, reggae and metal.

While some of that music is available elsewhere on the local radio dial, most of it is on the FM band.

"I don't think anyone plays new music on AM anymore," Atzheimer said.

Whether this gust of new sounds on AM will continue to air after the six-month trial is not clear.

Atzheimer said the students plan to apply for a low-power FM slot in the fall.

"If we get the LPFM license, that would probably be the end of the AM relationship," he said.
Memorandum of Understanding

In the spring of 2005, the Council on Student Affairs [hereinafter CSA] reviewed the relationship of campus-wide student media groups (Student Radio, The Makio, and Buck-iTV) to Student Affairs and overall policy regarding student organizations. CSA determined that campus-wide student media groups were best housed by academic units and that any group that was unable to find an academic home would be considered in the same manner as all other student organizations in the regular classification system. Therefore, these groups would not be eligible for funding at a greater level than other student organizations. Because Student Radio was unable to secure academic support, alternative funding and support models beyond CSA were considered. Given the historical relationship and the need for greater communication opportunities with students, the Undergraduate Student Government passed a resolution directing the president to sign a Memorandum of Understanding solidifying the funding of Student Radio akin to an underwriting agreement by the Undergraduate Student Government. Per discussions occurring during spring quarter 2005, the Undergraduate Student Government, the Ohio Union, the Council on Student Affairs, and Student Radio agree to the following provisions:

1. The Undergraduate Student Government [hereinafter USG] shall annually redirect a minimum of $20,000 of USG’s Student Activity Fee allocation to the CSA Allocations Committee [hereinafter Allocations] for administration to Student Radio until FY 2011.
2. Allocations shall be responsible for overseeing expenditures and operations by Student Radio as well as insuring Student Radio meets all student organization requirements and provisions of this MOU.
3. Neither Allocations nor USG will exercise editorial control over Student Radio.
4. The Ohio Union agrees to provide office and studio space (equivalent of FY2006 space) including swing space to Student Radio free of charge so long as USG provides to Allocations sufficient funding for Student Radio to operate.
5. The Ohio Union agrees to provide a liaison to Student Radio.
6. Student Radio agrees to provide announcements for USG events, USG meetings, and elections free of charge.
7. USG agrees to provide sufficient notice for announcements of its meetings, events, and elections through Student Radio in accordance with the established announcement policy of Student Radio.
8. USG agrees that as a media outlet, Student Radio may take any editorial position consistent with its mission, policies of The Ohio State University, and local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

9. Student Radio agrees to abide by Student Affairs Information Technology rules and regulations as approved by the Associate Director of the Ohio Union.

10. Student Radio understands and agrees to cover operational and equipment costs for capital improvements and replacements as part of the $20,000 annual allocation.

11. Any conflict that arises between USG and Student Radio shall be mediated by Allocations with assistance from the Director of the Ohio Union or designee.

12. This MOU shall be reviewed during FY 2011 to allow stability through the move out of the old Union and at least one year of operating in the new Ohio Union.

13. This MOU shall be revisited if Student Radio acquires reliable funding over a period of 3 years equal to or greater than 50% of the annual USG reallocation, not including any carryover amount from previous years.

14. One (1) USG Senator shall be appointed to sit on the Student Radio Advisory Board.

Suzanne Scherer
President, USG
04.28.06

Matthew Monta
General Manager, Student Radio
4.28.06

Tracy Stuck
Director, Ohio Union
4.28.06

Isaac Wu
Chair, Council on Student Affairs
4.28.06