Employees encouraged to communicate with legislators

I was recently approached by a longtime WVU classified staff employee, who asked about the possibility of classified staff visiting the state Capitol to talk to legislators during the upcoming legislative session. We agreed this would be a good topic to cover in my December Spirit article, especially as we near the first day of the 2008 legislative session and the governor’s state of the state address.

WVU Human Resources Policy 24 states employees who wish to attend legislative sessions during their normal work hours without invitation from a member of the Legislature, the Board of Governors (BOG) or the WVU president must arrange time away from their workplace with the approval of their immediate supervisor and use annual leave time. In this capacity, you are considered a private citizen and will not be representing your employer.

I contacted the Legislature’s office for information and was told that it is recommended that anyone visiting the Capitol first contact the lawmaker/she or he wishes to meet. This can be done online at http://www.legis.state.wv.us.

Once at the Capitol, you can stop by the Reference and Information Center. Here you will find information that directs you to legislators’ offices, Senate and chamber seating charts, the schedule for the day, copies of various bills that have been introduced or discussed and Capitol maps.

To better prepare you for a visit, you might also call 877-565-3446 to request a copy of the 78th Legislature of West Virginia Membership Directory or contact the Senate clerk, 304-357-7800, or House of Delegates offices, 304-340-3233.

In September, the WVU Staff Council began to make arrangements to meet with a number of legislators. Earlier this week, our first visit was to the House clerk’s office where his staff delivered the 2008 WVU Classified Staff brochure to each legislator and the governor’s office.

Meetings were scheduled with Senate Education and Finance. During these meetings, WVU officials discussed recent initiatives:

- WVU’s signature programs, which are based on merit.
- The University has created and approved a 5 percent pool for salary increases.
- The Board of Governors approved a 5 percent pool for salary increases, which was effective Oct. 1.
- The University released the 2008 WVU Classified Staff brochure to each legislator and the governor’s office.

WVU 2010 Plan objectives updated in 2007 report

SUBMITTED BY WVU 2010 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

The WVU 2010 Plan Implementation Team, co-chaired by Provost Gerald Lang and Larry Hornak, professor in the WVU Lane Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, is pleased to release the 2007 report on the WVU 2010 Plan. This report provides information to the University community about initiatives in support of the five goals of the plan and annual progress toward targets established by the plan.

During 2007, WVU 2010 Plan implementation efforts focused on seven broad initiatives, including campus alignment with the 2010 Plan, first-year initiatives, degree completion, graduate education, faculty and staff, research infrastructure, and facilities and technology. These initiatives involved diverse members of the campus community, including first-year students and deans, faculty members and facilities management, instructional technologists and graduate students.

The implementation team is pleased to report on a number of significant accomplishments resulting from recent initiatives:

- Colleges and schools have developed or are developing unit strategic plans that align with the WVU 2010 Plan.
- The University continued to exceed enrollment plan forecasts for both resident and nonresident first-time, first-year students while the first-time, first-year student profile improved. A total of 4,731 first-year students chose to attend WVU, and a record 29 first-year students were National Merit scholars.
- The Survey of Graduating Seniors, piloted in May, establishes baseline data about undergraduate student research and engagement, degree completion and postgraduation plans, including employment and graduate school acceptance.
- The University has created and filled a new position of assistant vice president for graduate education, which oversees graduate education initiatives through the Office of Graduate Education and Life.
- The Board of Governors approved a 5 percent pool for salary increases, which was effective Oct. 1. In accordance with the University’s mission, faculty salary increases were based on merit.
- The colleges and schools have identified signature programs, which represent WVU’s innovative educational opportunities, cutting-edge research centers and outreach programs.
- WVU invested $1.8 million in classroom renovations to enhance student learning in addition to new high-technology classrooms in Brooks, Ogletree and Ming Hsieh halls.
- More information on the WVU 2010 Plan and its implementation, including recent initiatives and accomplishments detailed in the 2007 report, is available online at http://www.wvu.edu/~2010plan/.
- Your comments are always welcome and can be e-mailed to 2010plan@mail.wvu.edu.

WVU creates ‘BowlSpace’

Most people have heard of MySpace. Now there’s WVU BowlSpace.

WVU has developed a social networking community at http://bowl-game.wvu.edu/, where Mountaineer fans can gather whether they’re going to the Jan. 2 Fiesta Bowl in Arizona or watching the gold and blue from afar.

You can also join a Facebook group to share photos and fan messages, check out what student-athletes have to say about life experiences off the playing field, tell us “what you will start” at WVU or in life, listen as alumni talk about “what home means to them” and then tell us your story — and, of course, learn the latest about the WVU-Oklahoma matchup and other Mountaineer sports news by clicking on the site’s MSNsportsNET.com link and other sports-related links.

Updates on Alumni Association travel packages, fan activities and bowl tickets will also be posted on the site. Coming soon are student, alumni and band blogs from Arizona, video highlights from past bowl games and this season’s football thrills, among other features.

WVU BowlSpace was developed by University Advancement and Marketing in cooperation with the Department of Athletics, Alumni Association, Special Events and Ceremonies and others. Check it out at http://bowlgame.wvu.edu/.