

News

Strategic planning subcommittees note goals and progress

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year, go regional the next three years and then to target a national audience for the last six years.

The second goal states that GWU will have steady growth in enrollment. But, with the recent downturn of the economy, many wonder how GWU will accomplish this goal.

"This is more of a challenge than a year or so ago," said Bonner. "But the progress the school has made in the last 15 years has been incredible. I think we will continue to grow and enrollment will follow."

Goal three states that GWU will work to provide student life on campus that contribute to intellectual and character development along with self-discovery.

The fourth goal states that GWU will seek to hire talented faculty and staff. One of the objectives under this goal says that GWU will provide com-

petitive compensation and benefits for faculty and staff.

With the recent RIF, some may wonder if we can really offer competitive salaries to professors.

"Comparatively we are getting better," said Bonner. "We are moving up by making an effort by looking to give raises across the board, even if it means tightening belts other places to keep our professors moving up."

Goal five states that GWU will create a community of learning and inspire students in the same way. The subcommittee for this goal wants to emphasize the importance of core classes

The sixth goal states that the university will recruit students that possess qualities that will allow them to benefit from GWU's emphasis on academics in a Christian environment.

Goal seven covers technology on campus. In the last year,

GWU has begun to achieve goals listed in the University's Technology Strategic plan.

New computers have been added in Craig Computer Lab and on the Statesville campus, data information has continuously upgraded file servers and increased campus internet speed noted Danny Davis, assistant vice president for business and data processing.

Data processing has also implemented a package that helps split internet traffic into separate sections such as email, research and downloading. This allows those who are doing research to have quicker access than those who are downloading other material.

The university is also investigating getting a new online information center for the administration. This information center would allow students to pay bills, drop/add classes and even go through a "What if?" scenario if they are

interested in changing majors—all online. However, Davis says this is not an overnight project.

"We are moving at a pretty good clip to get an administrative website," said Davis. "This is not something we will have up on day one, because it is such a mammoth project, but within 18-24 months of set-up we should be able to do it."

Goal eight includes improving the university's buildings, grounds and facilities. One objective has been completed for this goal—a long-range campus master plan.

In this plan are locations for a new science building, stadium and student center. Other facilities such as a fine arts center, a divinity school building and a general classroom building have all been labeled as needs.

Although it may be a while before it is finished, a new sci-

ence building is in the planning stages said Bonner.

An architectural firm from Spartanburg has been hired to design and draw plans for it. The proposed sight for the building is by the rose garden and although the school has not collected all funds for this project, they are looking for a donor.

"The planning for building [the science building] and the initial plan for fundraising is under way," said Bonner.

On the progress of a stadium, Bonner stated that there have not been enough funds raised. Besides a location and a general idea, there are not specific plans for the student center.

It is obvious that great ideas are in the works for GWU, but the real question is whether these plans will be implemented over the next five to 10 years.

Students exchange culture, languages

Nisreen Abu Ata
Pilot staff

College experience is often restricted to mere education during class time and hanging with friends during free time. However, college can be a time to meet different people from a variety of backgrounds. Whether a student is from the United States or from another country, each student offers something to enrich the college experience.

Some Gardner-Webb students have already taken the initiative to enhance college life—by not only teaching others what they know, but also by learning from others.

Natsuku Shimotani is a Japanese student who teaches Diane Barr, a fellow American student, Japanese. They meet once a week.

Barr explained how her Japanese lessons began. "I started passing her notes in English in classes and she would translate them into Japanese," she said. Barr said Shimotani motivated her to learn a new language.

"I always wanted to learn an Asian language. Natsuku became my friend and because of that, I took wanting to learn Japanese more seriously," she said.

Barr noted the challenges that have come with learning the language.

"There are pronunciations that we don't have in English. Sometimes, I pronounce something the wrong way and it means something else," she explained.

Barr recalled a time when, instead of saying hot weather, she translated her words as "spicy weather."

Along with teaching Barr a language, Shimotani has been teaching her about the Japanese culture. Barr has often been surprised at what she has learned. "Older people, in the Japanese culture, are given respect," said Barr.

Barr also explained what surprised her about Japanese families: they are close, but they are not like some American families where children can tease their parents.

In return for her Japanese lessons, Barr helps Shimotani with her English slang and conversational skills. If Shimotani does not understand what is said in class in English, Barr explains it to her later.

Shimotani said she is happy for the opportunity to teach someone her language.

"I love to learn but also to teach," she said. "I feel challenged. I want to have a small Japanese class." Shimotani invites anybody who wants to learn Japanese to contact her at x4533.

Not only does Shimotani teach Barr Japanese, she also teaches her Japanese Sign Language. Barr, an American Sign Language major, also helps Shimotani learn certain ASL signs.

"It is interesting how the same signs mean different things in both Japanese and American Sign language," said Barr.



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