

27 university employees affected

Payroll snafu puts administration on 'hot seat'

By MARK CALIGIURI
Editor

An apparent payroll error has caused some embarrassment and consternation for university administrators as they attempted to head off what may have become a very costly mistake.

The snafu, which resulted in some financial setbacks for 27 university employees in the closing months of 1981, was first reported in the *Detroit Free Press* last week.

Apparently, a computer error which failed to deduct those employees' social security taxes (FICA), resulted in university administrators withholding several thousand dollars of employees' incomes in an effort to recoup the money for the federal

government and meet any obligations to the IRS.

According to Thomas Evans, the university controller, the error extends as far back as 1978 and involves \$6500 worth of unpaid tax deductions prior to 1981.

"THE ERROR occurred because the FICA indicator was switched off for that deduction," Evans said. "Each employee was exempt from FICA at some time in their employment in the university."

Evans indicated that clerical, professional, and faculty personnel were all involved in the mistake and that the 1981 tax shortages ranged anywhere from \$29 to \$794.

"We discovered the error about November third," Evans said. "A payroll clerk stumbled on it while

doing some manual figuring of overtime payments."

He added that the university notified those employees by letter, but not until November 24. Additionally, Evans said that the university offered interest-free loans to help pay for any of the losses incurred in 1981.

HE ALSO SAID that the university was going to pay any unpaid FICA balances due prior to 1981. "The university decided to pay the employees' portion (prior to 1981) so they wouldn't have to," Evans said.

Robert McGarry, vice president for administrative affairs, said that the entire incident "shouldn't have happened." He added, however, that this problem is not all that uncommon in the state pointing to a similar incident that occurred at

the University of Michigan.

Yet, American Association of University Professors (AAUP, the faculty union) President, William Hammerle, while agreeing that the incident might be common, said his union was "not happy" with it.

"We are simply saying that we are satisfied that OU got down to do what it did," he said. "We are not saying that we are necessarily happy about it (the error)."

HAMMERLE SAID that 14 members of his union had been affected by the mistake. Although he, as well as Evans and McGarry, refused to give out the names of those employees involved, one faculty member did confirm that she had indeed been docked because of the oversight.

Journalism, Roberta Schwartz, told the *Sail* that she lost almost \$800 because of the mistake.

"They took a major part of my Thanksgiving and all of my Christmas check," she said. "In my case, they had made a double error, first telling me that I owed \$273, then almost \$800."

"It is the holiday times and a lot of bills were coming up," Schwartz said. "I am really feeling pinched for money."

SHE ADDED THAT she was unable to receive an interest free loan because she was sick and unable to get to the school in time to apply for one. Consequently, she paid the entire debt herself. (See PAYROLL, page 5)

THE OAKLAND SAIL

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New computer man will upgrade system

By SALLY BROOKS
Staff Writer

Picture this: Picking up a telephone, dialing a number, and requesting classes. That's it, you are registered.

Does this sound futuristic and far-fetched? Well it may not be. In fact, the development of an advanced students record system is one of two top priority items, according to William Morscheck, OU's new assistant vice president for computer and information systems.

Morscheck, who started his new duties January 11 after having been appointed to the position by OU's Board of Trustees, is a former systems and programming manager at Lansing Community College.

HIS FIRSHAND knowledge of the use of telephone registration comes from its successful use at LCC for the past four to five years.

Registration of this type will take a few years to implement, Morscheck said, but it is now being used by Indiana University, as well as LCC.

"At the moment you register, you have 100 percent (certainty that you are in the class)," Morscheck said.

At LCC, 12,000 students out of about 20,000 students use the telephone registration regularly, he said. If a class is requested that is closed, the worker at the other end of the phone tells you so immediately. You request your second choice, and so on, until you have a complete schedule. The whole process takes a few minutes on the phone, rather than hours in a class card area.

"I ENVISION people enrolling by telephone," Robert McGarry, vice president of the administrative affairs office, said.

In addition to the new ideas for telephone registration, Morscheck will be in charge of the university's entire computer systems as well as data system management and word processing operations.

The scope of Morscheck's job is part of a plan to centralize computer systems at OU, a key ingredient in President Joseph

Champagne's reorganization of the university. As such, Morscheck will be reporting to McGarry.

McGarry added that another priority is to increase student exposure to computers.

"President Champagne has made a commitment to make our students computer literate," McGarry said. The objective is to have all students in all majors be familiar with computer usage and have some exposure to it.

However, there is a lot of work to be done before either priority is attained.

"ALL OF OUR systems are inefficient, they should have been re-done years ago," McGarry said. Now that Morscheck is here, he said, the planning team will begin the development of a centralized computer system.

(See MORSHECK, page 5)



WILLIAM MORSHECK
'100 percent certainty'



Olympic Torch

President Joseph Champagne bends over to light the torch, commencing the 1982 Winter Olympics at OU.

The Oakland Sail/John Robertson

Storm damage exceeds \$10,000

By MARK CALIGIURI
Editor

Approximately \$13,000 worth of damage has been reported as a result of the severe winter storm that hit OU during the second weekend of January.

This figure represents an estimation of the costs necessary to repair the mechanical breakdowns only. According to George Catton, director of campus facilities and

operations, any internal damage (other than mechanical) as a result of the storm was not included.

The storm, which knocked out power to the university for about two hours, caused numerous pipes and heater coils to freeze up and break throughout several buildings, creating either loss of heat or flooding.

WORST HIT out of all the buildings seemed to be O'Dowd Hall, where, because of a break in a sprinkler system pipe, the Instructional Materials Center (IMC) and the Registrar's office experienced flood damage.

According to Laura Snider-Feldmesser, director of the center, approximately 1000 books were affected by the flooding although damage figures were unavailable and an exact estimate of the costs could not be given.

Other workers reported that "over two inches of water" piled up in the front of the center and that it "cascaded like a waterfall from the ceiling."

Catton indicated that costs to repair O'Dowd Hall were approximately \$1500. He also said that two water pipes broke in the hall, neither of which caused any significant damage.

DESPITE the flooding problem in O'Dowd, Wilson Hall repairs proved to be the costliest as it needed around \$6000 to repair two cast iron heating coils that had to be specially ordered from a New York supplier.

Other damage figures for buildings needing repairs included \$1800 for three hot booster coils in Varner Hall, \$1600 for one heating coil in the Graham Health Center,

(See STORM, page 5)

INSIDE

•Other schools flirt with the idea of basing tuition per class rates on demand for those classes. See page 3.

•Winter Carnival events highlighted in today's *Campus Living/Arts* section. See pages 6 and 7.

•Cager Anthony Barnard is highlighted in the *Sports* section. See page 10.

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Dear Students:

In preparing for difficult economic times ahead, President Champagne has recently appointed a committee charged with the responsibility of establishing priorities for the Division of Student and Urban Affairs. His concern is that service to students be maintained at the level needed as we work to accomplish the goals of student development.

The Committee on Student and Urban Affairs Mission and Priorities (SUAMP) is in the process of gathering feedback and suggestions for the Division of Student and Urban Affairs. The Division includes: Athletic, Oakland Center, Bookcenter, Residence Halls, Food Service, Graham Health Center, the Counseling Center, CIPO, Student Enterprise Theatre, Judicial Systems, Orientation, Financial Aid, Student Records, Academic Conduct and Academic Standing and Honors, Special Programs Skill Development Center, Veteran Affairs, Foreign and Handicapped Student Services, Oakland County Internship Program, Community Programs, Student Services, and the Urban Affairs Center.

Some questions we, your student representatives on the SUAMP Committee are asking ourselves, are:

1. What should the priorities for Student and Urban Affairs be in this time of limited resources?
2. What would you like to see Student and Urban Affairs do that we are not doing now?
3. Are there more effective ways of doing what we do?

Your input, questions, and comments are needed. Written statements can be left for us at the CIPO Office, 49 Oakland Center, or you can call us at 377-2020. Your thoughts will be appreciated. We would like all input by January 29, 1982.

Sincerely,
Kevin Appleton
Narda McClendon
Judy Raddock

Cuts in funding prompt alternative action

Colleges flirt with tuition based on popularity

(CPS)-As traditional sources of funding dry up, a number of colleges are now toying with a new concept in the ongoing quest for generating more income differential tuition rates.

The idea of charging different tuition rates for different categories of students is in itself not that new. Some colleges have been making in-and out-of-state students, graduates and undergraduates, and professional school students pay different tuition rates for years.

What is new is that colleges are beginning to discriminate on bases like class level, cost of various courses, and even popularity of certain courses.

Students, in other words, would pay more to major in popular subjects—those theoretically most likely to lead to good jobs after graduation—than to major in topics with lesser enrollments. In today's market, for example, it would cost an English major more to transfer to a biology program, and even more to switch to engineering.

A WIDE VARIETY of administrators at various campuses confess they are flirting with the idea in response to radical cuts in state and federal education funding. But critics warn of limiting low-income students' access to high payoff majors, and forcing all students to choose their majors according to cost factors rather than to interest and aptitude.

"The driving force is the necessity of increasing money for the institution, but is that the responsibility of the public or the student?"

—R. Michael Berrier

The University of Minnesota, reports Vice President for Academic Affairs Kenneth Keller, has already implemented tuition rates "based primarily upon the cost of the program."

"We've been using the system for several years now, and there haven't been any major problems with it that I am aware of," Keller says. "The concept behind it is to have each student pay approximately the same percentage of his or her education costs."

A Minnesota biology major, for instance, will pay an average of \$418 this quarter, compared to an English major's \$351. Keller says the difference is found in material costs, lab expenses and departmental costs of providing the courses.

Keller carefully adds that such differential rates must "of course, be balanced by accessibility. We make sure there is sufficient financial aid available to students so that no one is locked out of a program and forced to major in something that has a lower tuition."

Keller is opposed to charging according to a course's popularity, which is exactly what Indiana University is considering.

IU ADMINISTRATORS are now weighing a proposal to require students to pay more for courses that are in high demand.

"It's just a question that's been raised, but it's definitely a possibility that we'll go to some kind of differential type of tuition," says IU Vice President Kenneth Gros Lewis.

Gros Lewis says IU is studying a number of alternative fee plans that would base enrollment costs on factors like popularity, extra costs like lab and service fees, and "quality of programs that the university is particularly noted for."

He adds that while differential tuition could "make it difficult for students with limited funds" to get into high payoff majors, IU would try to supply enough financial aid to remove cost as a factor in choosing a field of study.

"I'M NOT CONVINCED that financial aid is as effective a vehicle in increasing access (to all majors) as is low tuition," argues R. Michael Berrier of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

(See TUITION, page 5)



The Oakland Sail, Brian Kaufmann

Society of Women Engineers

SWE presidents Mary Radlick (OU chapter) and Lydia Lazurenko (Detroit chapter), unite to pledge moral support to OU females in the engineering field.

New chartered OU organization geared toward women engineers

By COLLEEN TROY
Staff Writer

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE), a nearly chartered organization at OU, held its first meeting last Thursday in an effort to provide support for those female students in engineering related fields.

Although SWE has been in existence since the late 1950s, OU is the last Michigan campus to be chartered.

Mary Radlick, senior in mechanical engineering and president of OU's SWE, said that the department administrators had been reluctant to separate engineering students,

However, the thought of being the only Michigan college not represented at this summer's SWE convention helped to speed things along, Radlick said.

The importance of this group to women Radlick said is that women in engineering and its related fields are often discouraged by their peers.

"The first year is the most discouraging for women (in the engineering fields)," Radlick said. "When they don't do as well as they had expected they become

discouraged. What they need to realize is that the men in their classes are doing the same," she said.

As well as offering moral support, SWE offers important contacts in job placement. "It's a national organization so you have contacts all over when it comes time to get a job," SWE treasurer, Theresa Brest said.

Nationally, SWE offers extensive scholarship opportunities totalling over \$35,000. Members of the organization go into high schools to inform young women of engineering careers. In the near future, Radlick hopes to set up a scholarship fund here at OU.

In attempting to organize the chapter, Radlick found the Women's Organization supportive. But, because there were no finances available, Radlick sought her own private resources.

Lydia Lazurenko, president of SWE's Detroit section and guest speaker at Thursday's meeting, said she hopes the engineering field will even out in its ratio of men and women, even though it would make SWE no longer necessary.

Because of the response shown in the past week, lectures are being

planned to appeal not only to engineering students, but to all students on campus, Radlick said.

Men are welcome to join the organization and there has been some interest shown. "But, the title (SWE) puts them off," Radlick said.

Lazurenko made SWE's position clear in her speech at

Thursday's meeting. "As long as a man has the same qualifications as a woman, he can join," she said.



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Search continues for public relations post

By VANESSA WARD
Staff Writer

After months of screening more than 100 potential candidates from all over the country for the position of OU Director of Public Relations, a selection committee has chosen approximately 10 semi-finalists, and is about to start the final interviewing stage.

The position has been vacant since early October, after former Director of Public Relations, William Connellan, became the Assistant Provost.

Director of Employee Relations, Willard Kendall, stressed that the vacant position should be filled by a competent individual whose main objective is to upgrade the university's image.

"THE DIRECTOR of public relations has to be someone who can get our name out to the public," Kendall said. He must also "See to it that public relations efforts would enhance the university's image."

"Potential donors would be inclined to support those institutions that they see as quality institutions," Kendall said.

Among the candidates in the running for the position, selection committee head, Jerry Dahlmann, acknowledged that a few OU administrators are still in the group.

"THE CANDIDATES for the position are from all over the country," Dahlmann said. "There are two or three candidates who applied for the position that are from the university."

Although it is hard to pinpoint an exact date as to when the new director will be officially announced, Dahlmann estimated sometime this semester. "We're (the committee) hoping to name someone (to the position) by the first of March," Dahlmann said.

"The director of public relations has to be someone who can get our name out to the public."

—Willard Kendall

The selection committee assigned to the task of finding the qualified candidates for this position consist of top administrators from different departments on campus. They include: Joan Stinson, director of alumni relations; Jerry Rose, director of admissions; Robert Dearth, assistant vice president and director of cultural affairs; William Connellan, assistant provost; and Rosalind Andreas, dean of students.