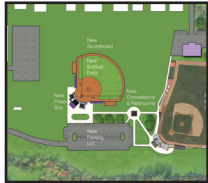




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# the Collegian

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## University Update from Feb. 7 Faculty Senate Meeting

ZACH READ  
Managing Editor

The Ashland University Faculty Senate recently met on Feb. 7, as they do on every first Friday of the month. This was a time where each committee within the faculty senate gave a report from the recent Board of Trustees meeting held the week before. The following is a report on the updates from the faculty senate and their concern regarding the current state of the university.

1. Due to the spending freeze instituted by the administration in November 2019, all costs related to student academic travel, professional development and training, and conferences was suspended, while student athletic travel was not suspended.

After the Board of Trustees meeting in January, there was an exemption made in the spending freeze.

Dr. Becky Corbin, the chair of the institutional advancement committee within the faculty senate, said that there was concern among the faculty as to the frozen funds for student academic travel. After discussion between the administrators and the board of trustees, it was decided that they would lift the freeze from student academic travel.

2. On Feb. 10, the Office of Student Life communicated to student organizations, honoraries and clubs to expect a 15-20 percent reduction in ABCC (Activities, Budget and Chartering Committee) budget allocations for the 2020-2021 academic year.

They noted that this change is “due to the lower enrollment projections and an increase in the number of organizations requesting funds.”

3. Corbin also reported that the university endowment had surpassed \$50 million by the end of 2019. This shows the continued growth of the endowment from when it was \$41 million in 2017.

4. Dr. Jeffrey Weidenhamer, the chair of the finances and facilities committee within the faculty senate, said the Executive Leadership Team (administration) presented a working draft of the budget for the 2020-2021 academic year to the board of trustees. The budget had a projected revenue of \$109.2 million and a projected expense of \$108.8 million.

Weidenhamer said that within this specific committee meeting concerning facilities and finances, there was no sense of the university being in financial difficulty or there being any bumps in the road. He added that the numbers do not show it either.

The next meeting for the faculty senate will take place on March 6 while the board of trustees will not reconvene until their scheduled meeting in April.

## Panelists discuss gun violence and social truama

AVAERIE FITZGERALD  
AU-Live Managing Editor

The Ashland Center for Nonviolence hosted “A Conversation on Gun Violence and Social Trauma,” with the Ashland Mental Health and Recovery Board co-sponsoring the event, which was held on Feb. 13.

Dr. Craig Hovey, director for the Center of Nonviolence and religion professor, moderated the event and drafted the questions for the four panelists. Those who sat on the panel were: Dr. William Vaughan, AU professor of philosophy, Dr. Allyson Drinkard, assistant professor of criminal justice/sociology, Steve Stone, executive director of the mental health and recovery board of Ashland County and Jordan Ballinger, policy analyst at Ohio Disability Rights Law and Policy Center, Inc.

Each invited speaker had experience with either the gun rights aspect of the talk, or the mental health portion, contributing their knowledge and experience with the current views and perceptions on gun violence.

“It’s a problem without a clear solution,” Hovey said.

The purpose of the conversation was not to find a solid outcome for the way the law should be, but rather to offer a different side of the law and who it affects. The audience sat respectfully and asked questions regarding their own rights, rather than those of the group affected by social trauma.

“The gun violence topic is so entrenched,” Hovey said. “People have such strong views and predictable views when it comes to guns. You’re either for gun rights or you’re for gun control, so I think what gets me excited is how we can ask an unpredicted question.”

One of the topics brought up was



Jordan Ballard, policy analyst at Ohio Disability Rights Law and Policy Center, speaks to members of the audience about online gun sales and rights of owners.

regarding the shooting in Dayton last fall. Nan Whaley, mayor of Dayton, met with Governor Mike DeWine, and the Governor emerged from the meeting and later called for Red Flag laws in Ohio.

The purpose of the law is to restrict gun access to people who are deemed dangerous to themselves and others. The law, overall, was met with a lot of agreement across the spectrum, Hovey said.

While a lot of people thought it was good, and progress was being made, Hovey said he worried about the act of scapegoating a minority group of the population.

Stone is interested in understanding mental illness through the lense of trauma, and tied his talk into the concerns of Hovey.

Stone said in the discussion that keeping people affected by mental

and social trauma off the streets will not solve the shooting issues. “It will only isolate people from the community,” he said.

With the addition of Drinkard, a social science expert, she added that the leading death of children in the United States is through gun related activity. She said that impulsivity and past experience is often what drives the situations in which people pick up weapons or consider harming themselves or others.

Some of the questions posed were: how does society react to trauma and violence on a mass scale? Are there dangers of reproducing the violent episodes?

Ballard was concerned about the rights being taken away, and tied in his talk to the different rights that were at risk of being restricted from citizens. He directed atten-

tion to the media’s portrayal of the extension of those rights.

Vaughn introduced the term, “trauma-feeding” to the conversation, which is the media’s desire and aim to cover traumatic events, which leads to sympathy from the reader and even trauma-related effects.

“Bringing people from different disciplines provides different answers and offers different perspectives to a common discussion,” Hovey said.

Hovey’s desire to have the conversation, was to introduce the topic in a new way, instead of repeating the debate that has been going on for years. By adding in the topic of social trauma, the conversation expanded and offered new perspectives for the audience to consider.

## AU offers free assistance during tax season

CHANTE RUTHERFORD  
Reporter

With tax season around the corner, many people, including students, will be in need of filing their taxes properly. Here at Ashland University, the College of Business and Economics offers a program to help those in need. They are offering free tax preparation through the Volunteer Income and Tax Assistance Program.

Dr. Victoria Kaskey, Accounting and Management Information Systems Chair, has been spearheading this program since its inauguration three years ago.

“It happened on a whim. Our dean has said he’s heard about the program before and wanted to get it on campus,” Kaskey said

Back when this was mentioned in late September 2016, it needed to be completed by February of 2017.

Kaskey has had prior experience in the VITA program when she was studying at Baldwin Wallace University for her undergraduate years.

“I had remembered my experience there and knew the ins and outs of the program years later. So

I contacted the IRS and the rest is history,” Kaskey said.

While students in COBE will take advantage of the training, any student can get in on the chance to learn about filing taxes.

There are three exams that they must take to become certified, Kaskey said.

The first exam is based around conduct. In the exam, you will be assessed on communication skills, working with citizens filing taxes.

Exam number two is based around ethics in filing taxes which includes not giving away information associated with the people you will come in contact with.

The third exam is about general information about taxes and finances. These exams can be done on paper or online.

“People in the community can be apart of VITA too. The exams are still the same,” Kaskey said.

Outside of Ashland, there are many places to help file your taxes for free. Kaskey is a big advocate for access to free assistance.

Read the rest on AU-Live.com

## AU grad co-authors Kyrgyz-to-English dictionary

ALAYNA ROSS  
Reporter

AU alumna Betsy Becker continues to learn after graduation with the co-authoring a Kyrgyz-to-English dictionary.

Becker, who graduated in 2004, began with Spanish classes at AU. Although Becker took many classes, she did not have the intention of being a Spanish teacher, but rather to live overseas.

Becker’s first venture out of the country was a month in Mexico through AU’s study abroad program. Becker came to the conclusion that Europe was not for her after she spent three months in Spain the summer after her sophomore year.

Following graduation, Becker had to decide if she would start her English teaching career in Buenos Aires, Argentina or in a small town in Kyrgyzstan.

Becker decided to travel to the former Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan, a mountainous, landlocked country of 6 million. As of today, Becker has lived and worked for 15 years within Kyrgyzstan.

Russian is often spoken in Kyr-

gyzstan’s cities, however Kyrgyz, a Turkish language, is most common in the towns, villages and rural areas.

Eventually, Becker progressed from teacher to student as her master’s area of study was Kyrgyz philology and intercultural studies. Becker’s thesis was, “A Comparative Analysis of the English- Kyrgyz Verb Categories.”

“I spent a whole week in the library, just learning helping verbs,” Becker said in the press release. “And I thought, ‘how many times did I use the wrong helping verb and totally insulted someone’.”

Becker and Jyldyz Sherova Baimatovna worked on a Kyrgyz-to-English dictionary for four years, which listed the words and their definitions and incorporated the circumstances in which the words would be correctly used.

Dr. Barbara C. Schmidt-Rinehart, Spanish professor at AU, believes that Becker’s accomplishment is both personal and a testament to the Spanish program at AU.

Read the rest on AU-Live.com

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