

Board of Trustee Meeting 2/27/09  
By Faith Olson, Chair, CSC

I could tell you how classified staff employees are anxious about the uncertainty of the environment in which they work. They have concerns about the future of BGSU and what it will become. How low enrollment will affect jobs on campus. And on and on! Such thoughts promote fear, but they also lead me to one of my favorite topics – faith. No! This is not about me – but about the concept of faith. I know fear and faith cannot live in the heart/mind at the same time. To think on one or the other is a choice. I choose faith, because it promotes trust which enhances hope.

Faith/trust/hope in those who have the power to consider all points of view and the vision to utilize the best of those views to make the proper decisions to move BGSU forward. Faith/trust/hope in those who have the responsibility to bring all recruiting ideas together that will help facilitate the enrollment of many students who will want to be part of the BGSU heritage. I have faith/trust/hope in the employee and student constituent groups to work together on common issues and support each other on uncommon issues. We succeed as individual groups as well as becoming a combined force in completing joint projects, i.e. Severe Weather Policy memorandum or the Leave Bank.

However, to incorporate that faith/trust/hope into our thought processes, sometimes takes a little reminder! The little reminder I have for all of you represents an old saying, “imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.” Dr. Cartwright stated in her inaugural presentation that her pockets were full of optimistic coins. Well, so are mine!! And now, so are yours. (Distribute optimistic coins.)

Thank you, Dr. Cartwright, for staying at BGSU for two more years. Classified staff will do all we can to make your stay productive and successful. We are grateful that you take the time to listen to us in this shared governance environment. I know that process can be time consuming, but BGSU will be the best that it can be because each person in each constituent group will have some ownership in what occurs. Because of this, employment at BGSU is not just a job. We add to the duties and responsibilities of our jobs our dedication to help in the transformation of BGSU into what it will be. I’m confident, in the end, BGSU will be the best it has ever been not only in the number of students who come to live and learn, but become dedicated Falcon alumni.

On a lighter note:

Classified Staff Council is planning two major events: April 16<sup>th</sup> is the Awards Ceremony and June 5<sup>th</sup> is the Golf Outing. The Awards Ceremony celebrates the accomplishments of classified staff during the past year, presents the best individual and team awards, and continues the process to look toward the future. The Classified Staff Golf Outing provides a method for enhancing the CSC Scholarship Fund and awarding scholarships to classified staff and their dependents. Do you know that classified staff employees were the first constituent group to endow their scholarship fund? This occurred in 1985.

Let us look to the future with trust and confidence in the talents of each other and draw on those talents to not only stabilize the present, but to provide a solid stepping stone to the future.