President’s Forum Q & A

March 19th, 2024

Assembly Hall 12:30-1:30

Here are two email addresses whenever you have a concern they are stuaff@buffalostate.edu and [deanofstudents@buffalostate.edu.](https://word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/deanofstudents%40buffalostate.edu)

Question 1: **PLEASE make parking free for students on campus- at allll parking lots!!! There are sooo many lots that are only for staff until 4pm- and the only student parking is soo far from most of the buildings we have class in!! Please help** **commuters !!**

**Primary Contact:** **Lisa Krieger** **Interim Vice President Management & Operations**

## Response:

Out of 16 western SUNY campuses, we have one of the lowest parking permit costs at $70/year. The average on other campuses ranges from $120-196/year. We are a campus in the city, so parking is of higher value. Parking enforcement promotes compliant parking on campus, so we don’t have people just parking in our lots to walk around Elmwood. I always recommend to our students, rather than waking up early and driving in early to sit and wait for a parking space, just go directly to R 13 or 14, or the G lots, and just walk in, it is only a 6 min walk or ride the shuttle.

The Grant Cleveland Shuttle is a free service that operates 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. on days that classes are in session. The shuttle runs from Lot G-20 to Lot R-14 to Cleveland Circle and back again. The overnight escort shuttle operates from 4:30 p.m.–4:30 a.m. seven days a week while school is in session. The route circulates campus in a clockwise fashion, stopping for passengers at blue-light phones. Full shuttle details and tracking capabilities can be found on the [Parking Services website](https://suny.buffalostate.edu/parking).

Question/Statement 2: **People who operate the shuttle bus are rude and make us feel inconvenienced. They do not have a schedule. They make stops when they want and are careless.**

**Primary Contact:** **Lisa Krieger** **Interim Vice President Finance and Management**

## Response:

These comments are new to me- I am taking note, and will have the director of parking services follow up with the shuttle company right away. Our contract with Buffalo Niagara Majestic Tours ends this year. A new company has been selected to operate our shuttle program starting in August. We are looking into having a minute-to-minute schedule similar to the NFTA bus schedules, as well as a link to track the shuttle buses in real time.

# Question 3: **What has happened to the food in the Dining Kitchen over this last** **semester. In the fall we were having decent meals but alot of corners seem to have been cut this time around. They don’t care what they are giving us, but do you?**

**Primary Contact:** **Glenn Bucello,** **Chartwells District Manager**

Response:

We take pride in listening to your feedback. The key is to understand, and we have a lot of resources for you to do just that. We have text to chat number that goes directly to Glenn’s cell phone, (716) 800-4164 that can be used for any dining related comment, concern, or recommendation. QR codes are posted in dining as well to provide opportunities to share your feedback. We have weekly USG food service committee meetings and the feedback from students is what we use to make decisions on changes and improvements in dining. We had the voice to vision survey in the fall and we will have a deeper dive in spring when off-campus folks come in to get granular on some of the feedback and recommended changes. A USG food service survey will be coming out shortly after spring break as well. If you have a concern let’s talk about it, so we can fix it quickly. We have heard a lot of great feedback about the Exhibition station, especially the birria tacos and now we are offering them every third week. We had requests for more whole chicken sandwiches at Market 1300 and we have done just that. This is YOUR dining program and the feedback drives the decisions. KT Caribbean has been a huge success and that is a direct result of student feedback.

# Question 4: **Why aren’t there many lights on campus at night? I think brighter lights would help students feel better about the campus at night.**

**Primary contact:** **Lisa Krieger** **Interim Vice President Finance and Management**

## Response:

Nighttime campus illumination levels are well-studied; computer calculations for light levels are done to ensure light levels are even, minimizing dark and overly lighted areas, while still maintaining a safe, pedestrian friendly light level. Please bring any concerns about light levels in particular areas to our attention by calling (716) 878-6111 or submitting a work request [here](https://facilities.buffalostate.edu/work-orders). Incidentally, part of the campus’ plan to reduce energy consumption for facilities and grounds, old, incandescent, site light fixtures are being replaced with new fixtures that are LED, energy efficient, and light pollution free. Facilities have adopted a light fixture standard that is “dark sky” compliant while maximizing ground target zone illumination. The campus has updated approximately 85% of the fixtures already, with the remaining to be replaced in upcoming capital construction projects. For example, projects beginning construction this summer where lighting will be upgraded are “Reconstruction of Parking Lots R12 & R13” and “Reconstruct Bengal Walk from Grant St. to Perry Hall.

# Question 5: **When a student doesn’t fulfill the needs at college why does it result** **to us getting kicked out?**

**Primary Contacts:** **Amitra Wall, Interim Provost for Academic Affairs**  **&** **Janelle Brooks, Interim Dean of Students**

## Response:

If this is regarding academic standards, good standing, academic wanting or academic probation, you can be dismissed due to grades, unsuccessfully finishing half or more courses, having a less than 1.0 GPA, failing any course for a third time, failing to complete basic skills by end of sophomore year or a misconduct offense. With the petition process, you can retake a class once. You can get tutoring or go to academic commons. If students don’t meet academic standards, and they are a resident, they will no longer be able to live on campus if you don’t meet requirements at the start of each semester and in May. Students receive communication on deadlines and anything else they need to submit. There is a small percentage of students who are not allowed on campus due to misconduct on campus. This can be anywhere on campus, not just the residence halls. If follow up or decision is related to dismissal you may need to leave for a certain amount of time or not allowed on campus again. If you have graduated and have not been active for at least 1 year and create disturbances while on campus you can be asked to not come on campus to provide a safe community.

Question/Statement 6: **I’m worried about cuts to programs and classes**

**Primary Contact: Amitra Wall, Interim Provost for Academic Affairs**

## Response:

As colleges look to optimize course offerings, we ask deans to look at low enrolled programs. Process in shared governance, goes to department, college curriculum and approvals. Activation of program or remove from catalog. SUNY says to deactivate program, has 3 years discontinuance from program. Remove from overall inventory. If discontinued, we as a campus have to teach out a program.

Question 7: **What is the process for professors? A lot of my professors in the Criminal Justice department have been cut.**

**Primary Contact:** **Amitra Wall, Interim Provost for Academic Affairs**

## Response:

I work closely with the dean's offices, and we cannot cut our way out of budget issues. Adjuncts not being able to teach, not having expertise, judges/attorneys not teaching specialized courses is concerning. I will work with deans to see what we can do.

Question 8: My major, art and design has seen major significant cuts. I want to know what the goal is for the art and design program. There have been cuts with models, professors’ hands are tied. Many classes are being combined.

**Primary Contact:** **Amitra Wall, Interim Provost for Academic Affairs**

## Response:

The art and design program has been redesigned over the past year. Originally individual programs in printmaking and woodworking, what the department did was to combine all programs into one BFA with different concentrations. The newer concentration is BA for painting. BA program shares the same courses as BFA. This is a matter with Candace Masters and deans moving forward looking at course offerings.

Question 9: Why am I paying more for housing when the quality of living in the residence halls has decreased? I have not had hot water for months, the RA’s never do their jobs and I have had damage to my door from facilities.

**Primary Contact:** **Curtis Brickhouse, Director of Student Affairs Operations and Officer in Charge of Residence Life**

## Response:

Since covid, the cost of everything is going up. When costs go up, services don’t always represent an increase in the cost. The academic side of house, we are deliberately and intentionally making sure all of you have the education you receive, but costs must be managed. Example, workforce everyone we employ, teach, advise, anyone on our workforce payroll workforce now is out of line with student enrollment. Enrollment does what for us – where we get revenue to keep the place going. Right now, we are dealing with a workforce that is larger than what is needed to serve the students we have. Look at spaces like fine arts and BFA if there is duplication how we can eliminate and still maintain a program for you. My cabinet and I talk about it every day in advising, fundraising, UPD talk about it in res hall staff. RAs and jobs you have to do, it can be difficult to manage your colleges we are not one of the highest paying institutions for RAs. We are increasing the RA’s stipends through SUNY. This helps RA’s not have to take another job just to survive, we are trying to do the best for you all. If you have questions, ask any cabinet members if you see any of these people let them know what your issues are, we will talk to you and work them out. That’s our job, we are here for you. We are here to give you the best experience. We encourage you to let us know what you need to succeed, we are here 80 hours a week and are here to take care of you. You can always contact the president’s office at [president@buffalostate.edu](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Crockleak%5CDownloads%5Cpresident%40buffalostate.edu).

Statement: Diversity Climate Survey

A lot of people have concerns about climate regarding Diversity Equity and Inclusion. We are launching a diversity survey on 4/1/24 for faculty, staff, and students. You will receive reminders directly to your email and will see flyers around campus. Please encourage your friends to fill this out, the more information we have is the way we can address these issues.