

Forums accommodate students, faculty, staff

MICHAEL LOPEZ
TNE WRITER

NSU held an open forum in the Webb building's Tower Room earlier this month. This forum was a discussion with the academic affairs and student affairs departments.

Martin Tadlock, NSU provost, discussed Academic Affairs and Laura Boren, dean of student affairs, discussed Student Affairs.

Both Tadlock and Boren discussed several initiatives NSU is planning or implementing. This was followed by a period of open discussion.

This forum is one of a series of which will be offered at both the Tahlequah and Broken Arrow campuses.

The Broken Arrow forum with Tadlock and Boren will be held April 26 from 3-4 p.m. in the BA auditorium.

Tadlock said the Broken Arrow forum will be slightly dif-

ferent than the Tahlequah forum and will include information specific to the Broken Arrow campus.

There will be other forums held for other departments within the campuses.

Tadlock said the other forums include finance/administration, operations, and university relations. The dates for these forums have not been announced yet, but will be sent out through campus-wide e-mail.

Tadlock said that the forums are an extension of the brown bag lunches that have been going on and are informal and will be held by each of the President's cabinet members.

Students are encouraged to come to these forums and learn more about the school's system.

Tadlock said that he would hope that students are interested in the forums because they are a chance to learn about, and provide input for, where NSU is going as a campus.

"We are about building the future," said Tadlock.

During the forum, Tadlock discussed NSU's growing international community, including hiring NSU's first international recruiter.

He also discussed ways to get students actively engaged, such as a Global Issues program board. Tadlock also talked about the new SmarThinking tutoring that is available on Blackboard as well as other new technology, all to help student learning.

"Student expectations should be raised," said Tadlock.

During the forum Boren talked about the importance of volunteering and community service. One initiative for this is the Center for Student Leadership Development and Community Engagement. Other initiatives that were discussed were the Volunteer Incentive Program and making service learning a requirement for certain scholarships. Boren also talked about developing student learning outcomes.



Daniel Talbot/TNE

NSU is holding series of open forums allowing faculty, staff and students to come ask administrators questions.

"The learning environment is our number one priority," said Boren.

Peggy Kaney, assistant dean of libraries, said she went to the forum because she was curious about the major initiatives that are happening at NSU and because it was at a convenient time for her.

Kaney said one benefit for her attending to the forum was that it was an opportunity to learn about what is going on at NSU in other departments.

Kaney said that she may get involved with other projects, especially because many of the initiatives are focusing on student retention and plans to attend the other forums.

Donna Agee, coordinator of Student Disabilities Services, said one initiative that surprised her is that NSU Broken Arrow has the regions only Global Learning Center.

"This will really broaden the horizons of our students and provide resources to them that other schools will not be able to provide," said Agee.

About 15 people attended the forum in Tahlequah, which included one student.

"Attending the forums is like voting and you cannot complain about the result if you do not voice your opinion," said Agee. "Those that did not attend missed a golden opportunity to voice their opinion on many different issues."

All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend the forums.

"Attending the forums is a good way for students to get their questions answered," said Kaney.

The forums provide an opportunity for learning more about how NSU works rather than just attending classes to learn.

"It is sad that the student body chose not participate in this opportunity," said Agee. "NSU has a bright future ahead and we are at the start of an exciting journey."

For more information please e-mail Michael Lopez at lopez03@nsuok.edu.

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