

The Advance-Titan

Phone: 920-424-3048

Email: atitan@uwosh.edu

Website: www.advancetitan.com

Facebook: @theadvancetitan

Twitter: @atitan

Instagram: @theadvancetitan

Editor-in-Chief

Katie Pulvermacher
pulvek45@uwosh.edu

Managing Editor

Kelly Hueckman
hueckk24@uwosh.edu

Advertising Manager

Luke Bussey
busseylu85@uwosh.edu

News Editor Anya Kelley

kelleyan55@uwosh.edu

Assistant News Editor

Josh Lehner
lehnerjo70@uwosh.edu

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Mattie Beck
beckm88@uwosh.edu

Opinion Editor

Aubrie Selsmeyer
selsmeyau72@uwosh.edu

Sports Editors

Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

Nolan Swenson

swensonno56@uwosh.edu

Photo Editor Willem Flaugher

flaugw05@uwosh.edu

Web Editor

Cassidy Johnson
johnsonca51@uwosh.edu

Assistant Web Editor

Ella Rider
riderell4@uwosh.edu

Social Media Specialist

Claudia Zeamer

Copy Desk Chief

Kyiah Nelson
nelsok45@uwosh.edu

Graphic Designers

Michael Buckner
cobbbr32@uwosh.edu

Ella Sasse

sasseel96@uwosh.edu

Reporters

Brandon Cobb, Frankie Kerkof,
Nolan Andler, Tony Beyer,
Owen Larsen, Emily Buffington

Copy Editors

Angela Satterlee, Alvaro Rivera,
Ella Rider

Photographers

Morgan Feltz, Jaylen Hill,
Meagan McDowell

Distribution Manager

Douglas Newhouse
newhousedo78@uwosh.edu

Faculty Adviser Barb Benish

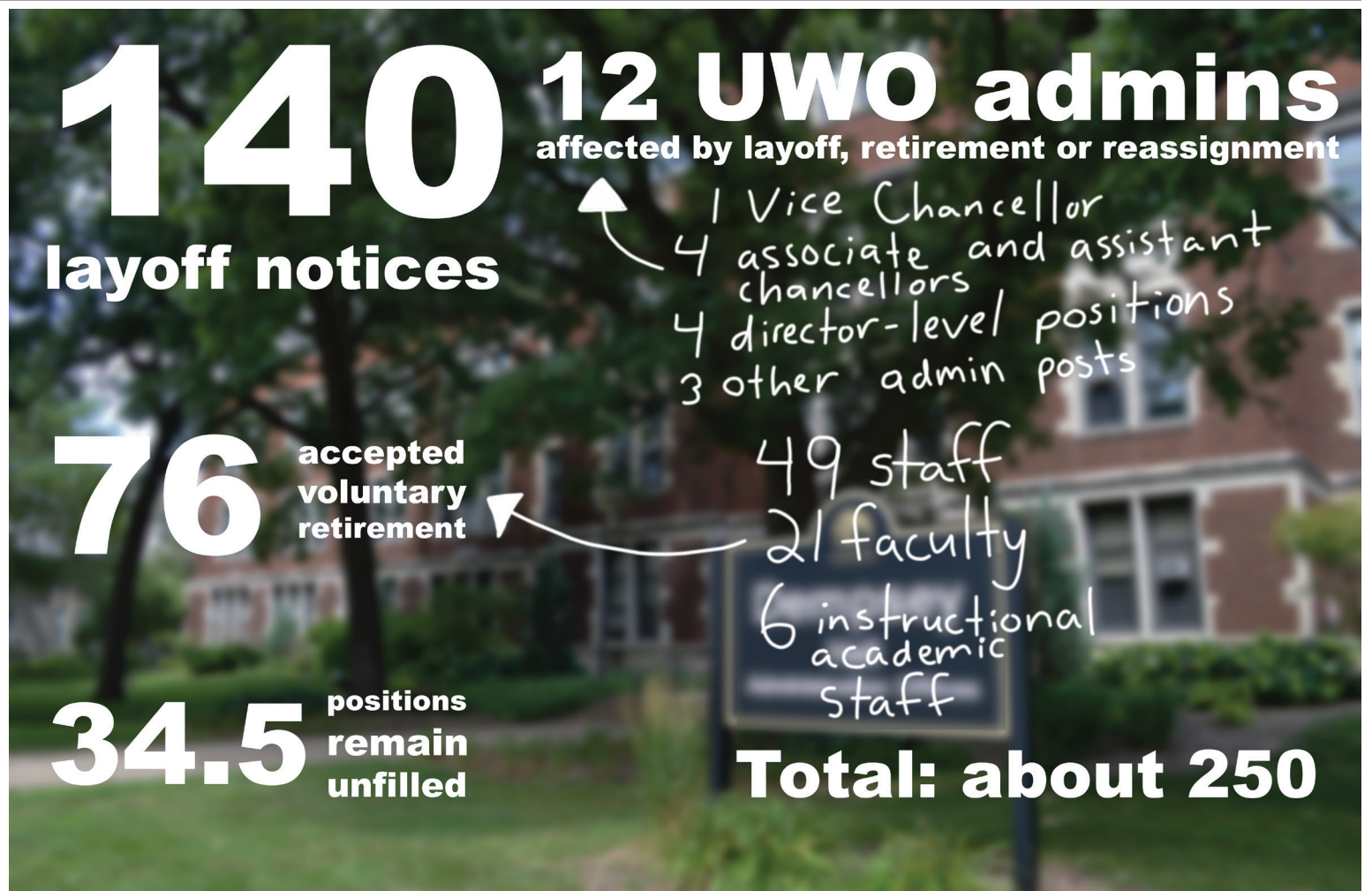
benish@uwosh.edu

About the Newspaper

The Advance-Titan is an independent student newspaper published on campus since 1894. The paper is written and edited by students at UW Oshkosh who are solely responsible for content and editorial policy. Any UW Oshkosh student from all three campuses is welcome to work on the newspaper staff. The paper is published on Thursdays during the academic year.

Correction Policy

The Advance-Titan is committed to correcting errors of fact that appear in print or online. Messages regarding errors can be emailed to atitan@uwosh.



Josh Lehner / Advance-Titan

Staff layoffs stun campus

By Josh Lehner & Anya Kelley
lehnerjo70@uwosh.edu
kelleyan55@uwosh.edu

A total of 140 UW Oshkosh employees received layoff notices on Monday in an effort to curb the university's \$18 million deficit. The layoffs are part of the university's realignment plan, which also has 76 employees accepting voluntary retirement offers.

UWO Chancellor Andrew Leavitt added that 12 UWO leaders serving in 10 administrative positions are being affected by layoffs, retirement or reassignment — 22% of the positions in the ad-

ministrative organizational chart.

These include the elimination of a vice chancellor position, four associate and assistant chancellors, four director-level positions and three other administrative positions.

The Advance-Titan reached out to Leavitt's Chief of Staff Alex Hummel for a list of the administrators' names. That email was forwarded to Chief Communications Officer Peggy Breister who denied further comment.

"UW Oshkosh is not providing names or positions of those who have been laid off," Breister wrote in the email.

By cutting one in every six employees, the university expects to save about \$14.7 million: about \$8 million from layoffs, \$4.76 million from voluntary retirements and \$1.9 million from open positions.

The total number of layoffs plus voluntary retirements is 216 but 34.5 vacant positions will remain unfilled, bringing the total number of positions affected by layoffs, voluntary retirement and open positions to about 250.

The final day of employment for laid off staff is Jan. 20, 2024; no faculty have been laid off so far, Leavitt said Monday.

The university's administration

has not released a master list of everyone affected and has denied a request for comment.

All of the full-time staff in the Office of International Education (OIE) have been laid off, leaving two part-time employees who are paid outside of the university.

The Testing Center has one employee left, the University Studies Program (USP) took a large hit, Reeve Union is losing many employees, and the LGBTQ+ Resource Center is losing its leadership.

The Advance-Titan also reached

Turn to *Layoffs* / Page 3

Fond du Lac campus to close

By Katie Pulvermacher
pulvek45@uwosh.edu

UW Oshkosh's access campus in Fond du Lac will discontinue in-person education by June 30, 2024, Chancellor Andrew Leavitt announced Tuesday. This leaves students unsure of where to go next with such short notice.

"Demographic trends, declining enrollments and the rising costs of providing an education continue to challenge us," Leavitt said. "What is immediately clear is that our focus on supporting UW Oshkosh students, their journeys and their success will only intensify. Our commitment is to honor students' plans and investments as they stand today. Their educational home may change; their tuition will not."

Fond du Lac's enrollment was projected to be 243 students this fall, but fell short to 238. Its peak enrollment was in 1975, and the campus is currently at 30% of its Fall 2010 enrollment.

UWO Marketing and Communications Executive Direc-

tor Peggy Breister said they are not doing further interviews at this time and referred the Advance-Titan to Leavitt's statement.

In an email from Leavitt in Fall 2022 after the closing of UW-Platteville's Richland Center access campus, he said UWO remained committed to keeping its Fox Cities and FDL campuses open.

"I want you to know that UW Oshkosh remains committed to the access missions and the continued operation of UWO Fox Cities and UWO Fond du Lac," Leavitt said. "We do this in collaboration with valued partners and public stewards in Fond du Lac, Outagamie and Winnebago counties. There are no plans or directions to alter course at UWO's access campuses."

A year later, with the university in a budget deficit, Leavitt said he received a letter from Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman this week who directed him to discontinue teaching at the FDL campus.

Leavitt, Provost and Vice

Chancellor for Academic Affairs Edwin Martini and Chief of Staff Alex Hummel went to the Fond du Lac campus Tuesday morning to tell faculty, staff and students the news.

"According to what the chancellor and provost said, they didn't find out about this until late yesterday afternoon from President Rothman's office," said associate English professor Alayne Peterson, who teaches at the Fond du Lac campus. "Rothman's office held off on announcing this to let our chancellor do this. We had a two-hours notice. They did what they could."

Peterson said she usually isn't on campus Tuesdays and Thursdays due to teaching online classes those days. Same goes for many other staff members. She made it to the meeting in time after a colleague notified her of the email.

"When the provost came to our fall kickoff at the end of August, I asked him point blank if there was a decision that was going to be made (on the future of the Fond du Lac campus), to

please tell us face-to-face," Peterson said. "There's no good time for bad news. I appreciate them coming down to tell us face-to-face."

Fond du Lac Student Government Association Public Relations Director Hannah Gruening attended the meeting and felt the announcement was too abrupt.

She said the meeting started with Leavitt, Martini and Hummel expressing their sadness in the passing of Assistant Chancellor for Access Campuses Martin Rudd, who unexpectedly died over the weekend, and then jumped straight into closing the doors at the Fond du Lac

Turn to *Fondy* / Page 4

Correction

In a story "How will UWO rebuild trust," which appeared in the Oct. 12 newspaper, the incorrect cost of launching the UWO Marching Band was given. The correct price is \$2.1 million. In addition, according to the UWO Foundation, donors have given more than \$156,000 for the Titan Thunder Fund and Titan Thunder Scholarship Fund.