FACULTY SENATE

CONNECTION

THE CHAIR'S NOTES

One of the more common questions given to Faculty Senate members is: `Does the Senate make any difference?' The answer is: sometimes. The Faculty Senate, like all University committees, is merely an advisory body to the administration. Our goal is to voice faculty priorities and concerns, and to make recommendations on specific legislation brought to us, as well as on internally generated issues.

Another concern I've heard from some faculty is that the Faculty Senate does not represent their views, needs and/or concerns. First, as a tenured or tenure track faculty member of your department, it is your responsibility to elect your representatives. As chair, I

have to assume that each department elected someone they felt best represented their views. However, even if you are displeased with your departmental senator, you still have a way to voice your opinion.

In almost all cases, motions brought before Faculty Senate are brought forth for a first reading. This means that your senator, on the first and third Thursday of each month, receives the motions to be debated and voted on the next meeting. Her/his responsibility is to get feedback from her/his department in order to argue their case before Senate. Your senator is your link to the Senate, please provide them with the feedback they need -- they may even bring your good ideas to the floor of the Senate. We hope that all comments and suggestions have the students' educational quality as the foremost consideration, and look forward to hearing from you in the coming year....

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTED

Election of members to the Executive Council of the Faculty Senate for the 1995-96 year was conducted at the Senate's first regular meeting of the year. Charles Patrick was elected Chair Elect, and Chair of the Academic Policies Committee. Other Senators named to the council were Mike Adams, Chair of Academic Governance Committee; Roland Buck, Chair of Fiscal Affairs Committee; Sherly Brown, Chair of Evaluation Committee; Larry Keenan, Chair of Professional Policies Committee; Dayna Brown, Chair of Communications Committee; Bruce Mattingly, Faculty Regent; and Brian Reeder, Senate Chair.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

☎ Communications ☎

It is the duty of the Communciations Committee to publish a newsletter to inform faculty of information relating to the Senate business, act in a public relations role to the faculty and university community, and to provided information to external groups at the direction of the Faculty Senate.

Not only does this committee disseminate information, it solicits views from the faculty; therefore, the committee is seeking input on ways to improve the Senate Connection and would like to hear from faculty.

Faculty comments and responses should be limited to 150 words and be directed to the Chair, Dayna Brown, AAC 142, Phone 3-5282.

Other committee members

include: Michael Biel, Carol Nutter, Phyllis Oakes, and Shelby Shires.

Governance

The Governance Committee continues working hard to keep the University's committee structure strong by discussion membership on University Committees and assisting them in their operations.

Due to the efforts of the 1994-95 Governance Committee, the ability to place interested faculty on appropriate committees has been enhanced. Each faculty member, their current committee assignments, and their committee preferences have been organized in a computerized selection program. This has allowed the committee to make timely and successful nominations of interested faculty to vacancies on many committees.

Future agenda items: Recommendations regarding the structure and member-ship of the University Wellness Committee, and pursue the strengthening

communications between the Standing Committees and the Governance Committee.

Direct inquiries to Mike Adams, Chair, LA421C, Phone 3-2926. Other members include: Mary Carney, Noel Earl, Joyce LeMaster, Brent Rogers, and Carolyn Taylor.

Evaluation

The Evaluation Committee is looking into the Attendance policy for committee meetings. There was confusion regarding whether policies on attendance in senate and senate committees are identical. (Senate policy states that a faculty member may be dismissed for having three consecutive absences or a total of five absences for the academic year - not counting summer.)

The following topics were identified as agenda items: IDEA Survey; Outstanding Advisor Award; Departmental PBSI criteria; Outstanding Department Award; Fourth Merit Share Criteria; PBSI Criteria: Active Learning: Scholarly

Productivity, Consulting, Teaching, Advising; and Faculty Satisfaction Survey.

The Chair is Dr. Sheryl Brown, UPO 614, Phone 3-2723. Other committee members include: Laradean Brown, Tom Klein, Norma McGuire, David Olsen, Richard Shepherd, and Stephen Tirone.

Fiscal Affairs

It is a purpose of the Fiscal Affairs Committee to be an observer of how responsibily money is spent.

During its first meeting this fall, the committee recommended that investigations of the university budget process continue. with particular attention be paid to the allocation of funds to Academic Affairs relative to non-academic areas. Five areas identified to be highlighted in their investigations this semester: Payment to Summer II instructors of Formula Courses; Health insurance, budgets for supplies, travel, and classroom maintenance; summer term remuneration, in particular health insurance for adjunct instructors; and division of funds within the university

budget.

The health insurance issue has already been the subject of several meetings, including a special Staff Congress forum and the Regents' Fiscal Affairs Committee. The faculty need to understand that the university must change to a uniform state-wide health care insurance system at

Professional Policies

The Professional Policies Committee is concerned with policies, regulations and practices that affect faculty status, working conditions, advancement and evaluation.

Committee members of the Faculty Senate Professional Policies Committee for 1995-96 include: Larry Keenan, Chair; Marilyn Mote-Yale, vice-chair; Geoffrey Gearner, secretary; Herb Hedgecock, Donna Owen, and James Dahlberg.

Items addressed by the Professional Policies Committee at their first meeting included: PAc-28: Educational Leave of Absence, and PAc-27: Tenure Review.

PAc-28 states that an

the end of this school year. The people who have already become members of that system had been charged premiums much higher than we are now paying. The state officials reported that they believe that the premiums will be lower by the time the university will enter the system, but premiums will be for those entering the individual granted a 1-year educational sabbatical has a 2-year commitment to the university upon their return. Members of the Profes-sional Policies Committee are satisfied with this arrangement.

PAc-27: Tenure Review: Eight items in a memo-randum from the University Tenure Committee dated March 9, 1995, were con-sidered. Following considerable discussion of each point, the committee is considering the following:

☞Each department should enact a mentoring program whereby each probationary faculty member is reviewed annually by the depart-ment's tenured faculty. The candidate will submit an annual PBSI portfolio to the depart-mental committee.

system on January 1, 1996.

The Chair of the committee is Roland Buck, UPO 839, phone 3-2722. Lee Tyner, UPO 995, phone 3-2328, serves as vice-chair. The committee welcomes input from the university faculty.

The departmental committee will review the port-folio, write a report to be submitted to the department chair and make a recommendation for contract renewal. The department chair will review the PBSI for merit. The chair will write a letter to the candidate which encom-passes the findings of the departmental com-mittee. The candidate will collate all PBSI documents and chair's reviews into his/her tenure portfolio. The college dean will review this portfolio in the candidate's second and fourth years, and respond by sending a letter to the candidate, with a copy forwarded to the department chair.

☞The committee is recommending a change in the tenure review process. First, the college level committee should be eliminated. Second, emphasis will be placed upon the de-partmental review. Third, a sequential review process will be established: departmental tenure committee to department chair to college dean to university tenure com-mittee. Each reviewer will be privy to all previous reviews.

☞Non-university service should be discipline-related, which will be defined by each depart-ment in their EDP document.

☞Academic advising should be classified as departmental service. It is presently classified as a teaching activity.

Direct inquires, concerns to Chair, Larry Keenan, BM 306, Phone 32479.

Academic Policies

The Academic Policies Committee is charged with looking at policies and re-gulations that affect faculty effectiveness and instruc-tional effectiveness.

The committee identified and priorized potential issues of concern which they plan to address. The top two issues are: General Ed-ucation requirements and classroom conditions. Other areas of concern are: grade requirement for transfer credit, integrity of special academic programs, con-sistency of department/ college course override policies, and the drop/add policy (i.e. moving dead-line for dropping a class to earlier in the semester).

The committee consists of: Charles Patrick, Chair; Lynn Augsbach, Rodger Carlson, Dan Seth, Sue Tallichet, Craig Tuerk, Betty Wilson, and Wanda Staley.

Inquiries or input for this committee may be sent to Dr. Charles Patrick, UPO 774, Phone 3-2884.

SUPER LABS

The Senate unanimously voted to suspend the rules and vote on the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED The proposal for computer lab consolidation at Morehead State University, developed by Information Tech-nology, shall be reviewed and approved by the Academic Computing sub-committee of the Technology Resources Committee, The Faculty Senate, and the Student Government Association (SGA) prior to implementation.

The motion passed unanimously.