



# FACULTY SENATE

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# CONNECTION

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December

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## THE CHAIR'S NOTES

As you will see in the Committee Reports in this issue of the *Senate Connection*, the Faculty Senate has been active this Semester on a number of fronts. I am especially pleased at the strides Academic Affairs has taken to increase academic quality, such as eliminating grades less than C from transferring into Morehead State.

As we are all aware, increases in education quality often cost money. Overall spending in higher education has declined from \$715 million in 1990-91 to \$705 million in 1994-95. At the same time enrollment has increased. We spend fewer unadjusted dollars per student now than we did ten years ago. As a new governor and legislator take over in Frankfort, it is unclear if Higher Education will get the money it needs to properly educate students in the Commonwealth. Decreases in educational quality can reverberate throughout the mountains as another generation is relegated to despair and poverty.

As faculty members, we know the best way to increase educational quality is to recruit and retain excellent faculty. This cannot be done as long as faculty in the Commonwealth remain the lowest paid of the lowest paid in the US (and those at Morehead State are the lowest paid of all those -- despite that we are in the third year of a 5 year plan to bring us to benchmark).

However, the debate cannot be over our salaries, but over the quality of education we can supply under these crippling budget constraints. I think the quality of US faculty is shown

by our having the best institutions of higher education in the world -- despite the fact that we have some of the worst high schools of any developed nation, and we accept almost all high school graduates (not just the top 10%, as in some European nations).

State Legislators want to know what we do with those other 40 hours a week (on average) that we are not in the classroom, lab, or studio. We are Universities, not High Schools or Community Colleges. In addition to teaching related activities, we are active in scholarly endeavors and service. We: council, legislate, develop, design, create, evaluate, reevaluate, serve, advise, participate, perform, consult, award, register, copy, budget, order, submit, recruit, and retain. All we ask of our elected representatives is that they give us the money to maintain the great service we provide to the Commonwealth.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### FACULTY EVALUATION

Jennifer Schuler has taken Wanda Staley's place on the committee.

The committee has passed a motion which would require faculty members to remove the extra copies of the IDEA evaluation forms and return them to the department secretary. The student administrator would collect the used forms and sign his/her name over the sealed envelope and return it to the department. A



package arriving with a broken seal would indicate tampering and the department chair and faculty member would be notified.

The committee generated the following resolutions that evolved from the results of the Faculty PBSI Survey:

- ✓ Merit pay will be set at 50% of the total salary pool and not increased.
- ✓ The 4th and 5th merit shares should be eliminated and the award dollars moved to the department level.
- ✓ University PBSI ad hoc committee should be dissolved and PBSI responsibility moved to the Faculty Senate

Evaluation Committee.

### ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ACADEMIC POLICIES

The Academic Policies Committee initially identified several areas of concern regarding the quality of education at Morehead State University. The committee has been actively working on the issues of general education requirements, distance learning, classroom conditions, and the academic integrity of grades.

Accomplishments of this committee during the first term include the following:

- ✂ Presented a resolution whereby MSU will leave

the former grade of a repeated course on the official transcript with a strikeout rather than removing the old grade. This was passed by the Senate.

Presented a resolution whereby MSU will accept for transfer credit only courses with a grade of "C" or higher. This was passed by the Senate.

Presented a resolution regarding general education course proposals which would lower the number of identified "essential" educational goals to two and eliminate the requirement of the identification of additional "important" goals. This was passed by the Senate.

Completed a Classroom Condition Survey to investigate the teaching and learning conditions of campus instructional facilities.

Began to look at recent research regarding the effectiveness and quality of distance learning.

The committee will continue

to deal with these and other issues concerning quality of education. Plans are to invite different members of the administration to address the committee or full Senate during the year.

Inquiries or concerns may be addressed to Dr. Charles Patrick.

