

March 6, 2008

Dr. Eric Jerde, Chair
Faculty Senate
LA 404

Dear Eric:

Thank you for taking time on Tuesday to meet with me to discuss the current fiscal situation at Morehead State University and the work of the Faculty Senate on PAc 35. As I indicated to you, it appears to me that the General Assembly is developing alternative budget models, each of which contains money for higher education. While the outcome won't be known until the end of March or early April, I am more encouraged today than I have been that higher education will not receive the magnitude of the cuts proposed in the Governor's budget.

Also, as I indicated, the Cabinet has been working diligently to continue a systematic and thorough review of all budgets at Morehead State University. We have had excellent cooperation, and it is evident that there is a willingness on the part of all members of the Cabinet to participate in finding solutions to the complex budget problems that we face. As a result of the two aforementioned items, the prospect of a better budget from the General Assembly and the thoughtful planning on the part of the Cabinet, I believe that we can manage the institution through whatever fiscal crisis we ultimately inherit by a combination of factors, such as revenue enhancements, tuition increases, strategic budget reductions, reorganizations, possible outsourcing of selected functions, and other efficiency measures.

I am acutely aware that the Faculty Senate has been working hard to provide input with respect to PAc 35. This is a difficult assignment because it involves the possibility of eliminating tenure track faculty. You will recall when I briefed the Executive Committee of the Senate on this topic, I indicated that I did not believe the institution would declare financial exigency nor was I prepared to recommend that to the Board of Regents. However, careful examination of PAc 26 has led me to the conclusion that if in the very unlikely situation that financial exigency or program elimination would be necessary, it would be exceedingly difficult to be efficient in dealing with a crisis using PAc 26. Therefore, I believe it is still prudent to prepare a revised PAc that would allow the necessary work to be completed efficiently and in a timely manner should it become necessary sometime in the future.

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Consequently, I am recommending that the Faculty Senate be given more time to complete its work on PAc 35 as well as the companion document PAc 36 dealing with termination for cause so that the Senate can provide whatever responses it believes are appropriate by May 1, 2008. I will take these revised policies to the Board at the June meeting.

You inquired at our meeting about the status of the Curriculum Audit process and its relationship to our current fiscal situation. I believe it is very important for the Faculty Senate to understand that the Curriculum Audit was initiated with the intent to review all programs at the University to make sure they are up to date and truly 21st century programs. The audit was never intended to be a mechanism for the elimination of people. It still is not. I would ask that members of the Faculty Senate know that we are continuing to follow the timeline outlined in the Curriculum Audit process and that the work currently underway be continued in a deliberate and thorough manner.

Thank you for your leadership and also the members of the Senate for their diligence and concern regarding the current fiscal situation in higher education and at Morehead State University in particular. It is important that we remain focused on our essential work – and that is our students.

Sincerely,

Wayne D. Andrews
President

WDA:cj

CC: Members, President's Cabinet