

Chair's Report

March 15, 2012

Chair Sharp could not be here today since she is with her husband, who is undergoing medical tests. Please keep them in your thoughts.

Monday last week the Executive Council met with Drew Henderson of Information Technology and asked him many questions about IT's plan to schedule its routine maintenance for one particular time each month: 6-8 am on the first Friday of each month. This time was (somewhat arbitrarily) chosen to be compatible with vendor's support schedules, to allow changes to be quickly load-tested, and to reduce possible disruption. Henderson assures us that most of the time, the maintenance will require much less than the full two hour period. Major upgrades will be scheduled separately. Also, the regular maintenance window may be changed at a later date. IT will work around faculty members who have special need of technology during the maintenance period – contact IT if that is the case. The Executive Council was not completely satisfied with the responses.

Yesterday the President's Leadership Council met. The topics discussed were the budget, the HB 260 compromise, and the new Community Service Leave policy. The Cabinet has conducted a preliminary budget analysis for 2012-13 based on assumptions of 3-5% tuition increases, 6.4% state appropriation reduction, and no enrollment growth. With a 5% tuition increase, a \$2.1 million shortfall is projected. Many avenues are being looked at to generate revenue and reduce expenditures while preserving the core mission of instruction, research, and service.

House Bill 260, the bill that would have made the University of Pikeville a state institution, was replaced with a grant program to help students in certain counties complete their baccalaureates mostly at institutions in those counties. The new version of HB 260 has passed the House and is now in the Senate.

The Community Service Leave program allows full-time staff to take full days off with paid leave to participate in volunteer efforts, such as the efforts related to the March 2nd tornadoes. Even though the announcement was sent to faculty, the program is not apparently intended for faculty, who do not accumulate vacation leave. Questions about the program may be directed to the Office of Human Resources.

The Executive Council has carefully considered the response the Faculty Senate should make to the recent tornadoes which have uprooted the lives of many of our students, staff, and fellow faculty, such as former Senator Michael Fultz, who lost his house to the West Liberty tornado. Chair Sharp, with the support of the Executive Council, is donating \$100 of the Faculty Senate budget to the MSU Cares Community Outreach Fund, which has been set up to "provide financial support to our official relief efforts coordinated through the Center for Regional Engagement and/or support employees who have

been impacted by the disaster” of March 2nd. The Executive Council urges and challenges other bodies and individuals to make similar contributions.