Dear colleagues,

I am introducing this monthly newsletter as a way to help keep you informed about matters affecting faculty at Case. Faculty Briefing will allow me to offer my perspective on issues and decisions, as well as to discuss other topics of importance. Each Faculty Briefing will also contain information from the most recent Faculty Senate meeting.

Some faculty have wondered why we chose a two-tiered tuition increase for the 2006-07 academic year—6.48 percent for current undergraduates and 9.47 percent for incoming students. We wanted to do everything we could to minimize the increase for students already here. Next fall's first-year students will have had the choice to accept or reject Case at the higher rate, but our current students do not. We also believe a higher rate for new students is reasonable because they will benefit, starting with their first day on campus, from Case’s recent major improvements. After this year, we expect to apply the same percentage increase to tuition for all undergraduates. This means that for the next few years, two tuition rates will be in effect at Case: one for students who entered in fall 2005 or earlier, and a somewhat higher rate for students who enter in fall 2006 and thereafter.

Another question I hear frequently is: How large should the undergraduate full-time student body be? Two years ago, the number was about 3,300; today it is about 3,700. I have decided that we will adjust admissions to reach the target of 4,000 full-time students, which requires an entering class of about 1,050 (our target for fall 2006). This decision was reached after many formal and informal discussions with faculty, students, and administrators, including deans. The rationale is the following: first, we have the physical capacity to handle this number if we refurbish the south campus dorms; second, this number would lead us to a reasonable student/faculty ratio of 9.5, counting only the tenured and tenure-track faculty in the four undergraduate colleges; third, the increased tuition revenues will help the university and the schools invest in undergraduate education; and fourth, the higher density of students on campus will improve student life and morale. Of these reasons, the fourth is perhaps the most important.

The rarefied air of central administration on any campus often leads senior administrators to have unreasonable confidence in their decision-making powers. While it is easy to succumb to such intoxication, my fellow administrators and I continually remind ourselves of the phenomenon, and as a result try to get out and about for fresh air. So we will continue to seek opinions and advice on important matters, such as those mentioned above. I can’t promise we will follow your advice all the time, but we will listen.

Sincerely,

John L. Anderson
Provost and University Vice President
REPORT FROM THE FACULTY SENATE

A goal of the Faculty Senate is to provide a forum for faculty input into the process of shared governance on university issues of importance. This requires open lines of communication among faculty and administration and the opportunity for faculty to voice their thoughts and ideas concerning university-wide issues. To provide for wider communication of these issues under discussion and the work of the Faculty Senate, we will be reporting the highlights of the senate meetings in these pages each month. For full minutes, go to the Faculty Senate website at http://www.case.edu/president/facsen. We encourage faculty to discuss ideas with their elected senate representatives. – Ron Wright, chair, University Faculty Senate

FACULTY SENATE MEETING JANUARY 31, 2006

After a record year for freshman enrollment, the student applicant pool for fall 2006 is running 10 percent ahead of this time last year, Christopher Munoz, vice-provost for undergraduate enrollment, told members of the Faculty Senate at its January 31 meeting. President Edward Hundert and Provost John Anderson also were present.

Munoz was guardedly optimistic that Case would reach its fall 2006 target enrollment of 1,050 students, 100 fewer than last year’s record class. He also said faculty could track the progress of 2006 applications at http://admission.case.edu/db.htm.

Vision Investment Plan

New student enrollment is an integral part of the university’s Vision Investment Plan (VIP), which was discussed at the senate meeting along with the university budget. National indicators regarding grant funding and philanthropic contributions suggest revenue will be flat or even fall short of assumptions for many institutions. Forecasts suggest this trend will be true for Case. Accordingly, Paul Gerhart, senate budget committee chair and professor of marketing and policy studies at the Weatherhead School of Management, said the university will continue to assess the VIP as part of its five-year budget plan.

According to Gerhart, funding for the VIP is broken down as follows (all numbers are approximate):

- Undergraduate programs - $40 million
- Graduate, Professional, and Research Programs/VIP Centers of Excellence - $28 million
- Academic Medical Center - $58 million
- Resources/Development - $36 million
- Institutional Culture & Values - $20 million

Academic Strategic Plan

Other discussion from the budget, bylaws, and executive committees included moving forward with the Academic Strategic Plan; reconstitution of the University Budget Committee; and improving administrative communication to faculty through a provost’s newsletter and Case Daily, the campuswide e-mail newsletter introduced in January.

A special meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Friday, March 31, at 2 p.m. in the Toepfer Room, to discuss the Academic Strategic Plan. All faculty, staff, and students will also have the opportunity to provide comment on the emerging plan, the provost said.

Chair-elect Seeks Faculty Feedback

In addition, Faculty Senate Chair-elect James Alexander, the Levi Kerr Professor of Mathematics and chair of the mathematics department, announced that he will be soliciting feedback in the coming months on how the Faculty Senate can become even more involved with overall university planning.

Diversity Report Forthcoming

Due to time constraints, the annual report on Faculty Diversity was held over to the next Faculty Senate meeting. The next regular meeting of the senate will be held Monday, February 27, at 3:30 p.m. in the Toepfer Room.

For More Information

Undergraduate Admission Applications
http://admission.case.edu/db.htm

Faculty Senate
http://www.case.edu/president/facsen

Tuition FAQ
http://www.case.edu/news/tuition/faq.html