Dear Colleagues:

Let me be among the first to welcome you back for the 2008-2009 academic year. I hope each of you had a restful, productive summer. There are some of us who never left. As we begin this new academic year we want to thank our former Interim President, Dr. Leonard McIntyre for his dedicated service to the University over the past seven months and then welcome our new President Dr. George E. Cooper.

Last year was a good year for faculty; the Faculty Research Incentive and Bonus Plan was approved, an increase in pay for adjunct professors and course overloads was approved, some adjustments were made in salary inequities and a presidential committee was formed to examine enrollment management, specifically admission standards. Please thank your senate representatives for all of their hard work.

The Senate will continue to actively engage in advocating shared governance, to defend the rights, privileges and academic freedom of faculty as well as uphold academic integrity; and to work with administration to continuously improve the quality of the work environment of our academy. It is our resolve to support Dr. Cooper and his administration as they endeavor to make effective and efficient decisions on behalf of the University.

I want to thank all of you who took the time to fill out the faculty survey at the end of the last academic year. The data has been complied and the report is being written for the President. Each of you will receive a copy once it has been ratified by the Senate. I want to publicly thank Dr. Thomas Cassidy and Dr. Dwight Varnum for facilitating that project.

I invite you to visit our new Faculty Senate Webpage for updated information throughout the year or please take the time to come to a Faculty Senate meeting at some point during the year. We welcome your input. Again, welcome back and I hope each of you have a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

M. Evelyn Fields

M. Evelyn Fields, Ph.D.
President
Dr. M. Evelyn Fields: President ● Dr. Thomas Cassidy: V. President ● Dr. Ora Spann: Treasurer ● Ms. Cynthia Davis: Recording Secretary ● Dr. William Whitaker: Corresponding Secretary ● Dr. Dwight Varnum: Parliamentarian ● Dr. Hector C. Butts: Immediate Past President