11/24/08

Dear Colleagues:

I hope this correspondence finds each of you in good health and in good spirits. These are difficult times for the state of South Carolina and our University as we deal with the economic shortfall that has become so prevalent throughout the nation. Difficult decisions are being made now and I suspect that there will be more difficult decisions that will be made in the future. At all times our role in shared governance is critical but even more so when decisions that are being made can and will affect the academy in years to come, understanding that it is the faculty who has the primary responsible for the academy.

I want to encourage you to play an active role in shared governance by communicating your viewpoints, concerns and questions to your Faculty Senate representative so that all perspectives can be considered. It is the responsibility of your representative to convey information to you and for you.

I also want to encourage each of you who have not paid your Faculty Senate dues for this academic year to do so. When we return in January, we will vote on the new Senate By-laws. Paid membership is essential to participating in Senate sponsored events. Membership dues are a modest $20.00.

Our final Senate meeting of the semester will be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at 3:30pm in room 121A of Turner Hall. Please feel free to attend. I appreciate all your support. I wish each of you the best as you endeavor to close out the academic semester and peace during the intercession.

Sincerely,

M. Evelyn Fields, Ph.D.
President