

**SOCIAL SCIENCES
DIVISION MEETING
December 13, 2005**

Dr. Yoder began by acknowledging the passing away of Dr. Todd and noting that anyone wishing to go to the funeral services on Wednesday should feel free to do so and need not take personal leave. If you have classes that afternoon then deal with them as you see fit.

She also noted that at the Board Meeting the previous evening that a number of ways were discussed to honor Dr. Todd, one of them would be naming the SEM Center after him. The event planned for February 17 is going forward and will be a time to celebrate his presidency and accomplishments at the college.

Dr. Yoder acknowledged our December birthday people - John Ehrhardt, Sue Tabor, Nancy Pietroforte and Mendy Barr. A special cake and Christmas munchies are in the Division Office for everyone to enjoy.

Chuck Carselowey was congratulated on being named as recipient of this year's NISOD award.

Congratulations to the SOC program as they have a \$950 grant proposal for their on going Living Sociology series.

Committee reports are attached. Jane Carney reported the first priority items for the Benefits Committee were:

- Supplementing retirement insurance premiums
- Help with dependent health care cost
- Reduce OT/PT therapy co-pays
- Add programs for tuition reimbursement
- Donating leave to co-workers and incentives for healthier living

When the entire list is compiled and members of the committee have seen it then Jane will distribute it to faculty in the division.

Dr. Yoder reported from the Dean's Council that Economic Development grants are available in the amount of \$25,000. Results are due in June so this needs to be a project that is already in process.

Also, the WebCt upgrade will be coming this summer. Many different means of training will be offered including one on one assistance. There are some good new features with this upgrade.

Three Technology Committee's are being formed from various areas of the college. Randy Hopkins will serve on the Academic IT committee and Dana Glencross on the Online Task Force.

Marcelene Rogers reports that it is a busy, stressful time in the Counseling office with enrollment continuing. Dana Tuley Williams had no report from the Library.

A Master Advanced Workshop will be mandatory for new faculty and there will be update workshops.

Tuition Fee Waivers are due by noon on Wednesday. Mendy Barr stated that her experience with the one year idea of waivers has not been good. It was suggested she speak with Dr. Paden regarding this and suggest an alternative plan.

Dr. Yoder thanked the faculty for their strategic plans. Dr. Sechrist says the digital portal system will be installed over the next four years. He believes this will help a great deal with communications and put us on a par with other institutions. Datatel and WebCt will be integrated and WebCt will be available for every section. It was mentioned that even though our college has grown our staff, particularly in Human Resources and Student Development, has not.

Dr. Yoder has been thinking and planning and talking with other dean's about purchasing new computers. She will ask for 10 computers this year and ten the next year. Ergonomics is also an issue with those using computers so much so we will look into ergonomic furniture. Wanda will be assisting with getting some specs and if you have certain desires let Dr. Yoder know about them. The technology fees have been going to technology and not to faculty. If you have need of a flash drive ask Cecelia. Email Cecelia what you would like before the Christmas break although there are no guarantees that your wishes can be granted.

John Hughes reported that he uses an electronic gradebook and has deleted student records when he has received drop reports only to find later they were dropped by mistake so he suggests you wait before deleting any records.

Wanda gave a reminder to faculty that grades were due NOON on the 20th and to please turn in grading information and attendance records.

Dr. Yoder expressed her appreciation to the faculty for a good semester. The faculty in turn expressed their appreciation of her being in the Dean position.

Wanda Roepke
Division Assistant