Date: 9 January 2003
To: All Faculty Members
From: Janet McNew
Subject: January Faculty Notes

1. Recent CUPP notes show that we have completed our discussions about the distribution of the faculty salary raise pool for next year. The Board of Trustees have discussed a preliminary budget for 2003-04 that allows a 2.5% raise pool for all salaries—faculty, staff, and administration. When we began outlining the preliminary budget for next year, the Consumer Price Index was several tenths of a percentage point below 2%; consequently, we hoped that giving everyone 2% across the board would keep salaries generally moving a bit ahead of inflation while leaving the .5% (about $55,000 for the faculty pool) to fund our promotion and equity programs. The last Bureau of Labor Statistics report (November-November) put the CPI at 2.2%. We are currently doing modeling to determine whether we can add the .2% (about $20,000) to maintain the principles in our plan. While we anticipate that we will be able to move the across-the-board raise for faculty to 2.2%, we doubt that we can do much more within the anticipated pools without doing harm to other goals for those budgets. So, here’s hoping that the year-end CPI, which has not been released, stays flat.

Among those other goals are, for example, a relatively large number of people who will be promoted this year. The .3% left after giving the across-the-board raise will fall about $60,000 short of fully funding the promotion/equity programs. We believe, however, that maintaining continuity in promotion/equity raises is crucial; consequently, we must make up that shortfall in funding by reducing our spending on visitors and adjuncts—which is also not desirable but is about our only remaining option.

I will update you further on budget and salary planning in my February notes, when we will be closer to finalizing our plans for next year’s salaries. I mention our current thinking on these issues now to invite your questions and comments at the faculty meeting.

2. Even over the holidays, a few faculty kudos crossed my desk:

- **Linda Farquharson** has been selected by the College of Fine and Professional Arts at Kent State University “to receive an Alumni Award for [her] contributions to the music profession.” Congratulations to Linda for this richly deserved recognition!
- **Valérie Orlando** reports that the “The Maghreb in Translation Series” has just put out the translation, *Rain (Diary of an Insomniac)* by famous Algerian author Rachid Boudjedra. Valérie wrote the introduction to this volume and is as well the director of the entire series.
- In the December meeting, I held up an impressive volume just out from Oxford, *The Mendelssohns: Their Music in History*, edited by former IWU faculty member, Michael Cooper, and **Julie Prandi**. I promised then to give you the citation for Julie’s chapter in that book, and here it is, “Kindred Spirits: Mendelssohn and Goethe, *Die Erste Walpurgisnacht*.”
Marcia Thomas and co-author Kathe Conley from ISU had their article, “Partnership for a Community Cancer Information Center,” published as the lead article in the latest issue of Illinois Libraries. Marcia characterizes the article as “a description and analysis of a local grant project that Kathe and I worked on with the Community Cancer Center in Normal . . . to purchase library materials for the Cancer Center . . . and [set] up the Center’s new library. Good work, in many ways, Marcia!

David Vayo reports that his composition Five Small Packages for string quartet was performed late last November at the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts during a concert presented by the Mid-Atlantic Chamber Music Society.

3. By now you have tried out this first attempt at delivering materials for the General Faculty Meeting electronically. If you have any suggestions for improvement, Fran, Tim McKeown and I are ready to receive them. Our current “tight fiscal position” (as the President of the Board recently called it) gives us all the impetus we need to pay attention to different ways of doing things that will help save our environment while we’re also saving money. I have, consequently, asked the Committee for a Sustainable Campus (CSC) to offer a brief “tip of the week,” to be posted on faculty and staff listservs during this semester. To get us started off right, the CSC sent along the following list of tips that will be expanded in the weekly communications:
ENERGY SAVING TIPS

• Program your computer to go on standby and your monitor to turn off, if you are going to be away from it for more than 20 minutes. Contact IT for programming directions.

• Turn your computer off when you go home during the evening.

  Turning your computer on and off regularly does not damage the computer or shorten its life.

• Disable your screen saver.

  Screen savers are unnecessary to prevent damage to computer monitors when they are left on. Instead, they use energy

• After your class is over, turn off the lights in the classroom if there is no other class scheduled afterwards.

• Remember to turn off the projectors in the media classrooms.

WHY SHOULD WE CONSERVE ENERGY?

Approximately one pound of air pollution is emitted for every kilowatt of electricity produced by coal-fired power plants.

In the U.S., over one third of all carbon dioxide emissions (the major greenhouse gas responsible for global climate change) come from producing electricity.

In Illinois, a mercury advisory was recently issued for fish consumed from any body of water in the state. One third of this mercury comes from coal-fired power plants that produce electricity.

Conserving energy saves money:

  At IWU, the Ames Library staff and members of the Committee for a Sustainable Campus have calculated that by turning staff computers off at night/on weekends, and by shutting down half the workstations over breaks, the library alone can save over $4,300 in a year and prevent the emission of over 32,000 pounds of air pollutants.

ONE IMPORTANT TIP FOR THE NEW TERM ON REDUCING PAPER CONSUMPTION:

• Require students to turn in assignments double-sided and single-spaced.

  This reduces paper consumption by 75% compared to single-sided, double-spaced assignments. It not only saves trees, but reduces the production of cancer-causing dioxins and conserves energy as well.