

SEEKING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE:

Last Spring, the President in a statement before the Senate requested the termination of all "non-essential" searches, thereby ending a search by the History department for a Diplomatic Historian. Since that time, this Department has faced two great gaps in the curriculum design of its three degree programs with the loss of the Latin American specialist and the 19th Century American specialist. The Department's teaching faculty agreed to "make do" until the University's financial system became better and we could begin to rebuild the programs by hiring essential replacements. However, at the first Senate meeting of the 2002-2003 school year, the President informed the Senators about four national searches for Administrative officers, two of which are already underway. By this action, one might assume then that there is at the very least monies available to replace teaching faculty at this teaching University and the Department will not have to "make do" for much longer.

Based on information which I have received from my Department Chair, this is NOT the case. All faculty positions remain frozen. If this is true, then this University is on its way to becoming even more "top-heavy" and in the process, denying the essential relevance of the teaching faculty. It does not make financial or ethical sense to replace interim administrative officers and leave programs such as ours without the necessary personnel to continue to effectively serve the History Department majors and minors, the General Education program, the Graduate School, and the College of Education. This Department cannot be the only one facing such a crisis.

Be it therefore resolved:

That the number of Administrators (includes executive and administrative officers and professional non-faculty) at this Institution has increased and continues to increase (516 in '99, 572 in '00, 599 in '01);

That the Administrative searches underway be terminated and that Interim Administrative personnel "make do" until a better economic future is proposed;

That as monies become available, said funds be allocated first for teaching faculty replacement positions at Eastern Kentucky University and then for hiring additional teaching faculty (680 in '99, 643 in '00, 643 in '01).

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