Greetings. My name is Amy K. Wendland and I am your new faculty representative. I’m honored to represent the faculty, and I look forward to getting to know you as we work together.

As you know in the past there have been substantive discussions about faculty salaries and equity distribution. While we still have work to do to meet parity with comparable institutions, faculty are aware that administration is making a good faith effort to address these concerns. Recent raises and equity adjustments are particularly appreciated in light of the challenging economic climate and decreased funding levels for higher education.

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Two current areas of faculty concern:

1. Curricular change in response to state compliance issues
   Background: Demands for accountability and measurable outcomes/performance achievements have increased state scrutiny of higher education. Fort Lewis, along with other Colorado colleges and universities, recently completed a curricular audit to check statutory compliance. Fort Lewis was out of compliance in three key areas:
   - Our liberal arts general education core course requirements exceed the state limit of 40 credits. We need to cut 5-7 credits from the core to meet regulatory standards.
   - Some Fort Lewis GT Pathways courses are out of compliance with state content and competency regulations.
   - In some majors, it is difficult if not impossible for students to complete graduation requirements in four years and within 120 credits.

   The good news is that we’re not the only school out of compliance. The bad news is that we need to meet statutory regulations by December 1st of 2012. Curricular revision of this scale and complexity will require faculty to make difficult decisions in short order. The SEC, Faculty Senate, General Education Council, QI Taskforce and others are working diligently in conjunction with administration to come up with solutions that meet state requirements, foster student success, and maintain our curricular and intellectual integrity.

2. Workplace safety
   On March 5th of this year, the state Supreme Court ruled that students with permits could carry concealed weapons on campus. Several faculty have expressed fears about workplace safety given the fact students are “packing heat.” Of course Fort Lewis must abide by Colorado state law. In order to support faculty, we are considering some in-service training that reviews procedures for managing conflict and dealing with threatening or disruptive student behaviors.

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Like all of higher education, Fort Lewis College faces many challenges. As funding is restricted, new mandates and student services are expected. I believe we are on the right track: leaner (if not meaner), more strategically and ideologically focused than ever before. Thank you and I look forward to updating you on faculty progress meeting some of these challenges.

Respectfully,
Amy K. Wendland
Professor of Art
Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees