

# Committee seeks ways to increase voice on issues

By Kristin K. Anderson

Presidential searches, college restructuring and ways to strengthen faculty input are among topics to be addressed by the Ad Hoc University Committee on Faculty Voice.

The committee, established by resolution during the MSU Academic Senate last April, has been meeting weekly since late October to develop a series of principles to guide its deliberations and look at ways to increase faculty voice in university decisions. About 50 faculty members attended the first forum held on Nov. 29.

David Porteous, chairperson of the MSU Board of Trustees, spoke with the participants about the board's desire to strengthen the board and faculty relationships, and heard from faculty about various concerns on university issues.

"We have heard from faculty liaisons to the board, and from faculty through e-mails and letters," Porteous said. "We want to have better communications and a better understanding of the issues. We welcome your feedback to help all of us reconnect."

"This first forum was excellent, and accomplished two things," said Maureen McDonough, professor of forestry and chairperson of the committee. "It clarified several of the issues that resonate with faculty. It also was a healthy discussion about how the board works and about university life and administrative policies."

Faculty voice committee members have received input from faculty through discussions, e-mails and letters, and have

compiled an initial list of issues associated with governance and faculty participation in university decisions to be addressed at future forums.

Issues also include improving communications between faculty and administrators, widening faculty participation in governance, and the protection of critical university interests.

Faculty may view the list of principles and issues on ANGEL, and provide commentary and input through ANGEL, e-mail, or contact members of the committee, or contact the Office of the Secretary for Academic Governance at [acadgov@msu.edu](mailto:acadgov@msu.edu). Input from faculty, members of the administration and Board of Trustees is welcome.

Committee members are McDonough; Howard Brody, University Distinguished Professor of family practice; Ken Harrow, professor of English; Les Manderscheid, professor emeritus in the Graduate School; and Mike Moch, professor of management.

In accordance with the Academic Senate resolution, the committee will be presenting its report on issues and any alternative strategies to the Faculty Council early in the spring semester.

"Faculty are welcome to attend meetings of the committee and the open forums," McDonough said. "We are working to assess consensus on issues important to faculty at MSU so that they can be addressed."

For more information contact the Office of the Secretary for Academic Governance at (517) 355-2337.