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Dr. Donald Schmeltekopf: Upholding a Tradition of Caring and Excellence

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Dr. Donald Schmeltekopf is excited about his new position as Provost of Mars Hill College, and takes his responsibility to provide a quality campus life for all students, faculty and staff very seriously. In a memorandum dated June 1, 1988 and addressed to the Mars Hill College community, Dr. Schmeltekopf outlined ten commitments of the college. These are ideals which are rooted in college tradition and form the basis for its many programs, according to Dr. Schmeltekopf; they should be familiar to members of the campus community. However, he states them as a means of renewing and clarifying our common purpose."

The first two commitments are the ones that set MHC apart from most other colleges. First, Mars Hill is committed to the Christian faith" and the "primary affirmation of this college community is that every aspect of our institutional life and mission is within the larger context of the purposes of God." Second, MHC is committed to its students and their development: physically, socially, in-

tellectually, morally and spiritually.

Of course, MHC is committed to providing a quality undergraduate education. In doing this, the college aspires to the pursuit of truth in every field, maintaining a policy of "fair play" with regard to the "expression and criticism of beliefs, ideas, research and related intellectual activities."

Other commitments include that of a quality campus life for students and faculty alike. This aspect covers all of the facilities — such as the cafeteria, housing and gymnasium, and MHC's commitment to the provision of a variety of co-curricular activities for all members of the college community deals with the programs which utilize these facilities — such as athletics, theatre and cultural events.

The college also seeks honesty in dealing with students and colleagues, the "ongoing professional development and enhancement of faculty and staff members," and positive relations with the outside world.

This year, Dr. Schmeltekopf plans on dealing with four areas of special

concern in order to reach his goal of providing a quality campus life. These four areas are enrollment, program assessment, buildings and grounds and the budget.

In the area of enrollment, Dr. Schmeltekopf expresses his satisfaction with the current enrollment. The number of new students enrolled as of August 17 was 433, which represents an increase of nearly one-third over last year. This increase can be explained by a "sound approach to recruitment and by the hard and effective work of a lot of people," according to the Provost. In addition, the members of the student retention program are working hard and expect a high level of success in the coming years — their goal is 72-75% from year to year.

Another special concern is in the area of program assessment, which is being directed by new Dean of Faculty Earl Leininger, and carried out by the college Plans and Policies Committee. This study will answer such questions as the relationship between the majors and the mission of the col-

lege, the "balance between theory and practice" and the placement of graduates.

Dr. Schmeltekopf also intends to focus his attention on the maintenance and improvement of campus facilities, in the area of buildings and grounds. Recent developments include the renovation of Huffman and Edna Moore dormitories this spring and summer, and the refurbishment of Stroup, the apartments and the townhouses which is scheduled for next summer. Renovations on several academic buildings are also being planned.

The campus beautification program, which is directed by a faculty committee, is also contributing greatly to the appearance of the MHC campus. Members of the committee take pride in the work that they are doing to make our campus a nicer place to live, work and learn.

Another of Dr. Schmeltekopf's prime concerns is to ensure that the college operates well within its budget. The higher enrollment will be of great assistance in achieving this goal, according to the Provost.

What Is a Provost?

Effective June 1, Dr. Donald Schmeltekopf became Mars Hill College's first Provost. Dr. Schmeltekopf had been the Vice President and Academic Dean of the college for three years prior to that date.

The new administrative position of Provost was created last spring in order to lighten President Fred Bentley's workload, thereby freeing more of Dr. Bentley's time for college fund-raising campaigns. The Provost deals mainly with the internal organization and management of the college, of which he is chief operating officer. The President, on the other hand, is directly in charge of the external operations of the college, and indirectly — through the Provost — in charge of internal affairs. Although Dr. Schmeltekopf is responsible for coordinating and providing leadership to the various upper-level officers of the college, he still reports to Dr. Bentley, who must give approval to all policy changes.

The new distribution of duties appears to be working quite well.



Provost Donald Schmeltekopf

President Bentley now has more time to solicit funding for the various parts of the Development Campaign, and Dr. Schmeltekopf can give his complete attention to ensuring that MHC provides a quality campus life for everyone.

Administration Makes Further Changes

Becky Horner
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The administration of MHC has undergone serious changes this fall, and the appointment of Dr. Donald Schmeltekopf as Provost left a vacancy at his former position of Dean. This opening was filled when Dr. Earl Leininger, former chairman of the Division of Humanities and twenty-year veteran of the MHC faculty, was promoted to the position of Dean of Faculty on August 1.

Dr. Leininger, who holds Bachelor of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has taught religion, philosophy and the year-old Humanities I course, as well as serving on a variety of committees, both on and off campus.

"I was looking for a new challenge," Dr. Leininger says of his position as Dean of Faculty, "and I think I found it." His new respon-

sibilities include the development, coordination, implementation and assessment of the curriculum and the instructional program. He also supervises the various administrators within the departments of the academic program. Dr. Leininger also plans to continue teaching one course each semester, which will give him an opportunity to meet and talk with the students, something which he sees as very important.

Professor Betty Hughes will succeed Dr. Leininger as chairman of the Division of Humanities, which includes such areas as English, History, Modern Foreign Languages and Religion/Philosophy. A member of the MHC faculty for over twenty years, she has proven her outstanding worth on the instructional staff of the college, receiving the "Excellence in Teaching Award" several years ago.