Dear Fellow Biology Teachers,

Many happy returns on the new year and hopes that all your classes are going well. As I am sure it has been for all of you, this seems to be an extremely busy year. As Americans we watch the changes in eastern Europe and as biologists we are seeing equally dramatic changes within our discipline; from mRNA that may mutate in transit, to synapses that store neurotransmitters as part of learning. It is an exciting and historical time.

The Association of Midwest College Biology Teachers is also undergoing some dramatic changes. The Steering Committee met in December and under the wonderful direction of Leland Hansen developed an exciting program for our meeting at Terre Haute, October 11-13, 1991. Indiana State has opened a new Biotechnology Center, and the program (see description in this issue) focuses on the incorporation of biotechnology in schools such as ours.

Additionally, we are writing an NSF grant using AMBCT as a consortium. The Undergraduate Faculty Enhancement Program seems a natural for us since it is intended for the "development and implementation of ways to assist large numbers of faculty to learn new ideas and techniques in their fields, and to use the knowledge and experience to improve their undergraduate teaching abilities. ... Projects must be regional or national in scope, and may include seminars, short courses, workshops, and conferences, or a series of such activities, but are not limited to these." The grant must be submitted by April 16, 1990, and I hope to be able to report on it in Terre Haute. Active members of AMBCT will have high priority in opportunities to participate in any programs we would offer should the grant be funded.

I want to remind all of you also of Russ Wagner's motion at our meeting at Beloit. The motion stated that each of us would make every effort to be sure our students get experience in the field each semester. This motion got unanimous endorsement at both the Beloit and Quincy meetings, so may I remind you to try and incorporate its spirit into your curriculum.

Lastly, two thoughts about our meetings. When you order materials from a company that has displayed its products at our meetings, please mention that you saw its display at an AMBCT meeting. This sort of acclamation will encourage vendors to continue their support of our organization. Finally, above all, bring someone with you to Terre Haute. Bring someone who hasn't come to AMBCT in a while, or, even better, someone new. Call a school near you that doesn't send people often or ever, tell them about the meeting, and offer to be their host.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Terre Haute in 1990 and in Kansas City in 1991.

Dick Wilson, President 89-90
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