

## **FACULTY SENATE MEETING AUGUST 26, 2013**

**Members present:** Jim Allen, Tara McLendon, Seyed Allameh, Michael Baranowski, Diana Belland, Richard Boyce, Carol Bredemeyer, Gary Clayton, Kim Clayton-Code, Steve Crites, Roxanne Kent-Drury, Jacqueline Emerine, Irene Encarnacion, Nancy Firak, Richard Fox, Steven Gores, Lisa Holden, Barbara Houghton, Doug Hume, Gabe Sanders (for Mary Kirk), Kajsa Larson, Gail Mackin, Joe Mester, John Metz, Karen Mutsch, Margaret Myers, Catherine Neal, Louise Niemer, Jeanne Pettit, Will Peveler, KC Russell, Ron Shaw, Laura Sullivan, Jim Thomas, Steve Weiss, Jeffrey Williams, Xiaoni Zhang, Stephen Johnson

Tamara O'Callaghan, Parliamentarian, was present.

**Members absent:** Perry Bratcher, Rich Gilson, Sandra Grinnell, Debra Kasel, Ausbra McFarland

**Guests:** Geoffrey Mearns, Gail Wells, Sara Sidebottom, Mary Lepper, Alar Lipping, Grace Hiles

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Steve Weiss at 3:00pm with a quorum present. He welcomed everyone back for the new school year. The minutes of the May 10, 2013 meeting were approved. President Weiss announced the death of senator Perry Bratcher's father and former faculty member and administrator Sandy Easton. A moment of silence was observed. New senators and those returning to the Senate after a hiatus introduced themselves. President Weiss introduced two new members of the Executive Committee – Kimberly Clayton-Code (Chair, Benefits Committee) and Tamara O'Callaghan who has been appointed Parliamentarian.

A resolution of appreciation for President Mearns was read by Vice President Carol Bredemeyer and approved by the Senate. A copy is attached to these minutes.

### **GUEST REPORTS**

#### **President Mearns:**

- He has been impressed with the high level of student engagement
- Honors Program enrollment is up 15%
- The Strategic Planning Committee met with the Board of Regents in July; they have had conversations with various groups. A proposed draft will be released soon with open forums to follow
- 23.3 average ACT for entering class
- SAT scores 30 and over have doubled
- The number of remedial credit hours is down 11%
- Total undergrad enrollment down 1.3%; transfers are also down
- Freshman-sophomore retention improved only modestly and needs attention
- Graduate enrollment is down 6.2%
- Provost Search Committee meeting this week to select semi-finalists; Dean searches will begin soon

**Provost Wells:**

- The average credit hour load has risen 11.9%; we need to encourage more student to take a heavier load
- 92.9% of bachelors seeking freshmen had 1 or no deficiencies
- ACT scores – 26 – 132 students; 27 – 111; 28 – 91; 29 – 53; 30 – 57; 31 – 40; 32 and above – 46
- The qualifications of new faculty were lauded
- The Technology Bar at the Student Success Center has been busy
- There will be an announcement soon for funding for student research

**Faculty Regent Jacqueline Emerine:**

- The Board of Regents does not vote at their summer meeting, but heard a presentation on the Strategic Plan
- Next meeting is September 11; the agenda will be sent to faculty

**Unfinished Business:** Michael Baranowski reported for the Distinguished Professor Committee. They were charged with resolving one issue concerning Item #2 (Initiation of Request) in the proposal passed at the May meeting. The committee recommended leaving the language “A letter of recommendation from an evaluator not affiliated with NKU must be included in the faculty member’s submission.” A motion to amend this to read “An external letter of support must be included in the faculty member’s submission” PASSED. A motion to have submissions take place in the spring semester PASSED. A motion to start the process in the Spring of 2014 if possible PASSED.

**Electronic RPT presentation** – Sarah Mann and Melissa Jones (Prof., Special Education) gave a presentation about the new electronic RPT submission process which will be done via Blackboard. All new faculty this year will use this process. An FAQ will be sent to the Senators. They hope to have an interface with Digital Measures in the future. Casey Lundberg is providing support to faculty.

**Officer Reports**

**President (Steve Weiss):** Please call him with issues or if you would like him to come to your department meeting. His goal is for Senate meetings to be over by 4:30.

**Vice President (Carol Bredemeyer):** No report

**Parliamentarian (Tamara O’Callaghan):** No report

**Committee Reports**

**UCC (Richard Fox):** A summary of last year’s activities was distributed. 969 changes to SAP have been done by the Registrar - @750 of those were approved by the UCC. The first meeting will be 9/5 – the committee meets the first and third Thursdays. Forms and schedules can be accessed at <https://access2.nku.edu/UCC/index.aspx> or via the Senate web page.

**Budget (Gary Clayton):** They hope to have the survey out by mid-October.

**General Education (Steve Weiss):** The committee needs to select a new chair and new members are needed from Arts & Sciences.

**TEEC ( Ken Rhee):** The committee is soliciting ideas for workshops in the spring; They are working on evaluations for independent study and also whether to include finals week in the evaluation period.

President Weiss thanked the Executive Committee members for their hard work.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10pm to an Open Forum.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Bredemeyer, Acting Secretary