

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

April 21, 2014

Members present: Jim Allen, Seyed Allameh, Matt Albritton, Michael Baranowski, Diana Belland, Richard Boyce, Perry Bratcher, Carol Bredemeyer, Gary Clayton, Kim Clayton-Code, Steve Crites, Roxanne Kent-Drury, Jacqueline Emerine, Irene Encarnacion, Nancy Firak, Richard Fox, Lisa Holden, Doug Hume, Stephen Johnson, Debra Kasel, Gail Mackin, Ausbra McFarland, John Metz, Karen Mutsch, Margaret Myers, , Tamara O'Callaghan, Jeanne Pettit, Will Peveler, Patrick Schultheis, Sandra Spataro, Laura Sullivan, Jim Thomas, Steve Weiss, Jeffrey Williams,

Members absent: Sandra Grinnell, Steven Gores, , Mary Kirk, Kajsa Larson, Catherine Neal Louise Niemer, KC Russel, Ron Shaw, Xiaoni Zhang

Guests: Geoffrey Mearns, Sue Ott Rowlands, Mary Lepper, David Trump, Ken Rhee, Katherine Hannel, Grace Hiles

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Steve Weiss at 3:05 pm with a quorum present. The minutes of the March 17, 2014 meeting were approved.

Guest Reports:

- **University President** (Geoffrey Mearns):
 - The Kentucky state budget process has been finalized. The final recommendations which will have the most impact on NKU are:
 - State funding support for the full cost (\$97M) of the Health Innovations Center (including renovation of Founders Hall)
 - Funding for half of the \$5M increase in the NKU KERS contribution – this would make NKU responsible for between \$2M - \$2.5M.
 - Operations budget cut of 1.5% (roughly \$800K)
 - The NKU Budget details and Strategic Plan implementation presentation will take place on April 30.
 - Appreciation was expressed for the three successful dean searches: Dr. Rebecca Porterfield (Haile/US Bank College of Business), Dr. Cynthia Reed (College of Education and Human Services), and Dr. Katherine Frank (College of Arts and Sciences).
 - Appreciation was expressed to faculty for all their hard work during the year. Evidence of the impact of faculty can be seen in the various campus-wide student recognition events.
- **Provost** (Sue Ott-Rowlands):
 - Search is underway for the VP of Enrollment and Degree Management.
 - The Academic Innovation Implementation Team will be finalizing their recommendations in mid-May.
 - The Faculty/Staff Internal Advisory Board (led by the Provost) of the Health Innovations Center project is beginning their work.

- The Provost met with the Chairs and Deans regarding the Credit Hour Policy. As a result, the reporting process has been simplified, rather than using the implementation procedures outlined in the Feb. 17, 2014 Faculty Senate Minutes. This process will begin in the fall semester. Chairs will be rolling out the details to their departments. The “long form” presented at last month’s Senate meeting will still be made available for faculty to use for planning purposes, but will not be required.
- **Faculty Regent** (Jacqueline Emerine): The Board of Regents will meet on May 7.

Officer Reports:

- **President** (Steve Weiss):
 - Due to the growth of the university and the changing roles of faculty over the past several years, the governance structure of the Faculty Senate needs to be reviewed. Steve, as President of the Faculty Senate, will review the issue over the summer which would in turn necessitate redrafting the Senate Constitution. A report will be made in the fall semester.

Committee Reports:

- **Professional Concerns** (Jeffrey Williams):
 - An analysis of the results of the 2014 Faculty Survey of Activities and Opinions will be released soon to all faculty. It will include comparisons with the results of the same survey in 2008.
- **Benefits** (Kim Clayton-Code):
 - Currently reviewing Faculty Senate scholarship applications. Winners will be announced at the Faculty Senate luncheon on May 2.
 - Project Grant applicants are receiving feedback regarding their proposals. This was part of a pilot project implemented this spring.
- **Budget** (Gary Clayton):
 - Currently reviewing information regarding the comparison of NKU faculty salaries to CUPA.
- **University Curriculum Committee** (Richard Fox):
 - Currently reviewing the graduation requirement for a minor/focus area. Discussion will continue into the fall semester. The Academic Innovation Implementation Team and Strategic Plan recommendations may affect the discussions.
- **Teaching Effectiveness and Enhancement Committee:** (Ken Rhee):
 - Workshop on “Flipping the Classroom” will take place this week.

New Business:

- **Professional Concerns Committee** (Jeffrey Williams): The following proposals were distributed and will be up for a vote at the May 7 Faculty Senate meeting:
 - Faculty Handbook; *modification of 'Conditions to be Removed' policy: Section II F.* Discussion ensued regarding who gets copies of Dean/Provost letters and how to handle this situation now that electronic submission is being implemented.
 - Faculty Handbook; *inclusion of policy for pausing probationary period in exceptional circumstances: VII Tenure in Section G.* The Provost emphasized that “stopping the clock” on tenure will not result in bias regarding RPT decisions.
 - Faculty Handbook; *revision of Faculty and University Policy: Part Two, Sections I and II.* These changes mostly clean up the language in these sections – no changes in substance.

Other:

- **Student Government** (David Trump, VP): The following resolutions are being proposed to the Student Government Association:
 - Introduction of a Course of American Sign Language be added to the Culture and Creativity part of the Foundation of Knowledge requirements.
 - Modifications take place to the sand volleyball courts area, including a walkway and more seating near the courts – primarily for the benefit of those with disabilities.
 - Request that professors submit book selections for courses no later than 21 days before the beginning of classes for that semester. Subsequent discussion pointed out that the bookstore currently has a policy requiring professors to submit *more* than 21 days prior to the semester and that certain circumstances beyond faculty control may be relevant regarding this issue.
 - Support of the installation of an additional nationally branded food concept in the Northern Fare Food Court.
 - Request for more printers be installed in high traffic areas around campus.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry Bratcher
Secretary