

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

January 27, 2014

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

Members absent: Carol Bredemeyer, Louise Niemer, KC Russel,

Guests: Geoffrey Mearns, Sue Ott Rowlands, Mary Lepper, David Trump, Alar Lipping, 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 December 13, 2013 meeting were approved.

Guest Reports:

- **University President** (Geoffrey Mearns):
 - The call to close the university due to weather is ultimately up to President Mearns. Please be patient regarding these closings due to the unpredictability of the weather. Apologies for the late closing announcement for Saturday Jan. 25.
 - The NKU Strategic Plan is now on the website and has been distributed in print. The implementation process is beginning. A half-day retreat for those serving on major planning committees will take place on Jan. 29.
 - The Governor has submitted his budget proposal for considerations. This is the beginning of a process which will end in mid-April and nothing is final at this time. Thus far, the major elements of particular interest to NKU are:
 - State funding support for the full cost (\$97M) of the Health Innovations Center (including renovation of Founders Hall)
 - Funding of 50% of the increase in the NKU KERS contribution – this would make NKU responsible for around \$2.5M
 - Cut in the operations budget of 2.5% (\$1M)
 - An article from the TaxProf Blog was distributed which praised the strength of Northern Kentucky University.
 - The university is beginning to move forward to implement the NKU Tobacco Free policy
- **Provost** (Sue Ott Rowlands):

- Provost Rowlands expressed that she is looking forward with working with the faculty and Faculty Senate and is now working on scheduling departmental meetings.

Committee Reports:

- **Benefits:** NR
- **Budget –** NR
- **Professional Concerns -** NR
- **Teaching Effectiveness and Enhancement Committee -** NR
- **University Curriculum** (Richard Fox):
 - Working on a credit hours policy mandated by the federal government and SACS.
- **Distinguished Professor:** A Distinguished Professor Implementation Committee was formed by the Provost last fall regarding implementation of the Distinguished Professor recommendations made at the May 2013 Faculty Senate meeting. This committee was co-chaired by Michael Baronowski (Chair of the Faculty Senate Distinguished Professor Committee which created the document) and Dean Kevin Kirby. Members of the committee included faculty, department chairs, and deans. This committee's final recommendations were presented to the Senate for discussion. After discussion, two major changes were made to those recommendations. First, the definition of a Distinguished Professor was amended to read as follows: *"A distinguished professor holds all the qualifications of a professor and is recognized as having demonstrated sustained excellence in teaching; a continued record of high-quality scholarly and/or creative activity; significant service activity, including exemplary service to the university as revealed through a significant body of work in areas such as curriculum development, public engagement, faculty mentoring, and department/college/university governance; and professional recognition at the national or international level. These criteria are listed in order of importance."* Second, the Faculty Senate approved that the salary increase for promotion from Professor to Distinguished professor be 8% without a cap on the number of promotions per year. This is the same criteria as for other faculty rank promotions. The document, as amended, was approved. The complete document (as amended) is attached as a separate document.

New Business:

- **Faculty Handbook Preface** (Jeffrey Williams, Chair – Professional Concerns Committee): a draft of the Faculty Handbook Preface was distributed. Comments regarding revisions were noted and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee will work on a revised document. This document was created to provide a clarified status and practical definition of the Faculty Handbook in relation to other campus policies.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Perry Bratcher
Secretary