

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING

February 17, 2014

**Members present:** Jim Allen, Seyed Allameh, Michael Baranowski, Diana Belland, Richard Boyce, Perry Bratcher, Carol Bredemeyer, Gary Clayton, Kim Clayton-Code, Jacqueline Emerine, Irene Encarnacion, Nancy Firak, Richard Fox, Steven Gores, Lisa Holden, Doug Hume, Stephen Johnson, Debra Kasel, Mary Kirk, Phil McCartney (for Gail Mackin), Ausbra McFarland, John Metz, Karen Mutsch, Margaret Myers, Louise Niemer, Tamara O'Callaghan, Will Peveler, Patrick Schultheis, Sandra Spataro, Laura Sullivan, Jim Thomas, Steve Weiss, Jeffrey Williams, Xiaoni Zhang

**Members absent:** Matt Albritton, Steve Crites, Roxanne Kent-Drury, Sandra Grinnell, Kajsa Larson, Catherine Neal, Jeanne Pettit, KC Russell, Ron Shaw

**Guests:** Geoffrey Mearns, Sue Ott Rowlands, Mary Lepper, David Trump, Grace Hiles

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Steve Weiss at 3:00 pm with a quorum present. The minutes of the January 27, 2014 meeting were approved.

### Guest Reports:

- **University President** (Geoffrey Mearns):
  - The Kentucky budget process is underway. The governor met with university presidents last week. Priorities for NKU are:
    - State funding support for the full cost (\$97M) of the Health Innovations Center (including renovation of Founders Hall)
    - Funding for 50% of the increase in the NKU KERS contribution – this would make NKU responsible for around \$2.5M instead of \$5M
    - Restoration of the cut in the operations budget of 2.5% (\$1.2M)
  - The change in the funding formula for state universities is making progress, but will probably be a long-term goal.
  - Due to the Kentucky budget process and other factors, this will be a difficult year for the NKU budget process. The campus-wide budget presentation will take place on April 30, 10am.
  - Two advisory boards are being created to gather ideas for the Health Innovations Center: Faculty/Staff Internal Advisory Board (led by the Provost), and the External Advisory Board (led by the President). The goal of these groups is to have an action plan by the end of December, 2014.
  - Catherine Neal (Assoc. Prof. Business Ethics & Business Law) will discuss her experience writing the book *Taking Down the Lion*, a look at the controversial CEO of Tyco International, Dennis Kozlowski at the Chellgren Pathways to Entrepreneurship Speaker Series on Feb. 19 at 6pm.
- **Provost** (Sue Ott-Rowlands):
  - Learning a lot about campus operations and holding departmental meetings.

- Academic Innovation Implementation Team has met and formed subcommittees. This is part of the campus strategic planning process. In the future, surveys and campus meetings will take place to gather faculty input.
- Three dean searches (Arts and Sciences, Business, and Education and Human Services) are underway with a target of mid-March through mid-April for on-campus interviews.
- **Faculty Regent** (Jacqueline Emerine):
  - The Faculty Regent of Murray recently held a Skype session and invited all of the state university Faculty Regents to discuss state budget and retention issues.
  - The next Board of Regents meeting is March 2. Let Jacqueline know of any comments/questions which should be brought forward.
- **Student Government Association** (David Trump, Vice-President): Two SGA proposals were brought forward for faculty commentary:
  - Resolution regarding Finals Week preparation: after discussion the Senate moved that the proposal be sent to committee for language clarification. The Executive Committee of Faculty Senate will discuss this issue and forward to the appropriate committee if needed.
  - Resolution regarding the creation of a Norse Path. This proposal was sent back to SGA to get more clarification on funding/responsibility issues.

#### **Officer Reports:**

- **President** (Steve Weiss):
  - Tobacco free Policy: The campus-wide committee is still revising the document, particularly regarding enforcement. It was agreed by the committee that the university shouldn't discriminate on status (faculty/staff/student/other) regarding "punishment". Discussion ensued. Ideas are still being explored. The revision of the policy will come back to Faculty Senate for commentary.
  - The Academic Innovation Implementation Team has formed subcommittees and work is going well. If you have any comments/suggestions, please send to Steve.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- **Benefits:** NR
- **Budget** (Gary Clayton): Priority Spending Survey results to be reviewed by committee next week and will be released to all faculty sometime after that.
- **Professional Concerns** (Jeffrey Williams):
  - The Faculty Activities and Opinion survey is now being administered. This is a good time to conduct the survey, since a new President and Provost are in place since the last survey (2008). It will also be good to compare results to the last survey.
  - The Faculty Handbook Preface was approved with one minor change. The word "specific" was added to the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph which now reads "...as well as the

obligations of the administration to those faculty, may be defined in specific individual faculty appointment forms....”

- **Teaching Effectiveness and Enhancement Committee:** (Ken Rhee): Two upcoming workshops:
  - Peer Coaching in Teaching (3/19-20)
  - Flipping (4/23-24)
- **University Curriculum** (Richard Fox):
  - Working on a credit hours policy mandated by the federal government and SACS.

**New Business:**

- **Policy Recommendation on Extension of Probationary Period:** (Jeffrey Williams, Chair – Professional Concerns Committee): a draft of the recommendation was distributed for discussion. This recommendation is being made so that there is more standardization across campus. The policy still needs an appeals process and timeframe. Opinions should be sent to Jeffrey for further discussion by the PCC.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Perry Bratcher  
Secretary