

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Nov. 24, 2014

Members present: Matt Albritton, Shannon Alexander, Seyed Allameh, Jim Allen, Matt Asare, Michael Baranowski, Diana Belland, Janel Bloch, Richard Boyce, Perry Bratcher, Carol Bredemeyer, Kim Clayton-Code, Jacqueline Emerine, Richard Fox, Morteza Sadat-Hossieny, Doug Hume, Stephen Johnson, Kajsa Larson, Rick Kolbe, Phil McCartney, Joe Mester, John Metz, Karen Mutsch, Catherine Neal, Tamara O'Callaghan, Jeanne Pettit, KC Russell, Gabe Sanders, Sandra Spataro, Laura Sullivan, Jim Thomas, Steve Weiss, Matthew Zacate, Xianoi Zhang

Members absent: Steve Crites, Ronnie Chamberlain, Roxanne Kent-Drury, Irene Encarnacion, Mary Lee Glore, Debra Kasel, Jennifer Kinsley, Yaw Augustine Frimpong-Mansoh, Ausbra McFarland, Margaret Myers, Louise Niemer, Ron Shaw

Guests: Katherine Hahnel, Ken Rhee, Pat Moynahan, Ken Rhee, 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 Oct. 27, 2014 meeting were.

Guest Reports:

- **University President (Geoffrey Mearns):**
 - Continuing to hold faculty/staff meetings with departments across campus with the Provost
 - “Road to NKU” going well. Last visits will occur in Lexington after the Thanksgiving holidays.
 - The architect and construction manager have been named for construction of the Health Informatics Center. The current schedule calls for plans to be finalized by late spring 2015 with groundbreaking in the summer of 2015 with occupancy set for the fall of 2017. Renovations to Founders Hall will take place the summer and fall of 2018.
 - The funding for additional staff in the Development Office is coming from the university’s endowment fund, not the university budget. Also, net spending from the endowment fund is up which is helping support programs tied to donor wishes – primarily scholarships.
 - The university is currently reviewing software programs used on campus. This includes Digital Measures, BlackBoard, etc. TEEC will be involved in the review of both of these reviews which would include the student evaluation software.
 - The administration continues to review salary compression/inversion issues. In order for substantial changes to take place, the budget must improve.
- **Enrollment Update/Presentation** Kim Scranage (VP Enrollment/Degree Management) and Dr. Vickie Natale (Asst. VP Planning and Performance):
 - Current NKU enrollment is made up of 26% “new” students and 74% “returning” students. NKU graduates about 15% of its student population each year. We

currently lose about 31% of the new students through attrition and 23% of our returning students. As a result, NKU needs to replace 40% of its student body each year. This past year resulted in a 1.1% loss of total student count.

- Retention rates are up slightly from 2013 to 2014.
- Enrollment challenges for NKU include the following factors:
 - State funding
 - Number of high school graduates (declining until 2020)
 - “Competition” from other higher education institutions
 - Federal/state oversight
- Enrollment strategies for the future include initiatives in the following areas: first-time-in-college Freshmen, transfer students, school-based scholars, veterans, international students, graduate programs, and the Chase Law School.
- Enrollment forecasts show a slight increase in first-year students and slight decreases in transfer, graduate and law students resulting in a slight decrease for spring enrollment.

Officer Reports:

- **President (Steve Weiss):**
 - Elections are open and nominations are being accepted for the following:
 - All members of the Senate Executive Committee
 - The following At-Large Senators: Arts and Sciences (2 positions), College of Business (1 position), Stealy Library (1 position)
 - Faculty representation on the following university committees: Peer Review and Advisory Committee, Complaint Process Advisory Committee, Financial Exigency Committee. See the Faculty Senate website for nomination forms and further details.
 - Steve Weiss and Perry Bratcher attended the Staff Congress Roundtable. This was a ½ day meeting of Staff Congress representatives and heads of the major university divisions. At this meeting, previously submitted questions/concerns were addressed by the division heads.
 - Discussion ensued regarding the need for a Graduate Council representative on the Faculty Senate. One idea is to have a Graduate Council representative serve on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (as an ex-officio voting/non-voting member) and/or also an At-Large Senator representative. Senators were asked to take these ideas back to their departments for opinions.
 - Currently discussing with the Provost release time allocation for several positions on the Senate Executive Board.

Committee Reports:

- **University Curriculum Committee (Richard Fox):**
 - The December meeting of the UCC will be the last chance for courses to be added to the undergraduate catalog.

- The following were approved by the required 2/3 majority:
 - Bachelor of Music Education
 - Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education
- **Professional Concerns Committee** (Michael Baranowski):
 - Currently reviewing workflow/compensations issues which resulted in a review of the Senate Constitution showing several Budget Committee responsibilities which would necessitate release time.
 - The Faculty Handbook Committee will resume its work in reviewing the Faculty Handbook in January
- **Benefits Committee** (Matthew Zacate):
 - Recommendations for faculty development awards (sabbaticals, summer fellowships, project grants) have been forwarded to the Provost for review.
 - Feedback will be provided to those who submitted project grants.
- **Teaching Effectiveness and Enhancement Committee:** (Ken Rhee):
 - There were three brown bag lunches in the fall – all of which were successful. Two are planned for the spring.
 - There will be two faculty workshops with the following topics in the spring: 1) Peer Coaching/Assessment for Teaching and 2) Mindfulness/Renewal.
 - The next TEEC newsletter is coming out soon.
 - As previously mentioned, TEEC will have a voice in review of Digital Measures and a possible BlackBoard software replacement.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry Bratcher
Secretary