

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Jan. 26, 2015

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, Steve Crites, Jacqueline Emerine, Irene Encarnacion, Richard Fox, Doug Hume, Stephen Johnson, Debra Kasel, Jennifer Kinsley, Kajsa Larson, Yaw Augustine Frimpong-Mansoh, Phil McCartney, Ausbra McFarland, John Metz, Karen Mutsch, Margaret Myers, Catherine Neal, Louise Niemer, Jeanne Pettit, KC Russell, Gabe Sanders, Ron Shaw Sandra Spataro, Laura Sullivan, Jim Thomas, Steve Weiss, Matthew Zacate, Xianoi Zhang

Members absent: Ronnie Chamberlain, , Mary Lee Glore, Morteza Sadat-Hossieny, Rick Kolbe, Tonya Krouse, Joe Mester

Guests: Geoffrey Mearns, Joel Robinson, Katherine Hahnel, Ken Rhee, Steve Meier, Alar Lipping, Pat Moynahan, 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 Dec. 12 2014 meeting were approved.

Guest Reports:

- **University President** (Geoffrey Mearns):
 - Annual Code of Conduct document has been distributed for university employee acknowledgement. This document hasn't changed in the past few years. Concerns? Let Professional Concerns Committee know. There was significant discussion regarding the purpose and language of the document expressed by Senators attending the meeting.
 - Outstanding student athletes were recognized last week. The cumulative GPA for this group is 3.22 with some individual team averages above 3.5. There were 125 individual athletes with GPA's above 3.5.
 - Health Innovations Center (HIC) update: The internal advisory committee report has been finalized and will be posted on the HIC website <http://hicinfo.nku.edu/>. The architects will use this information to draft rough plans for the building. The project is proceeding on schedule.
 - Continuing to advocate for the new state funding model. The committee working on this initiative is developing a strategy for the next 12-16 months. The annual meeting of the Northern Ky. Caucus will take place on Feb. 7 and supporters are encouraged to take advantage of the "open microphone" section of the meeting.
 - Enrollment for spring 2015 Freshmen is stable. There are still enrollment challenges for NKU including: retention, transfer enrollments, graduate program enrollment declines. Retention seems to be successful for target groups (Upward Bound, Latino students, etc.)

- There continue to be budget concerns. This has necessitated several actions, including:
 - Change in process for staff vacancies (all need approval of President)
 - 10 faculty positions deferred for at least 1 year
 - Careful review of several university ancillary services (e.g. Childhood center), review of administrative efficiencies. It is doubtful that there will be faculty raises this year.
- There was then an open and spirited discussion between the faculty and University President on several issues. The primary concerns were the following:
 - Code of Conduct form
 - Low morale
 - Outsourcing of records management
 - Outsourcing in the recreation center
 - Faculty salaries
 - Concerns regarding retention – where can we get more information?
 - Digital Measures going out of business – what will be the replacement?
- **Provost Update** (Joel Robinson – Asst. Provost for Special Projects):
 - Faculty Award deadline is approaching – March 2. See <http://academicaffairs.nku.edu/recognition.html> for more information.
 - April 29 Honors & Awards recognition
- **Faculty Regent** (Jacqueline Emerine):
 - Regents met the 2nd week of January. Included in that meeting were approval of Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure decisions, approval of Faculty Benefits Committee recommendations (Sabbaticals, Summer Fellowships, Project Grants), and approval of the School of Arts concept.

Officer Reports:

- **President** (Steve Weiss):
 - The Academic & Admissions Policy Committee has changed membership to include the Deans of all of the colleges. The faculty representative is the Faculty Senate President.

Committee Reports:

- **Benefits Committee** (Matthew Zacate):
 - This spring will be spend on a review of the application process for faculty development awards and expansion of the Project Grant pilot project for providing feedback to those who did not receive awards. Any person who did not receive a reward can meet with Matthew Zacate regarding information about their individual ranking.

- **Curriculum Committee** (Richard Fox):
 - No quorum at the last meeting, decisions were made by email.
 - There will probably be a new program proposal coming to either the February or March Senate meetings.

- **Professional Concerns Committee** (Michael Baranowski):
 - Discussion ensued regarding the Faculty Handbook. The Provost's committee to revise the handbook includes three Senate Professional Concerns Committee members as well as the Senate President. This group will work in concert with the Professional Concerns Committee on revision of the document.
 - Concerns regarding the Code of Conduct should come to this committee for review.

- **Teaching Effectiveness and Enhancement Committee (TEEC)** (Ken Rhee):
 - Two upcoming Brown Bag sessions:
 - Jan. 29 (noon – 1:30) – Assessing Teaching Effectiveness
 - Apr. 24 (noon – 1:30) – Creating Portfolio to Document Teaching Effectiveness)
 - Working on the Development of a template for the review of teaching effectiveness

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry Bratcher
Secretary