

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING

December 11, 2015

**Members present:** Matt Albritton, Shannon Alexander, Michael Baranowski, Diana Belland, Janel Bloch, Richard Boyce, Perry Bratcher, Carol Bredemeyer, Brooke Buckley, Teuta Cata, Ronnie Chamberlain, Steve Crites, Jacqueline Emerine, Irene Encarnacion, Sean Foley, Richard Fox, Doug Hume, Ken Katkin, Trina Koscielicki, Lili Ma, Cecile Marczynski, Joe Mester, Phil McCartney, Melissa Moon, Tamara O'Callaghan, Jeanne Pettit, Gabe Sanders, Cory Scheadler, Ron Shaw, Tracey Sigler, Laura Sullivan, Mark Wasicsko, Matthew Zacate

**Members absent:** Tracey Adams, Kim Clayton-Code, Morteza Sadat-Hossieny, JC Kim, Stephen Johnson, Jennifer Kinsley, Tonya Krouse, Kajsa Larson, , Yaw Frimpong-Mansoh, Catherine Neal, Louise Niemer, David Raska, Sharon Vance

**Guests:** Geoffrey Mearns, Sue Ott Rowlands, Alar Lipping, Will Weber, Katie Lovold, Katherine Hahnel, Adam Caswell, Bill Oliver, Jeff Smith, Jim Thomas, Carrie McCoy, Chuck Frank, Grace Hiles

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Michael Baranowski at 1:00 pm with a quorum present. The minutes of the November 30, 2015 meeting were approved.

### Guest Reports:

- **University President** (Geoffrey Mearns): President Mearns outlined the “Invest in Success” initiative which focuses on outcomes-based funding for Kentucky state-supported higher education institutions. This model would allow more equitable funding for NKU.
  - Highlights of this emphasis particularly important for NKU include:
    - Amongst the five regional universities (excluding KSU which has a different mission than the other regional universities), NKU had the highest FTE student enrollment growth over the 1999-2014 period (34%; lowest =8%)
    - NKU had the highest growth rate (1999-2014) in Bachelor’s degrees awarded (84%; lowest = 26%) amongst the five regional universities
    - State appropriation per FTE student is lowest (\$4,106; highest = \$5,382) for NKU as compared to the five other regional universities
    - State appropriation per Bachelor’s degree is lowest for NKU (\$22,897; highest = \$37,564) as compared to the five other regional universities
    - State appropriation vs. tuition (28%/72%) is lowest for NKU as compared to the five other regional universities (highest: 46%/54%)
  - Another factor influencing NKU’s budget constraints is the high cost of KERS (staff retirement) contribution rates which have risen from 5.89% (2000) to a projected 45% next year. In dollar amounts, this has risen from \$3.9M in 2009/10 to a projected \$17M 2016/17. This equates to 40% of state appropriations being returned to the state for support of KERS.
  - As a result, a CPE (Council of Post-Secondary Education) Resolution emphasizing a more comprehensive funding model was developed in the spring of 2015 and will be

presented to the Kentucky legislature for action. This would include an additional appropriation of \$10.7M to NKU to address the disparity in funding.

- Another issue which needs to be addressed in the funding model involves the use of performance vs. outcomes based measurements. Performance based statistics can be manipulated (retention rates, graduation rates) whereas outcomes based statistics, usually raw numbers, cannot (credit hours earned, degrees awarded).
- The following website contains information on how to advocate for this initiative – including model letters which can be sent to representatives:  
<http://investinsuccessky.com>

- **Provost** (Sue Ott Rowlands):

- All RPT, sabbatical, summer fellowship, and project grant letters have been sent. Congratulations to everyone who received renewals, promotions, and awards
- Fall commencement ceremony is Dec. 12.

- **Faculty Regent** (Rick Boyce):

- Next Board of Regents meeting is Jan. 13, 2016.

#### **Officer Reports:**

- **Senate President** (Michael Baranowski):

- There was a glitch in the election process for Arts & Sciences At-Large Senators. A new ballot will be distributed the first week of classes in the spring semester
- Let Grace Hiles know if anyone is interested in an officer position for the 2016/17 Faculty Senate
- Let Michael know if you have any feedback on how Senate is going this year.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- **University Curriculum Committee** (Richard Fox):

- A few curricular changes were approved past the 12/3/2015 deadline
- Spring semester activities will include implementation of the new curriculum software

- **Professional Concerns** (Ken Katkin): PCC activities include:

- The Handbook Committee and PCC are still working on several issues regarding revisions to the handbook
- The PCC is working with Staff Congress to create a consolidated campus-wide Code of Conduct document. This document will proceed from the PCC to Faculty Senate for review and approval.
- Awaiting responses from President Mearns regarding issues forwarded to him related to campus policing issues.
- Beginning preliminary work on a description of an ombudsperson position

- **Benefits** (Matthew Zacate):

- Spring activities of the committee will include a discussion of how to improve the sabbatical/summer fellowship/project grant application and evaluation process.

- **Budget** (Janel Bloch):
  - The budget priorities survey yielded 321 responses. Results will soon be distributed
  - Reviewing the summer/winter compensation policy. If you would like to volunteer to help in this area, let Janel know.
  - Salary information has been posted in Blackboard under Content→Institution Content→Salary Open records

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry Bratcher  
Secretary