

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING

August 29, 2016

**Members present:** Tracey Adams, Michael Baranowski, Janel Bloch, Richard Boyce, Carol Bredemeyer, Brooke Buckley, Toru Sakaguchi, Christine Curran, Jacqueline Emerine, Irene Encarnacion, Richard Fox, Kathleen Fuegen, Doug Hume, Stephen Johnson, Ken Katkin, JC Kim, Jennifer Kinsley, Tonya Krouse, Christopher Lawrence, Marc Leone, Lili Ma, Ellen Maddin, Yaw Frimpong-Mansoh, Phil McCartney, Carrie McCoy, Marcos Misis, Melissa Moon, Ljubomir Nacev, Tamara O'Callaghan, Deborah Patten, Randy Pennington, Jeanne Pettit, David Raska, Gisele Lorient-Raymer, Gabe Sanders, Cory Scheadler, Ron Shaw, Erin Strome, Laura Sullivan, Sharon Vance, Lynn Warner, Matthew Zacate

**Members absent:** Sean Foley, Trina Koscielicki, David Raska, Steven Weiss

**Guests:** Geoffrey Mearns, Sue Ott Rowlands, Ellen Wilshire, Emily Goebel, Alar Lipping, Chris Bowling, Joan Gates, Dan Nadler, Grace Hiles

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Michael Baranowski at 3:02 pm with a quorum present. The minutes of the May 6, 2016 meeting were approved.

### Guest Reports:

- **University President** (Geoffrey Mearns):
  - Enrollment this fall sees a freshman class with improvements over last year; median ACT score is 24 and median GPA is 3.5. Enrollment has nearly doubled since 2007 for underrepresented minority students and the university has seen continued expansion and diversity with over 80 countries represented in the student body. Freshman to sophomore retention has increased with a 6% increase since 2010 and 13% for underrepresented minorities since 2011. Forums on enrollment and retention strategies are forthcoming.
  - Construction on the Health Innovation Center is making good progress and on schedule. There will be a Topping Out ceremony on September 8, 11:00, Griffin Hall plaza, where any can join President Mearns and the Board of Regents in signing their names on the last steel beam to be erected.
  - Next academic year there will be a task force phase for performance-based funding. The deadline for the task force report is December 1, 2016. Work is underway on mobilizing another faculty/staff advocacy effort in January/February.
  - NKU 360 is slated for November 15. The event is primarily for NKU's over 650 external volunteers, such as board members. A primary goal is to engage these critical volunteers more broadly across the university.
  - A planning committee has been organized for NKU's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018.
  - President Mearns introduced two new members of his Executive Team—Joan Gates, VP for Legal Affairs and General Counsel, and Dan Nadler, VP for Student Affairs.
- **Provost** (Sue Ott Rowlands):
  - A steering committee is being formed for the 2019 accreditation process for SACSCOC. The Provost is accepting self-nominations from interested tenured full-time faculty for consideration in serving on the committee.

- An internal search will be conducted for a current faculty member to serve as Assistant Provost for Special Projects, due to Joel Robinson's departure. The initial appointment will be from January 2, 2017 through June 30, 2018 with possible renewal.
  - The Dean's search for Arts and Sciences is progressing well. There will be sessions for A & S faculty to talk to the Provost and the Search Committee about the search on September 6 and 7 in the Otto Buddig Theatre from 4-5 pm.
  - The Provost is accepting self-nominations from a tenured faculty member with IRB (Institutional Review Board) experience to chair the IRB. This is a three-year term.
  - This is a transitional year for the new budget model. There will be upcoming presentations with model updates.
- **Faculty Regent (Rick Boyce):**
    - The function of the Board of Regents was described and current members listed.
    - The annual retreat was on July 20. The retreat covered the Executive Dashboard update (Statistics/Strategic Plan progress), Enrollment Management plan; Board self-assessment and focus for 2016-17; President Mearns' assessment of 2015-16 and goals for 2016-17; evaluation of President Mearns who is in his fifth and final year of his initial contract (the Board will seek input from campus community via a formal process).
    - The Faculty Facebook page is active with 166 members currently.
    - The next Board of Regents meeting is Thursday, September 8 at 9 am. Agenda items include approval of the graduate certificate program in Emergency Management and approval of tuition/fees for the Nurse Anesthesia program.

#### **Officer Reports:**

- **Senate Vice-President (Carol Bredemeyer):**
  - Plans are underway for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration; send any ideas to Carol who is on the planning committee.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- **University Curriculum Committee (Richard Fox):**
  - Curriculog, the new curriculum process software, is in place. Some problems were described such as the inability to post minutes with the software, only agendas. Training materials will be made available.
  - Workshops to discuss the curriculum process and the new software will be on September 7, 1-2 pm, SU 109 and September 8, 8-9 am, SU 109. Both sessions cover the same content so individuals only need to attend one if interested.
- **Professional Concerns (Ken Katkin):**
  - The committee will address the following issues this year:
    - Information security
    - Public information
    - Policy/procedures for Emeritus faculty/grant-funded research
    - RPT revisions
    - Academic freedom statement
    - Role of Senate in university's policy-making process
    - Compilation/report from Faculty Senate survey

- **Benefits** (Matthew Zacate):
  - Faculty Development award proposals are due October 4 by 4:30 pm.
  - Awards available are 25 sabbaticals (up one from last year), 15 summer fellowships, and \$56,000 for project grants.
  - Two workshops will be offered on 1) overview of approval process, pertinent to new faculty or those new to the process; 2) format and review criteria/common pitfalls. Both workshops will be presented twice. Tentative dates are September 8 at 3:30 and September 9 at noon for workshop #1; September 12 at noon and September 13 at 3:30 for workshop #2.
  - The chosen healthcare provider is Humana; details are forthcoming.
- **Budget** (Janel Bloch):
  - The committee will address the following issues this year:
    - Compression/equity/inversion
    - Summer/winter compensation policy
    - Financial statement/budget analysis
    - Continuing education/new budget model
    - Spending concerns of faculty (athletics, consulting fees)
    - Technology/computer replacement
    - Professional development funds
  - Two staff meetings attended this summer showed concerns related to the budget and position cuts. Involuntary reductions are over; some voluntary reductions are being offered to staff in certain units to meet budget reduction goals. If not met via this route, cuts will be met through vacancies and/or retirements over the academic year.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Faculty Senate Constitution Revision** (Faculty Senate Executive Committee): Rationale for revision includes the need to cleanup language in the document, create a Faculty Advocate position, and revise the committee structure. Discussion will begin at the September meeting after faculty receive feedback from their respective departments. Specific changes to be requested should be sent to the Senate President prior to the meeting.
- It was clarified that Senators are required to be on Senate standing committees. This issue will be discussed further as there seems to be inconsistencies between departments.

#### **New Business:**

- **General Education Committee Bylaws:** APPROVED
- **Graduate Faculty Status Amendment:** APPROVED
- **Emeritus Faculty Society Constitution and By-Laws:** While the Senate generally approves of and is favorable to the idea of the document, it was determined that this item is not within the purview of Faculty Senate. The Society chair will be contacted with that feedback.

**Announcements:**

- **Phil McCartney:** He requested the status of Digital Measures as to a possible replacement.
- **Tamara O'Callaghan:** Described the challenges/problems with parking this past week; i.e., certain lots were blocked by campus police even though spots were available. This caused lateness to classes. Michael will contact campus police about this issue.
- **Michael Baranowski:** A Faculty Senator is needed for the Sustainability Strategy Work Group. This group will only exist until the Sustainability Strategy is completed (April 2017).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura A. Sullivan  
Secretary