

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
February 27, 2017

Members present: Tracey Adams, Michael Baranowski, Janel Bloch, Richard Boyce, Perry Bratcher, Carol Bredemeyer, Brooke Buckley, Christine Curran, Jacqueline Emerine, Irene Encarnacion, Sean Foley, Richard Fox, Kathleen Fuegen, Doug Hume, Stephen Johnson, Ken Katkin, JC Kim, Francoise Knox-Kazimierczuk (for Trina Koscielicki), Tonya Krouse, Christopher Lawrence, Marc Leone, Yaw Frimpong-Mansoh, Phil McCartney, Carrie McCoy, Marcos Misis, Melissa Moon, Ljubomir Nacev, Tamara O'Callaghan, Deborah Patten, Jeanne Pettit, Gisele Lorient-Raymer, KC Russell, Toru Sakaguchi, Gabe Sanders, Ron Shaw, Cory Sheadler, Erin Strome, Laura Sullivan, Sharon Vance, Matthew Zacate

Members absent: Vanessa Hunn, Jennifer Kinsley, Denise Luethge, Ellen Maddin, Randy Pennington, David Raska

Guests: Steven Weiss, Julie Olberding, Tracey Siegler, Sandra Spataro, Emily Detmer, Alar Lipping, Grace Hiles

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Michael Baronowski at 3:05 pm with a quorum present. The minutes of the Jan. 23, 2017 meeting were approved. A moment of silence was observed to honor the passing of faculty member Valerie Rowland, Dept. of Allied Health.

Guest Reports:

- **Provost** (Sue Ott Rowlands):
 - Planning is underway for the opening of the Health Innovations Center, to take place during NKU's 50th anniversary.
 - NKU is partnering with the University of Kentucky and St. Elizabeth Healthcare to develop a UK Medical School Regional Campus at NKU set for launch in the Fall of 2019.
 - Getting ready to convene the NKU Presidential Search Committee
- **Faculty Regent** (Richard Boyce):
 - NKU Presidential Search Committee members will be announced this week. Open forums will occur to gather feedback from faculty.
 - Search for Interim President is ongoing
 - The sale of WNKU was difficult for the Board of Regents. The decision was made primarily for financial reasons. More detailed budget information about the sale will be forthcoming.
 - Next Board of Regents meeting is March 15.
- **Honors College Update** (Idna Corbett): A presentation of the Honors Program proposal was given for the Faculty. This proposal will be voted on at the March Board of Regents meeting. Open forums were held in the fall and suggestions from that meeting were incorporated into the final proposal. The Vision Statement of the Honors College aims to accomplish the following within the next five years:
 - Establish a reputation for academic rigor

- Encourage research, creative, and service activity
- Foster a culture of inclusiveness and transdisciplinarity
- Develop a vibrant community of Honors scholars
- Forge close relationships with academic departments and colleges
- Increase the role of retention and graduation of each student cohort
- Establish articulation agreements and pathways with KCTCS institutions to facilitate transfer of community college students into the Honors College

Honors Faculty will consist of core faculty (members hired by the Honors Program and report to the Honors Director), affiliated faculty (selected from a variety of academic departments who specialize in at least one of the core Honors courses) and associate faculty (members with excellence in teaching from other colleges at NKU or other institutions who have had a seminar proposal accepted by the Honors Council that meets the needs of the Honors curriculum).

An Honors Council will be convened whose main job will be to advise the Director on various issues. A budget has been set for this proposal and a search committee is currently being put together for the Director search.

Committee Reports:

- **University Curriculum** (Richard Fox):
 - **VOTING ITEM:** Changes to the College of Business MBA program reverting the cohort program back to an ordinary program. **PASSED**
 - The Committee has two more meetings before the deadline for Fall 2017 catalog changes.
 - Five new program proposals will probably be coming to the March Senate meeting.
- **Budget** (Janel Bloch):
 - Janel gave a brief campus budget overview highlighting items discussed at the general campus budget forums. These highlights included:
 - **FY17 Budget:**
 - Graduate student enrollment, transfers, and 1st-2nd year retention rates are up.
 - Enrollment is down (back to 2006 levels)
 - Gross revenues are stable due to rate increases
 - Net tuition revenues have declined with a net tuition shortfall of \$1.7M
 - **FY18 Budget:**
 - Currently in the process of developing the FY18 budget. The incentive-based new model starts July 1. This model incorporates three governance committees.
 - Guaranteed increased state appropriations to NKU of \$5.1M
 - Enrollment projections are for a 2%-3% decline with tuition increase estimated between 2%-5%
 - Scholarship and need-based aid will increase

- Fixed costs will increase
 - KERS increase of only around \$400K
 - A 2% tuition increase will likely result in a \$1.1M surplus; a 5% increase will likely result in a \$3.5M increase.
 - A 3% salary increase will result in a \$3.3M budget request. Administrative support requests total \$7.4M.
- Faculty survey results will soon be posted to the Committee's website.
- **Benefits** (Matthew Zacate):
 - **DISCUSSION ITEM (Project Grant funding):** Proposed new wording to section 11.3.3 of the Faculty Handbook to read (change in italics):

Normally the maximum amount for a faculty project grant will be the amount of a faculty summer fellowship. Especially worthy projects, however, may be funded with additional amounts. *Grant funds will be made available on May 1 of the calendar year in which the award is made and must be spent before June 30 of the following calendar year.*
 - Committee is discussing faculty development award increases
 - Committee is discussing the duration of summer fellowships
- **TEEC** (Chris Lawrence): Upcoming workshops:
 - *Making the Most of Blackboard* – March 20th, SU 104 Noon-1pm
 - *An Introduction to Just-In-Time Teaching (JITT)* – April 17th, SU 104, Noon-1pm
- **General Education** (Steve Weiss):
 - Currently undergoing BSLO assessment. Last semester 47.4% artifacts received and 227 of 479 sections provided information.
- **Graduate Programs** (Julie Olberding):
 - **DISCUSSION ITEM (Exceptions and Course Age Reinstatement):** Suggested change in wording for the exception rule (wording change in italics):

Once the student successfully complies with all of the elements in the reinstatement plan, the course is considered valid *for the length of time identified in the reinstatement plan. A course may only be reinstated one time.*

Old Business:

- **Gag Order Resolution [Voting Item]:**

- The following resolution was passed 26 YES, 7 NO:

“Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of Northern Kentucky University respectfully disagrees with the University’s efforts to obtain a gag order to prohibit our student Jane Doe from talking with reporters about the university’s response to her campus sexual assault and recommends that the University, in the future, not seek to prohibit students from talking with the media about matters having to do with the University and its policies.”

By issuing this resolution, the Faculty Senate hopes:

- to formally express the sense of the faculty that the university committed a serious wrong by seeking to prevent a student from speaking publicly about the university’s response to her campus sexual assault;
- to fulfill the faculty’s responsibility to promote and interpret the values set forth in the NKU Values & Ethical Responsibilities Statement and other campus policy documents promulgated through shared governance processes;
- to fulfill the special role of the faculty in protecting and promoting freedom of speech (and academic freedom) on campus, which includes an obligation to speak out against censorship;
- to defend students’ rights
- to avoid communicating through silence that the faculty condones the University’s efforts to censor a student;
- to reduce the chances that the university will seek to censor the speech of students or faculty members in the future.

New Business:

- **Professional Concerns (Ken Katkin):**

- **DISCUSSION ITEM (Change from annual to biennial RPT reviews):** PCC recommends that Faculty Senate adopt amendments to the NKU Faculty Handbook that would implement a change from annual to biennial RPT reviews. These would occur in the 2nd, 4th, and 6th years. Tenure-track faculty members currently in their second, third, or fourth probationary years would be provided the option of continuing with annual, rather than biennial reviews should the amendments be adopted. New hires would fall under the new guidelines.
- **DISCUSSION ITEM (Statement of Solidarity – “We Are NKU”):** The following resolution was presented:

Today, in accordance with Northern Kentucky University’s core values of inclusiveness and nondiscrimination, NKU faculty [and staff] resolve to stand with all members of the NKU community, of all backgrounds, including: race, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, immigration status, and national origin.

We are committed to providing all our students, faculty and staff with a safe and welcoming environment, and ensure their continued ability to thrive on our campus.

We condemn all acts of violence and bias against any religion, and stand in support of those of all faiths, belief systems, races, ethnicities, nationalities, political affiliations, gender expressions or sexual orientation. In so doing, we reaffirm our deep commitment to the freedom of speech of all community members, including the freedom to express political or religious opinions of all varieties. We also resolve, however, never to tolerate acts of discrimination, violence, bias, or hate against any individual member of our university community.

Suggested changes can be forwarded to the PCC Chair, Ken Katkin.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry Bratcher
Secretary