

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**September 25, 2017**

**Members present:** Rachel Banks, Janel Bloch, Richard Boyce, Carol Bredemeyer, Robert Brice, Kathleen Carnes, Steve Crites, Christine Curran, Jacqueline Emerine, Irene Encarnacion, Richard Fox, Kimberly Gelbwasser, Kebede Gemene, Steve Gores, Lisa Holden, Morteza Sadat Hossieny, Stephen Johnson, Ken Katkin, JC Kim, Jennifer Kinsley, Christopher Lawrence, Phil McCartney, Carrie McCoy, Jonathan McKenzie, Marcos Misis, Tamara O'Callaghan, Deborah Patten, Jeanne Pettit, Gisele Lorient-Raymer, Toru Sakaguchi, Gabe Sanders, Cory Scheadler, Erin Strome, Laura Sullivan, Sharon Vance, Lynn Warner, Steven Weiss, Matthew Zacate

**Members absent:** Rich Gilson, Vanessa Hunn, Francoise Kazimierczuk, Marc Leone, Ellen Maddin, Yaw Frimpong-Mansoh, Ban, Mittal, Ljubomir Nacev, David Raska, Ron Shaw

**Guests:** President Interim Gerry St. Amand, Abdou Ndoye (for Provost Sue Ott Rowlands), Richard Boyce (Faculty Regent), Deanna Karam (Staff Congress Representative), Erica Bluford (Student Government Association Representative), Grace Hiles (Faculty Senate Office), Alar Lipping, Frank Braun

Senate President Matthew Zacate called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm with a quorum present. The agenda was adopted. The minutes of the August 28, 2017 meeting were approved.

**Guest Reports:**

- **President/Interim (Gerry St. Amand):**
  - The Provost recently hosted a reception for newly promoted and tenured faculty. President St. Amand expressed how impressed he was by the many accomplishments he heard from the department chairs and deans there, about their faculty's work. President St. Amand also thanked Provost Ott Rowlands for hosting this event at her home.
  - On September 28, a planning meeting was held at NKU of university leaders, which included deans, directors, chairs, Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and others. Perspectives were gathered on the strategic plan and how to move forward with that. Sue Hodges Moore, Senior Vice President of Administration & Finance, will compile the feedback.
  - The university will continue to advocate for equity money in Frankfort as we enter the next biennium. President St. Amand hopes a long-term solution for the pension issue will come out of the upcoming legislative session.
- **Faculty Regent (Richard Boyce):**
  - Regent Boyce described the Board of Regents (BOR) responsibilities and who comprises the BOR membership.
  - The BOR summer retreat included sessions on the Presidential search, student success, and the sale of WNKN (Middletown frequency) to Grant County Radio.
  - NKU's faculty Facebook page is a closed group needing approval by Faculty Senate President Zacate to join. It is an active group at 176 members.
  - The next BOR meeting is in November.

- **Staff Congress Liaison** (Deanna Karam)
  - The Benefits Fair is Thursday, September 28, in the Student Union Ballroom. Flu shots will be available at that time.
  - The annual Soup & Dessert Luncheon and Holiday Market will be held Thursday, November 16. Sign-up sheets for helping with the event, donations, and providing soup or dessert will be available at the Benefit Fair.

#### **Officer Reports:**

- **President** (Matthew Zacate):
  - The President's search committee met on September 10 and 11 to interview 11 candidates. The committee provided the names of five candidates to the search firm to investigate further, which includes reference checking, and a second round of interviews if that is determined. The timeline for interviews is still October.
- **Vice President** (Carol Bredemeyer):
  - She reported on a meeting she attended of Senate and faculty members in Louisville. Much of the discussions centered on the pension situation. Potential groups are planning to write white papers that would go to the governor; one white paper topic will be on skills employers desire in the workplace.
- **Faculty Advocate** (Phil McCartney):
  - He has recently looked into the university's relationship with Academic Partnerships, including other institutions that have worked with them. A key issue to faculty is to maintain high academic standards with this endeavor.
  - Advocate McCartney also met with the Provost to discuss curriculum processes.
- **Graduate Council Chair** (Steve Crites):
  - The committee is addressing curriculum issues; an ad hoc committee was established for policy review.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- **University Curriculum** (Richard Fox):
    - At a meeting with the Provost, the issue of Academic Partnerships driving best practices was discussed. The Provost clarified that decisions regarding curriculum must be made internally.
    - A subcommittee is determining definitions for the terms "transdisciplinary," "multidisciplinary," and "interdisciplinary" due to the confusion these have caused with new proposals. UCC voted not to approve any new proposals in which the term transdisciplinary is used until there is a working definition in place. The vote was close, 10-8. The moratorium will be for one month, through October, and then will be revoked.
    - An updated curriculum manual should be available in the next few weeks. This is necessary for SACS accreditation.
    - Fox requested that a New Business item, for a new certificate program, be voted on at this point in the meeting. A motion was made, and seconded, to change the agenda.
    - **VOTING ITEM:** Approval of Addictions Research and Practice Post-bac Certificate program - <https://nku.curriculog.com/proposal:1066/form> (recommended by UCC)
- APPROVED:**

This is a new post-baccalaureate certificate, 21 credit hours, graduate courses, with two tracks. Most courses already exist, but will now be cross-listed with a new designator. Program would start next fall.

- **Budget** (Janel Bloch):
  - The committee was updated on budget issues related to the University of Kentucky medical school branch, the state pension situation, and Academic Partnerships.
  - The committee plans to meet with the Provost to discuss a number of issues, including the summer/winter compensation policy.
- **Benefits** (Deborah Patten):
  - Four informational workshops were held on Faculty Development Awards.
  - Subcommittees have been identified.
- **Professional Concerns** (Ken Katkin):
  - The committee voted to approve faculty retention of tenure during the phased retirement process. This would be a faculty handbook change so the issue will be an agenda item for the next Faculty Senate meeting.
  - The PCC will presently meet with NKU Chief Information Officer Tim Ferguson to discuss faculty concerns about the University's information security policy.
  - The PCC opposes the administration's proposal for a new Intellectual Property (IP) Policy, which is faculty-unfriendly relative to the IP policy currently in effect. The PCC is working to draft amendments that, if adopted, would make the proposal workable and agreeable to the faculty. Otherwise, PCC likely will recommend that Faculty Senate adopt a resolution of opposition to adoption of the proposed new IP policy.
  - Another issue the group is examining is Disability Services and their interaction with faculty.
  - PCC is looking at what role the committee should take regarding Academic Partnerships, especially in relation to faculty governance. Concern was expressed that faculty bodies were not involved with the decision to change the delivery format of many courses from a semester-long classroom format to a seven-week online format.
- **TEEC** (Christopher Lawrence):
  - The committee is working on by-laws and the online evaluation process.
- **General Education Committee** (Steve Weiss):
  - The committee is also interested in Academic Partnerships and the assessment of General Education courses in an online format.
  - Workshops were held to revise Critical thinking and Oral/Written communication rubrics with good faculty turnout and input.
  - Any new Gen Ed course proposals should be submitted soon for committee review.

#### **Unfinished Business and General Orders:**

- **Graduate Admissions Categories**
  - **VOTING ITEM:** Approval of changes to graduate admissions categories. Accompanying documentation contains the proposed changes as approved by the Graduate Council at its May 4, 2017 meeting. The current text can be found at

<http://nku.catalog.acalog.com/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=860#admission-categories>

**APPROVED:**

Steve Crites, Graduate Council Chair, reviewed the topic prior to the vote.  
There are three current categories:

1. Full/Regular Admission (applicants meet all admission requirements and submit all required documents submitted)
2. Provisional Admission (applicants unable to provide one of required admissions documents, valid for one semester during which time required document/s must be provided)
3. Conditional Admission (applicants who have submitted all admission documents but fail to meet one or more requirements for regular admission). Students admitted conditionally are not eligible for financial aid.

Proposal combines Provisional Admission and Conditional Admission for two categories:

1. Full/Regular Admission (same as above)
2. Provisional Admission (applicants who fail to meet one or more admission requirements; valid for one semester during which time applicant can demonstrate ability to succeed in program by receiving acceptable grades, meeting required pre-requisites and/or submitting required admission documents).

If applicant is not fully admitted after one semester, he/she can ask for a variance, although this is not anticipated to happen very often. The benefit of combining categories allows more students to be eligible for financial aid.

Senate discussion centered on how this change would affect international students; this can be handled through a variance.  
Most other universities have made the suggested change some time ago.

**New Business**

- The Senate discussed Academic Partnerships and how best to share concerns to the administration. President Zacate suggested that the Executive Committee could determine a framework for discussion.
- Whether faculty are allowed to call-in for a faculty meeting, rather than be physically present, was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura A. Sullivan  
Secretary

