

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**October 29, 2018**

**Members present:** Ryan Alverson, Rachel Banks, Thomas Baxter, Janel Bloch, Richard Boyce, Robert Brice, Susannah Coaston, Christine Curran, Jacqueline Emerine, Irene Encarnacion, John Farrar, Doug Feldmann, Richard Fox, Yaw Frimpong-Mansoh, Kebede Gemene, Dorea Glance, Steven Gores, Lisa Holden, Morteza Sadat Hossieny, Stephen Johnson, JC Kim, Mike King, Hilary Landwehr, Christopher Lawrence, Kimberly Gelbwasser Lazzeri, Phil McCartney, Jonathan McKenzie, Marcos Misis, Shawn Nordheim, Tamara O'Callaghan, Cathy Pence, Jeanne Pettit, David Raska, Toru Sakaguchi, Robert Salyer, Cory Scheadler, Emily Shifley, Erin Strome, Lynn Warner, Steven Weiss, Justin Yates, Matthew Zacate

**Members absent:** Rich Gilson, Brian Hackett, Jennifer Kinsley, Ban Mittal, Ljubomir Nacev, Laura Sullivan, Sharon Vance

**Guests:** Sue Ott Rowlands (Provost), Michael Baranowski (Faculty Regent), Felicia Share (Staff Congress Representative), Grace Hiles (Faculty Senate Office)

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Matthew Zacate at 3:00 pm with a quorum present.

The agenda was adopted as distributed at the meeting. The minutes of the September 24, 2018 meeting were approved as distributed.

**Guest Reports:**

- **Provost** (Sue Ott Rowlands):
  - Spotlight on Scholarship (SOL), the first annual celebration of faculty research and creative activities, took place on October 25. Dr. Kirsten Swartz won the first SOL award for "Strategic Depaving in Newport's Urban Core for Community and Environment."
  - Spring registration begins this week.
  - Details on upcoming workshops from the Provost's office are forthcoming.
  - Three dean searches are currently taking place.
- **Faculty Regent** (Michael Baranowski):
  - The next meeting of the Board of Regents (BOR) will be November 14; they have not met since their last meeting.
- **Staff Congress** (Deanna Karam):
  - Information Technology (IT) has Zoom conference video licenses available.
  - Compliance training will begin soon.
  - The Soup and Dessert Luncheon is November 6, from 11 am – 1 pm. Faculty and staff are asked to donate a soup or dessert.
  - Chartwell's contract will end soon.

**Officer Reports:**

- **Senate President** (Matthew Zacate):
  - There are four at-large senator positions open and miscellaneous committee positions available. The nominating window is through November 2. Elections

will take place from November 9 – 27 and results will be announced at the December faculty meeting. Details are available on the Faculty Senate webpage.

- There are two strategic plan open forums this week. There are also online surveys that can be taken more than once; students are encouraged to participate.
- **Faculty Advocate** (Phil McCartney):
  - He continues to address matters of concern raised by individual colleagues through facilitating amicable resolution of disagreements. Recent issues include:
    - RPT recommendation concerns
    - The need to maintain high standards in classes while fostering “student success.” That includes concerns about what fostering “student success” means to the university’s administration.
    - The degree to which we accurately measure the academic preparation of our first year students in satisfying course prerequisites so as to make the most of the opportunities NKU has available.
    - The erosion of the branding of NKU as an institution of higher learning focused on providing opportunity for an “up close and personal” educational experience that nurtures excellence.
    - The perceived minimal role of faculty in preparing for NKU’s SACS reaccreditation.
  - He held recent conversations with NKU legal counsel, Joan Gates, about compliance refresher training, as a follow-up to discussions they had last year.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- **University Curriculum** (Richard Fox):
  - A few years ago, the UCC enforced the prerequisite policy in which all courses 3xx and higher required prerequisites. In filling in missing prerequisites, some programs reported a challenge in selecting prerequisites for 6xx courses which serve as introductions to their programs. In some cases, “admissions to program X” is not desirable because the course can serve other programs. The UCC is considering whether to change this policy so that it only applies to 3xx/4xx/5xx courses and not 6xx or 8xx courses. If approved by UCC and Graduate Council, the policy would then come to senate for approval and then to the administration.
  - We have no repository for student learning outcomes (SLOs). Once approved by the UCC, SLOs are not stored in either SAP or the catalog. A repository for them would be helpful so that faculty could obtain SLOs for courses they haven’t taught before. It might also help ensure that SLOs do not change without going through the curriculum process as it’s been reported that faculty are changing their course SLOs without going through the process. The problem is that, unlike the syllabus bank, an SLO repository would have to be populated initially which could be a large endeavor.
  - There are numerous changes coming out of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics because of the CPE requirement that we no longer offer developmental courses. English had already deleted their developmental reading and writing courses with ENG 101R and ENG 101W. The math/stats department changes will require that many programs change prerequisites and possibly program requirements. Rather than

handling this through numerous Curriculog proposals, we are going to try to handle this with memos from each department.

- **Budget** (Janel Bloch):
  - The committee drafted a statement on summer pay and will circulate it to departmental colleagues for feedback. They hope to have a formal policy in place as there has not been one previously.
  - Questions related to independent studies for small classes or undergraduate research were raised as well as the elimination of pro-rating summer courses. Senator Bloch asked that these questions be forwarded to Senator Bloch.
  - Last spring's budget survey results will be rearticulated using the 3-Box Solution strategy.
  - There will be a budget presentation from Mike Hales, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), at their committee meeting, December 12.
  
- **Benefits** (Emily Shifley):
  - The committee is working on reviewing all of the Faculty Development Awards and will meet to vote on recommendations for funding next week (November 7<sup>th</sup>). There were 19 Sabbatical applications this year; funding for 26 are available. There were 25 Summer Fellowship applications; funding for 15 are available. There were 24 Project Grant applications totaling approximately \$119,000; funding for \$78,000 is available.
  
- **Professional Concerns** (John Farrar):
  - The committee continues to work on the consensual relations policy and a tenure statement to support tenure changes in the Faculty Handbook.
  
- **TEEC** (Chris Lawrence):
  - The committee has begun to review applications for the co-director positions of the Center for Teaching & Learning. Other issues being addressed are: : course evaluations for faculty and "coaches" in accelerated online programs, the timing of course evaluations, and the lack of complete course evaluations in the Spring 2018 semester
  
- **General Education** (Steve Weiss):
  - The committee is accepting new Gen Ed course proposals; the deadline is December 3. Previously submitted courses may be resubmitted; only one has been resubmitted so far. There is room for ten to twelve more courses in the program.
  - SLOs are not being changed. The committee is recreating rubrics that are better suited to assessment than the current rubrics. The Council of Chairs will be consulted to address concerns related to changing SLOs.
  - There is not a particular category that needs filling specifically, although Culture and Creativity could use more options.

**New Business:**

- Senator Weiss has heard from a number of students that computer labs in the dorms do not work well; this could be a retention issue. Connectivity is also a concern. The provost is aware of the problem.
- Senator O'Callaghan asked what occurs if students do not receive their midterm grades; the provost said that the deans direct the chairs to address the issue.
- Vice-President Emerine said that she understood that Sage journals and Lexis-Nexis are being cut from Steely Library. The Provost stated that they will not be cut although she is unsure about the source of funding for them.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Warner (note-taker); Laura A. Sullivan, Secretary (transcriber)