



**MEMORANDUM**

To: Ashish Vaidya, President  
 From: Matthew Zacate on behalf of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee  
 Re: Faculty nominations for the strategic planning teams  
 Date: September 11, 2018

Thank you, once again, for your willingness to give the Faculty Senate the opportunity to nominate faculty members to serve on the two strategic planning committees currently being formed. In response to your request that the Faculty Senate submit three nominations for faculty representatives to serve on each of the strategic planning teams, I requested at the August senate meeting that senators nominate colleagues or encourage colleagues interested in serving to nominate themselves for consideration by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (EC). Yesterday, the EC met to discuss the merits of the nominees and vote on a slate of recommended faculty members. Ideally, the full Faculty Senate would vote to approve the EC’s recommendation before sending it to you, but understanding that you are anxious to form the teams as soon as possible, the EC is sending you the recommendations now on its authority to act on behalf of the senate in instances where action must be taken before the senate has a chance to meet. In accordance with the Faculty Senate Constitution, this memo will be presented to the senate in its September meeting for senate approval.

The EC received 9 nominations or self-nominations. They were (in alphabetical order):

- Janel Bloch                    Assoc. Professor in the Dept. of English and Faculty Senate Budget Committee Chair
- Richard Boyce                Professor in the Dept. of Biological Sciences and at-large senator from the College of Arts and Sciences
- Lisa Cuntz                     Asst. Professor in the Department of Nursing
- Andrea Gazzaniga            Assoc. Professor in the Dept. of English
- Leslie Hammann             NTTR in Steely Library
- Isabelle Lagadic              Assoc. Professor in the Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Amber Onorato                Asst. Professor in the Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Laura Sullivan                Assoc. Professor in Steely Library and Faculty Senate Secretary
- Matthew Zacate                Professor in Dept. of Physics, Geology, and Engineering Technology and Faculty Senate President

The members of the EC appreciate the dedication of these faculty members to student success and to NKU, in general, as shown by their willingness to put in the extra work that will be required when serving on either the Strategic Framework Core Team or the to-be-named Resource/Advisory Team. They all would bring valuable experience and insights to the strategic planning process. Based on the criteria for recommending members in your August 24, 2018 memo, the EC recommends three members for the Core Team and two members for the Resource/Advisory Team as follows.



For the Core Team, the EC recommends Matthew Zacate, Leslie Hammann, and Amber Onorato. All are active scholars, academic advisors, and engaged in university service.

The EC believes it is highly appropriate for the Faculty Senate President to serve on the Core Team, as the president is well-positioned to think strategically about issues at the university level through his service on many university-wide committees and regular interaction with administrators. The president is also in a good position to promote communication with the faculty through the Faculty Senate. Additionally, because of his background, Dr. Zacate will bring to the committee a good working knowledge of best-practices in teaching and an appreciation for the importance to student success of a well-rounded, comprehensive general education.

Selection of Ms. Hammann is based in part by the desire to have an NTTR on the committee and in part by a recognition that library faculty can sometimes be overlooked when selecting faculty representatives. Moreover, Ms. Hammann's experience and background are well-suited for strategic planning that has a focus on student success: she is a First-Year Experience Librarian, working with incoming freshmen, she has experience in the creation of a new online Bachelor's degree program, she is a master advisor, and she has 20 years of experience as an account executive before coming to NKU.

Dr. Onorato was selected in part because of her rank: she is an assistant professor in her 6<sup>th</sup> year – long enough to be well acquainted with NKU, its students, and regional needs yet early enough in her career that she would have a keen interest in the long-term well-being of the university. The EC also noted in her self-nomination statement that Dr. Onorato has a strong passion for student success and enthusiasm for considering creative solutions to problems facing higher education, both of which being highly desirable characteristics for a member of the Core Team.

As the charge of the Resource/Advisory Team was not laid out in the memo, it was difficult to make as well an informed recommendation regarding members of this committee. Nevertheless, the EC is able to recommend Janel Bloch and Lisa Cuntz for this team, because their backgrounds give them experiences and perspectives that would be invaluable to any university strategic planning committee.

As the chair of the Faculty Senate Budget Committee, Dr. Bloch is one of the best-informed faculty members (if not the best) when it comes to budget- and enrollment-related issues. She has advanced degrees in accounting and English, giving her a broad set of skills and experience, including a perspective of the challenges facing the humanities. She taught in English and business departments at five different universities before coming to NKU, having exposed her to a number of different approaches for promoting student success.

Dr. Cuntz is a junior Assistant Professor who brings a fresh perspective, including experience at another institution. Her nominator indicated Dr. Cuntz has an exceptional understanding of what students need to succeed. Also, she is a member of the College of Health Professions, which is featured in the university's current strategic direction.

The EC recognizes that the recommendations above are not as diverse as perhaps is desired, particularly in academic disciplines and in ethnic/racial composition. Nevertheless, it feels the recommendation is reasonable given the makeup of the nominees, especially if further diversity of the committees can be achieved when selecting non-faculty representatives.