Members present: Ryan Alverson, Kalyani Ankem, Janel Bloch, Richard Boyce, Robert Brice, Andrea Brooks, Susannah Coaston, Christine Curran, Charlisa Daniels, Jacqueline Emerine, Irene Encarnacion, John Farrar, Doug Feldmann, Richard Fox, Yaw Frimpong-Mansoh, Amy Gillingham, Dorea Glance, Lisa Holden, Stephen Johnson, Ken Katkin (for Jennifer Kinsley), Kajsa Larson, Christopher Lawrence, Marc Leone, Lisa Long, Caroline Macke, Phil McCartney, Shawn Nordheim, Cathy Pence, Chari Ramkumar, David Raska, Denice Robertson, Toru Sakaguchi, Robert Salyer, Cory Scheadler, Laura Sullivan, Lynn Warner, Steven Weiss, Diane Williams (for Tracy Hart) Darrin Wilson, Justin Yates, Matthew Zacate

Members absent: Thomas Baxter, Ronnie Chamberlain, Rich Gilson, Steven Gores, Brian Hackett, Alain Krapl, Isabelle Lagadic, Ban Mittal, Ljubomir Nacev

Guests: Sue Ott Rowlands (Provost), Michael Baranowski (Faculty Regent), Kimberly Wiley (Staff Congress Representative), Grace Hiles (Faculty Senate Office), Steven Finke, Julie Mader-Meersman, Hans Schellhas, Maren Carpenter Fearing, Maureen Doyle, Nicholas Caporusso, Brooke Buckley, Amy Danzo

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Matthew Zacate at 3:04 pm with a quorum present.

The agenda was adopted as distributed at the meeting. The minutes of the March 30, 2020 meeting were approved.

Guest Reports:

- **President** (Ashish Vaidya:
  - He expressed deep appreciation for the faculty's commitment to the transition to online learning over the last few weeks, especially if one is balancing personal challenges at home with family members or elderly parents.
  - Canceling May commencement was a difficult decision to make.
  - The president reaffirmed his commitment to, and respect for, collegial governance, throughout his career and during his time at NKU. Examples such as the Governance luncheon, an improved Staff Congress Roundtable, and open forums support his belief in the importance of the shared governance process. On rare occasions, a consensus cannot be reached, as with the recent Scientific/Research Misconduct Policy. He believes the "Executive Committee" version is in the best interest of the university, and will ensure compliance and minimize undo risk. This version will be presented to the Board of Regents (BOR). Concern was expressed as to the long timeline of the issue.
  - There is much uncertainty moving forward in the new environment. Three questions to consider are: 1) What kind of fall will NKU have? A meeting with external constituencies will take place next week. Faculty and staff input are needed on this question, as well as how we will continue to demonstrate student readiness. 2) What is the implication on our budget? A contingency plan must be in place should the university face large deficits. 3) What kind of professional development do faculty/staff need in the summer if we are in a virtual environment? These key questions need input from faculty/staff to make informed decisions.

- Suggestions from senators included some testing in the summer (e.g., social distancing) and investigating our ability for contact tracing. President Vaidya said that they were currently exploring partnerships to engage in contact tracing.
  - He again expressed his appreciation and good wishes for the end of the semester.

- **Provost** (Sue Ott Rowlands):
  - A provost update was just sent out, with a link to the new faculty/staff honors and awards website. This site has all of NKU award winners for this year, thanks to Jason Vest and Beverly Breeze who got the site up and running.
  - Much planning is taking place for the fall—how can classes take place with social distancing, how will studios and labs operate, and what professional development is needed for faculty and staff this summer. She has been soliciting much information to assist with these decisions.
  - In response to a question about Gray Associates, the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) has pushed back NKU's final report date to the end of the calendar year due to COVID-19. The colleges will revisit data from the Gray report, but the report shows our programs are strong and viable, and that NKU is in good shape.

- **Faculty Regent** (Michael Baranowski):
  - The next Board of Regents (BOR) meeting is May 13; the agenda will not be sent out until Wednesday.
  - The Scientific/Research Misconduct Policy will be on the agenda for the May 13 meeting (in response to a question about President Vaidya's decision not to recommend the Senate approved policy). He has been told that it is not a consent agenda item, and that there will be opportunity for discussion, but he will verify that.

- **Staff Congress Representative** (Kimberly Wiley):
  - A Zoom meeting was held on April 9. Adam Caswell, Assistant Vice President for Government, Corporate and Foundation Engagement, provided a legislative update on the budget and pension. The Pension Committee shared the results from the staff survey. Their next meeting is May 14.

Officer Reports:

- **Senate President** (Matthew Zacate):
  - There is one more Senate meeting scheduled for this semester, Friday, May 8, at 1 pm.

- **Faculty Advocate** (Phil McCartney):
  - He has spoken with a number of faculty, who have not taught online before, about their challenges in transitioning to the virtual format.
  - Faculty Advocate McCartney, like others, hopes that the Senate can make the case to the BOR in support of the Scientific/Research Misconduct Policy passed by the Faculty Senate. He emphasized that it is inappropriate to refer to the "Executive Committee" version of the policy, without providing the context involved.

Committee Reports:

- **University Curriculum Committee** (Richard Fox):
    - o VOTING ITEM: Approval of new degree program: BS in Applied Software Engineering – see https://nku.curriculog.com/proposal:3935/form). This is a new degree program, somewhat similar to the Computer Science degree. Industry in the region is interested in this content so there is hope that the new program will help with retention and recruitment, due to its applied/experiential component. If it passes, it will not be in the fall catalog, but the program will be available in the fall if the BOR approves.
      APPROVED.
    - o UCC had their last meeting on April 16. All fall catalog items were approved; a few will go to Graduate Council. There will be a final one-time email vote on or around May 8 for the last item; this can go to SAP for the fall if approved, but will not be in the fall catalog.
    - o Curriculog was used for courses with the S research designator through a batch vote.

- **Budget** (Janel Bloch):
    - o The faculty budget survey is finished and has been presented to the CFO, provost, and president. Another survey is planned for the fall, as the budget is up for discussion in the General Assembly at that time.
    - o More committee meetings are being scheduled for June.

- **Benefits** (Charlisa Daniels):
    - o The committee met April 1.
    - o The deadline for Faculty Senate scholarships has been pushed back. The subcommittee will meet later this week to decide on the new deadline.
    - o The Health Utilization subcommittee met with Bruce Smith on expansions to our health care due to COVID-19.

- **Professional Concerns** (John Farrar):
    - o The committee met April 16. Two RPT proposals are voting items at today's meeting. The annual performance review is still on the committee's agenda is the. New issues under discussion are the policy on transfer credit and the grievance process.

- **TEEC** (Chris Lawrence):
    - o The committee worked with Dr. Ande Durojaiye, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, on course evaluations. It is the faculty member's discretion to include spring course evaluations in the RPT process.
    - o They are also examining other course evaluation programs with Dr. Durojaiye. The one currently used is CollegeNET.
    - o There are new syllabus templates; one is standardized and the other can be modified for the faculty and his/her class/es.

- **General Education Committee** (Andrea Brooks):
    - o The committee met on April 14. Most have probably seen the announcement that Dr. Emily Detmer-Goebel has agreed to serve as the Interim Faculty Director for General Education. A search had been planned to launch for the position, however, due to

COVID-19 and the hiring freeze, Dr. Detmer-Goebel will serve both as interim for the future position, as well as Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Science.
- o The committee approved the assessment process and assessment will start in the Communication, and Culture and Creativity categories in the fall. The committee will collect artifacts from those groups at that time.

New Business
- VOTING ITEM: Proposed changes to Section 7.3 of the Faculty Handbook as recommended by the PCC (see accompanying file *'Section 7_3 (library) updates PCC passed 3-19-20.pdf'*). This will update the handbook to reflect what is currently happening.
  APPROVED.
- VOTING ITEM: Proposed changes to the Section 3 of the Faculty Handbook as recommended by the PCC (see accompanying file *'RPT proposal with highlighted changes--PCC passed 3-23-20.pdf'*).
  - o Senator Marc Leone, representing Visual Arts program faculty, started the discussion with five points on the following topics:
    1. History and perspective with their experience with Sections 3.2.5 and 3.2.8.
    2. Several PCC revisions
    3. Contradictions within the language of the proposed PCC version and its lack of clear rationale
    4. Distrust among administrators and faculty, causing confusion and anxiety among RPT applicants
    5. Proposing a better way to resolve the issue, enforcing collegial transparency and adhering Faculty Handbook rules
  - o After lengthy discussion, a motion was made to amend Sections 3.2.7 and 3.2.8 to restore the current faculty handbook language to the first highlighted changes in each of those sections, and adopt the full document with those modifications.
    APPROVED.
- A motion was made and adopted to fix the time to which to adjourn when the Senate will complete this agenda and start the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura A. Sullivan

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