

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
November 25, 2019

Members present: Kalyani Ankem, Thomas Baxter, Janel Bloch, Richard Boyce, Robert Brice, Susannah Coaston, Christine Curran, Charlisa Daniels, Jacqueline Emerine, John Farrar, Richard Fox, Yaw Frimpong-Mansoh, Amy Gillingham, Dorea Glance, Steven Gores, Tracy Hart, Lisa Holden, Stephen Johnson, Ken Katkin (for Ljubomir Nacev), Alain Krapl, Kajsa Larson, Christopher Lawrence, Caroline Macke, Phil McCartney, Shawn Nordheim, Cathy Pence, Chari Ramkumar, David Raska, Denice Robertson, Toru Sakaguchi, Robert Salyer, Corey Scheadler, Laura Sullivan, Lynn Warner, Kimberly Weir, Darrin Wilson, Justin Yates, Matthew Zacate

Members absent: Ryan Alverson, Ronnie Chamberlain, Irene Encarnacion, Doug Feldmann, Rich Gilson, Brian Hackett, Jennifer Kinsley, Isabelle Lagadic, Marc Leone, Ban Mittal, Marcos Misis

Guests: Ashish Vaidya (President), Bonita Brown (Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer), Sue Murphy-Angel (Staff Congress Representative), Grace Hiles (Faculty Senate Office)

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Matthew Zacate at 3:05 pm with a quorum present.

The agenda was adopted as distributed at the meeting. The minutes of the October 28, 2019 meeting were approved after correcting the spelling of Denice Robertson's first name.

Guest Reports:

- **President (Ashish Vaidya):**
 - The Fall Forum took place last week. Since then there have been two developments. First, last Thursday, FUEL NKU received a 2019 CLIMB Award by the Cincinnati Business Courier and the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber. NKU was recognized for its efforts to reduce student hunger and increased student persistence rates through the service. Secondly, the women's volleyball team won the Horizon League championship.
 - Conversations will continue around student success.
 - Gratitude was expressed for the work of the senators, especially on behalf of our students.
 - President Vaidya responded to a concern expressed about the condition of campus walkways, between the Science Center and Landrum.

- **Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer (Bonita Brown):**
 - The submission deadline for the 2020 NKU Innovation Challenge is midnight, December 6.
 - The inaugural Student Success Summit will be January 17.

- **Faculty Regent (Michael Baranowski):**
 - The Board of Regents (BOR) met November 13.
 - Fall enrollment numbers are up, above projections mainly due to Accelerated Online Programs (AOL). Fall projection was 13,348; number enrolled was 13,886 (104% of projection); AOL projection was 1,622; number enrolled was 2,687 (165.7% of projection).

- Downward trends over the last three-year trends are new freshman enrollment (down 9.5%), new transfers (down 10.8%), and new law students (down 16.4%). New graduate students, driven by AOL, are up 163.4%.
 - Fewer Kentucky students are going to college and there is a demographic trend of fewer college age students overall.
 - Regent Baranowski asked about data on success and completion of AOL, as compared to traditional students; his concern is that AOL makes significant demands on students in the accelerated programs. However, it is too early for meaningful data on this yet.
- **Staff Congress Representative (Sue Murphy-Angel):**
 - The soup/chili/dessert luncheon and Holiday Market was the most successful thus far. This year saw the highest donation of sick/vacation hours. Also, soup and chili are accepted from faculty, in addition to staff.
 - The Faculty/Staff Thank You Breakfast took place November 19.
 - The newly formed Staff Congress Pension Committee held its first educational event.
 - The recent Staff Congress meeting included two guests: Dr. Abdou Ndoeye, Assistant Vice Provost for Assessment, gave an update on GEARUP, and Adam Caswell, KERS representative, provided a pension update.

Officer Reports:

- **Senate President (Matthew Zacate):**
 - Recent election results will be announced at the December meeting.
- **Faculty Advocate (Phil McCartney):**
 - He has examined several other Kentucky universities and the merit room and board scholarships they offer, in comparison to NKU. He underscored the importance that NKU should offer merit scholarships which include room and board in order to remain relevant and competitive.
 - Discussion ensued on this scholarship issue.

Committee Reports:

- **Budget (Janel Bloch):**
 - The budget priority survey was distributed via email and is still available. So far, 188 responses were received. Grace will send out another reminder for those who have yet to take the survey.
 - Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Mike Hales will attend the next Budget Committee meeting and give a financial report summary. These are the financial results of the last fiscal year. Anyone interested is welcome to attend the meeting on December 4.
- **Benefits (Charlisa Daniels):**
 - The full committee discussed the recent award recommendations from the subcommittees. All were in agreement so the recommendations will be passed on to the provost.
- **Professional Concerns (John Farrar):**
 - The committee passed a new status for non-tenured faculty upon retirement.

- Other ongoing matters include the RPT process, annual performance review, and a resolution to express support for staff on the pension issue.
- **TEEC** (Chris Lawrence):
 - The committee continues to review campus RPT guidelines to compare how departments evaluate teaching.
 - They are drafting a white paper on an idea for changing the grading scale to include a grade that would not affect the D/F/W rate for faculty.
 - The group is also continuing to work on a common syllabus.

New Business

- Faculty Advocate McCartney suggested that the PCC take on the issue of NKU restoring room and board scholarships based on merit. A motion was made and approved. Discussion followed on whether the PCC was the appropriate committee for this topic. The PCC chair, John Farrar, said that he did see how the subject connected with a professional concern; however, the committee is tackling a large number of issues currently. Consensus seemed to indicate that this problem should be examined by some committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura A. Sullivan