Richard Boyce

Current NKU Position
Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences

Biographical Statement
I received a BA in astrophysics from Williams College, a Master of Forest Science from the Yale School of Forestry & Environment Studies (now School of the Environment), and a Ph.D. in plant ecology from Yale University. After a postdoc in forest ecology at Dartmouth College, I was a visiting assistant professor at Swarthmore College, an assistant professor at the University of Denver, and then an assistant, associate, and full professor here at NKU, where I am now in my 23rd year. I am a plant ecologist, and I teach courses in plants, ecology, biostatistics, and writing in biology. I work on the invasive shrub Amur honeysuckle, focusing on its impacts on the plant community, as well as how it is being impacted by the native plant pathogen, honeysuckle leaf blight, which has emerged over the past decade. I received a University Research Council’s Distinguished Fellowship for the 2021-2022 academic year to examine honeysuckle stand dynamic. I also study the stand structure of wild Callery (Bradford) pear, another non-native woody plant that has escaped cultivation.

My most relevant university service is my term as the faculty member of NKU’s Board of Regents in 2015-2018, for which I received recognition from both the Board and the Senate at the end of my term. I have served on the Faculty Senate as an at-large CAS representative, the Graduate Council, and the Professional Concerns and Budget Committees. I currently serve on the Peer Review Committee, the Admissions and Academic Policy Committee (AAPC), and as assistant director of NKU’s Research & Education Field Station (REFS).

Many of my recent civic engagement activities have centered around REFS, including Earth Day and Nature Adventure Day tours, summer Walk ‘n Talk sessions on plants, and involvement with Esperanza Fun with Science Summer Camp, aimed at Latino/a middle school students. I have given numerous talks to the public on my honeysuckle research. I’ve also served on the Science & Engineering Fair of Northern Kentucky (SEFNK) Scientific Review Committee, recently as chair.

Why I want to serve as the Interim Faculty Regent
The term for this position is quite short, so it is critical that the Regent get up to speed as quickly as possible. Because of my previous experience, I will hit the ground running. I have worked with many of the current members of the Board, including Chair Rich Boehne. The University budget is presented to the Board for approval during the spring. As NKU is brought back into good financial health, it is critical that no more burdens are placed on already-overloaded faculty members, something I will remind the new President and other Board members about constantly. If cuts need to be made, I will search exhaustively for other areas that can be cut, particularly in administration and athletics. I will remind Board members that the faculty is one of the big draws for students, and a demoralized faculty will have trouble generating the enthusiasm needed to sustain NKU’s excellent teaching reputation. Demoralization also affects the vital committee work done by faculty, which I have found is often invisible to Board members Board, so I will constantly be reminding them that they need to improve the current condition of our faculty.
An obvious question for anyone running for this position is, “Will you run for the open three-year term that starts in July?” I have not decided at this point. In part, it will depend on how my service as interim Regent goes.

Webpage

https://www.nku.edu/~boycer/