

2023 FACULTY ADVOCATE ELECTION



Phil McCartney

Current NKU Position: Associate Professor of Mathematics,
Department of Mathematics and Statistics, College of Arts and Sciences

Biographical Statement (350-word maximum)

Education: Ph.D. (Mathematics) Claremont Graduate School 1978

M.Ed. (Mathematics Education) University of Minnesota 1972

B.S. (Mathematics) University of Minnesota 1972

Employment history:

Northern Kentucky University since Fall 1978,

(Visiting Professor at U.S. Naval Academy 1987-88)

Part time teaching positions at: Pomona, Pitzer, and Harvey Mudd colleges as a graduate student in 1976-77.

Teaching interests: mathematics

Scholarly interests: Mathematical Problem Solving and Mathematics Education

Experience in university service:

I served as Faculty Advocate without compensation when the position was first established in 2017. I believe I proved the value of the position, and since then have continued to serve as Faculty Advocate with reassigned time.

I served either as an at-large Senator from my college or Senator from my department for over 35 years. I have served on the Budget Committee, the University Curriculum Committee, and the Professional Concerns Committee. I've chaired the University Curriculum Committee (for 2 years), and the Professional Concerns Committee (3 semesters). I participated in the creation of the University's General Studies Assessment Plan, and Post Tenure Review Policy. I chaired the committee responsible for the creation of NKU's first campus-wide online student evaluation system.

On May 8th, 2009 at the Faculty Senate, I proposed the creation of the [Teaching Effectiveness & Enhancement Committee](#) (TEEC) and I have served on that committee since it was first established in Fall 2009.

I made significant contributions to the development of the [Values and Ethical Responsibilities](#) policy and to every revision of that policy since it first came to the Faculty Senate.

Experience in civic engagement: In spring 2008, I initiated NKU's partnership with the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers to hold the MATHCOUNTS competition on our campus. That partnership has flourished for 15 years, has included awards of two NKU scholarships, and is supported by national donors.

Awards and recognitions received: In July 2020, I was recruited by the current Editor-in-Chief to serve a five year term as an Associate Editor of *Crux Mathematicorum*, <https://cms.math.ca/publications/crux/> ("... it has been referred to as the best problem solving journal in the world".)

Why I want to serve as Faculty Advocate (350-word maximum)

The University faces many challenges and my experience as Faculty Advocate makes me uniquely qualified to continue to serve in that position through the summer until 12/31/2023, the date of my separation from NKU after 45 ½ years.

As Faculty Advocate, I have had many strictly confidential conversations with faculty about resources to resolve problems in which they believe they have a significant disadvantage. The interactions I have had in that capacity have significantly influenced the issues I raise and the decisions I make as a member of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate. I have learned that continuous attention must be paid to policy statements as important governing tools.

In particular, NKU's [Values and Ethical Responsibilities](#) policy is a crucial tool I have discussed with colleagues. When the administration proposed a revision of that policy in Fall 2021, I argued that the changes were unacceptable, and working with other members of the Executive Committee, developed a much-improved policy. Our revision was approved by the Board of Regents on 8/18/2022.

As Faculty Advocate, I have urged the Board to embrace collegial governance of the University and select a President who demonstrates reliance on collegial governance. Three actions come to mind that would be a good start toward rebuilding trust in the Board.

- a) Require that "finalists" in the Presidential search come to campus for open meetings with faculty and staff.
- b) Affirm support for the resolution of the PCC that a comprehensive review of NKU's business relationship with Academic Partnerships is called for, and that allegations of that company's failures described in the report from the PCC will be thoroughly investigated.
- c) The research misconduct policy previously passed by the Faculty Senate and brought to the Board on May 13, 2020, will be reconsidered for passage by the Board during 2023.

Finally, I have always supported enhancement of NKU's diversity and accessibility. I want to stop the loss of faculty positions. Faculty exit interviews offer insights into problems to address. In particular, the evaluation of teaching at NKU must be multidimensional, holistic, and align with national best practices.

Webpage (an optional link to a webpage maintained by the candidate)