

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

November 19, 2012

Members present: Tara McLendon (for Jim Allen), Seyed Allameh, Shamima Ahmed (for Michael Baranowski), Diana Belland, Perry Bratcher, Carol Bredemeyer, Gary Clayton, Kim Clayton-Code, Irene Encarnacion, Nancy Firak, Richard Fox, Diane Gronefeld, Steven Gores, Patrick Hare, Lisa Holden, Kajsa Larson, Alar Lipping, Gail Mackin, Ausbra McFarland, Joe Mester, John Metz, Karen Mutsch, Louise Niemer, Scott Nutter, Jeanne Pettit, Jim Thomas, Steve Weiss, Jeffrey Williams, Xiaoni Zhang

Members absent: Richard Boyce, Tobias Brauer, Steve Crites, Roxanne Kent-Drury, Jacqueline Emerine, Rich Gilson, Sandra Grinnell, Yi Hu, Doug Hume, Mary Kirk, Phil McCartney, Ron Shaw

Guests: Geoffrey Mearns, Gail Wells, Mary Lepper, Sue Moore, Ken Rhee, Ann James, Grace Hiles

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Alar Lipping at 3:05 pm with a quorum present. The minutes of the Oct 22, 2012 meeting were approved.

Guest Reports:

- **University President** (Geoffrey Mearns):
 - After each Board of Regents meeting, President Mearns will send a campus-wide email outlining his presentation and comments from those meetings.
 - The campus “listening tours” have concluded. These included 24 separate meetings with departments across campus as well as over 500 email comments.
 - When communicating with the President, use mearns@nku.edu.
 - The structure of the Strategic Planning Committee has been set. Individual representation will be forthcoming.
 - There will be a change in the spring convocation format. The spring convocation will occur on 1/11/13 and there will be a “town hall” meeting in April to specifically address the budget.
 - There are currently two dean searches underway: Dean of Education and Human Services and Dean of the Chase College of Law.
- **Provost** (Gail Wells):
 - Musical entertainment at the spring convocation will include selections from “Grease” by the Theater/Dance Dept.
 - Students have requested the creation of a campus-wide “syllabus bank” so that they can have more information for selection of classes. Syllabi are currently stored in Digital Measures and IT will investigate the creation of this feature using information retrieved from that system. It should be noted that in doing so, students will be viewing information from past classes (not classes being offered in the future semester).

- After further investigation, IT has reported that it is possible to extract midterm grades from Blackboard for input into MyNKU.
- There are now two dates that will be used for determination of minimum salary for summer pay. The highest student enrollment of either the last date to enter a class *or* the date two weeks out from beginning of class. The cap used to determine pay has also been raised to \$85,000 max (summer pay being 9% of that amount).
- An emphasis is being made on offering classes that students need when they need them which may impact summer schedules. “Marketing” of summer school and “financial incentives” will be used in order to increase enrollment as well.
- Thanks were expressed to the Professional Concerns Committee on their work on some of the issues above.
- Please pay heed to phishing scams which seem to proliferate this time of year.

Committee Reports:

- **Post-Professor Development Opportunities committee** (Scott Nutter):
 - Discussion of the committee report and survey results ensued. The survey asked faculty members to rank three possible development opportunities: a) Distinguished Professor/Librarian Rank, b) Distinguished Professor/Librarian Award, and c) do nothing. Survey results showed that 57% selected A as their first choice, B was second choice by 70% and C was third choice by 68%. Evaluation of these survey results and comments has led the committee to propose two recommendations: 1) Establish and implement a Distinguished Professor rank, and 2) Create major awards across all ranks. Recommendation 1 will be presented for a vote at the December meeting. Faculty members were encouraged to share the committee report and survey results with their colleagues for discussion. These recommendations do not outline the mechanism(s) for carrying out implementation. Implementation issues, including the committee responsible for their implementation, will be discussed/decided at a future meeting.
- **Professional Concerns** (Jeffrey Williams):
 - It was erroneously reported in the Northerner that the Faculty Senate took no action on the midterm grade issue. The recommendation that the Senate approved is recorded in the Feb. 20, 2012 minutes was as follows: *The current midterm grade reporting system for freshmen shall be expanded to include the option for faculty to report the grades for all undergraduates above the freshman level.*
 - Volunteers are needed for an ad hoc committee to discuss the student recommendation of providing them access to teaching evaluations.
- **Benefits** (Scott Nutter):
 - Rankings for sabbaticals, summer fellowships, and project grants have been submitted. 19 sabbaticals were approved (21 available), 17 fellowships were

submitted (15 available) and 13 of 16 project grants (totaling \$56K) were approved.

- **Budget Committee** (Gary Clayton):
 - Still receiving responses to the budget priorities survey. Response rate is down from previous years. Survey results will be presented at the December Senate meeting.
- **Teaching Effectiveness and Enhancement Committee** (Ken Rhee):
 - Faculty development workshops coming in the spring.
 - Pilot testing of the new course evaluations are taking place in three colleges.
 - All questions (even customized questions) are accessible by faculty, chairs, and deans. The following recommendation was approved by the Senate: *TEEC will send an email notifying faculty that customized questions on student evaluations are accessible by chairs and deans.*
- **Interim General Education Committee** (Steve Weiss):
 - The voting item submitted by the committee regarding a permanent structure was approved as amended (amendment in italics below). By-laws of the committee will be created at a later time. The committee will be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate *except for two at-large members which will be elected*. A call for nominations will occur in the spring semester. All terms are one-year renewable with the effective start date of the committee being fall, 2013. Committee members will consist of:
 - One member from the College of Business
 - One member from the College of Education and Human Services
 - One member from the College of Informatics
 - One member from the College of Health Professions
 - One member from the Library
 - Four members from the College of Arts and Sciences
 - Two at-large (*elected*) members
 - Director of General Education, ex-officio, voting
 - Dean of Arts and Sciences (or designee), ex-officio, non-voting
 - Review of 291W (writing) numbered courses is taking place in order to align learning outcomes. While this is taking place, there will be a suspension of reviewing new 291 numbers courses.
 - Senate President Lipping informed the Senate that in a conversation with Vice-Provost Pat Moynahan, it was noted that an interpretation of CPE guidelines indicate that it is up to individual universities to decide if general education courses can count as core courses in the major.

Officer Reports:

- **Senate President** (Alar Lipping):
 - Voting for Senators At-Large and faculty representatives for other university committees will take place 11/26-12/7.
 - Next meeting is Dec. 14th – refreshments 2:45, meeting 3:00.

- Executive Committee elections take place in January. Nominations should be forwarded to the current Executive Committee prior to the December meeting – or names can be taken from the floor at the January meeting. Executive Committee members should be members of Faculty Senate.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Perry Bratcher
Secretary