

## **FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**August 24, 2009**

**Members present:** Seyed Allameh, Scottie Barty, Kevin Besnoy, Perry Bratcher, Carol Bredemeyer, Heather Bullen, Tom Cate, Paul Cooper, Patty Connelly, Adele Dean, Ken Engebretson, Rich Gilson, Emily Detmer-Goebel, Kristi Haik, Nancy Hancock, Hilary Landwehr (for Barbara Klaw), Marc Leone, Aron Levin, Alar Lipping, MaryCarol Hopkins, Lisa MacQueen, Phil McCartney, Kim McErlane, Jacqueline McNally, John Metz, Carl Miller, Scott Nutter, Cathy Pence, Toru Sakaguchi, Ron Shaw, Karen Tapp, Jim Thomas, Jeff Ward, Steve Weiss

**Members absent:** Michael Baranowski, Richard Boyce, Steve Crites, Brant Karrick, Aron Levin, Ausbra McFarland, Ban Mittal, Phil Moberg, K.C. Russell, Duke Thompson

**Guests:** Grace Hiles, Gail Wells, Jim Votruba

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Alar Lipping at 3:00 p.m. The minutes of the May 8, 2009 meeting were approved.

### **Presentations:**

- **President** (Jim Votruba):
  - Growth at NKU will be minimal in the coming years due to current economic conditions (no new funding dollars from the state)
  - These conditions will allow the university to focus from growth to quality and retention/graduation rate issues. NKU had to turn away between 400-500 students this year.
- **Provost** (Gail Wells):
  - NKU hired 51 new faculty this year, all with high credentials.
  - Freshmen with ACT scores of 25 or above are up 33%, regular admits are up 8.6%, African-American enrollment up 20%.
  - A pilot program from the QEP group will soon begin work regarding general education issues
  - Graduate retention alignment is taking place across the university with recommendations being made at various departmental/administrative levels.

### **Officer Reports:**

- **Senate President** (Alar Lipping): Focusing on several issues:
  - Investigation of the proper archiving of Faculty Senate documentation

- Review of the Faculty Senate survey revealed communication issues regarding department chairs. Alar will be attending the Council of Chairs meetings monthly to keep abreast of issues and relay faculty concerns. Concerns should be directed to Alar.
- Alar will meet monthly with the Presidents of Staff Congress and Student Government to discuss relevant issues.
- Alar reviewed Faculty Senate minutes of 2004 onward and will be following up on unresolved initiatives.
- Good to see a mix of junior/senior faculty on both the Executive Committee and Faculty Senate in general. This will help alleviate schisms between the interests of both groups.
- **Parliamentarian** (Steve Weiss): A handout was provided and summarized outlining proper parliamentary procedures.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Professional Concerns** (Scottie Barty): Intellectual property guidelines are being reviewed and will come before the full Senate at a future meeting.
- **Curriculum** (Ron Shaw): Curriculum forms are now online
- **Benefits** (Alar Lipping for K.C. Russell): Sabbatical/Fellowship/Project Grant workshops taking place Sept. 1-2.
- **Budget** (Ken Engebretson): First meeting will be spent on reviewing initiatives from the faculty survey and reviewing the subcommittees bylaws.

### **Announcements:**

- **General Education Resource Task Force** (Kristi Haik - Chair): This task force is currently being formed to review general education's impact on faculty assessment, enhancement and other issues. Representation will be taken from various areas on campus.
- **General Education Program Structure Committee:** On July 23-24, 27-29 this committee split into 3 subcommittees, each of which developed a program proposal. These proposals will be presented and discussed at today's Faculty Senate meeting, the First Friday event on August 28, and at an Open Faculty Forum on September 18. The Committee will then meet to review these discussions and prepare a combined recommendation which will pass through the Professional Concerns Committee and Faculty Senate this semester. Proposal details and specifics regarding this process can be found at <http://gepsc.nku.edu/> Each subcommittee briefly presented highlights of their recommendations:

- **Group A** (Scott Nutter): Liberal Arts emphasis and follows Kentucky Transfer Model (KTM) plus 4 hours (adds a science lab) and a capstone course. This program adds a global perspective, no 1<sup>st</sup> year experience class and doesn't specifically call out technical skills. Goal to foster growth in the areas of thinking, perspectives, communication, science & technology, and self & community
- **Group B** (Steve Weiss): This program moves to a targeted model by focusing on information literacy/inquiry. It included specific goals/models, an integrative 1<sup>st</sup> year experience, an information literacy plus disciplinary emphasis, an option to certify diversity or take classes to fulfill this requirement, and increases the number of student learning outcomes.
- **Group C** (Tonya Krouse): This program's main emphasis is that the program be easily understood by students and lay people. This proposal tried simplify general education thus making it easier to implement and assess.
- **Discussion:** For the next ½ hour, discussion took place regarding the three proposals. Opinions were expressed and the representatives from each group answered questions. The following issues were paramount:
  - Concerns regarding transfer students
  - Concerns regarding visual vs. written elements of the program
  - Faculty load
  - Implementation issues for capstone courses
  - Class size
  - Technology training
  - Lack of specificity of each proposal
  - Concerns regarding resources needed for implementation

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry Bratcher  
Secretary