

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING

February 21, 2011

**Members present:** Seyed Allameh, Margaret Anderson, Michael Baranowski, Diana Belland, Richard Boyce, Perry Bratcher, Carol Bredemeyer, Kim Clayton-Code, Ken Engebretson, Richard Fox, Rich Gilson, Tamara O'Callaghan, Nancy Hancock, Chuck Hawkins, David Hogan, MaryCarol Hopkins, Yi Hu, Ken Katkin, Marc Leone, Alar Lipping, Caroline Macke, Phil McCartney, Ausbra McFarland, Jacqueline McNally, John Metz, Teri J. Murphy, Louise Niemer, Sara Runge, K.C. Russell, Toru Sakaguchi, Patty Schumacher, Steve Weiss, Jeffrey Williams

**Members absent:** Blas Puente-Baldoceda, Heather Bullen, Tom Cate, Paul Cooper, Lisa MacQueen, Kim McErlane (excused), Joe Mester, Ban Mittal, Phil Moberg

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

The meeting was opened by Faculty Senate President Alar Lipping at 3:00 pm. A moment of silence was held for departed Senate member and Professional Concerns Committee Chair Scottie Barty. Steve Weiss presented a Resolution of Memorandum which was approved by the Senate. This memorandum read:

*Whereas* Glenellyn "Scottie" Barty was a dedicated teacher and campus citizen

and

*Whereas* she gave tirelessly of herself in pursuit of the interests of the faculty

and

*Whereas* she provided years of faithful service to NKU's Faculty Senate

and

*Whereas* she served with distinction for many years as Chair of the Professional Concerns Committee

and

*Whereas* she was beloved by her students and colleagues

Be it therefore resolved that the Faculty Senate of Northern Kentucky University grants tribute to the memory of our friend Scottie Barty, and the inspirational service she gave this institution.

Be it further resolved that the Secretary of the Faculty Senate notify her closest family and friends of the contents of this resolution.

The minutes of the January 24, 2011 meeting were approved. Jeffrey Williams chaired the Professional Concerns Committee meeting on Feb. 17. Tom Cate has agreed to chair the PCC meetings for the remainder of the semester.

### **Guest Reports:**

- **University President (Jim Votruba):**
  - **Budget situation:** The Kentucky budget situation does not seem as dire as surrounding states. There are no talks about budget reductions for the rest of the fiscal year. Meetings have commenced amongst the University President, Provost and faculty of the NKU colleges regarding budget issues. There may be capital request approvals before operating expense increases in the future.
  - **Focus on expense reductions:** Four major areas are being addressed: 1) curriculum (primarily regarding general education program), 2) increase in student credit hours by FTE (3-year goal of 10% increase – progressing well in this area), 3) reduction of administrative expenses by 5% (\$5M goal - \$3M in savings thus far), 4) Tuition/fees. Currently this area generates 71% of NKU's revenue. The Council of Post-Secondary Education will probably set a tuition increase maximum at 5% this year. The fee structure is being analyzed. The Student Government Association is discussing a possible "Special Use Fee" for students to help fund renovation of the Health Center. This will be much like the fee used for construction of the Student Union.
  - **Salary increases:** Currently reviewing the possibility of a 3% merit-based salary increase.
  - **Other:** More complete budget details will be given at the spring convocation in April. The Huron group is winding up its consultation process of campus operations. A report is due to the Board of Regents on March 16. Pell grants are being reduced in the federal budget.
- **Provost (Gail Wells):**
  - The university is receiving strong pools of candidates for various positions. The university-wide searches are also progressing. Richard Kolby has accepted the position as Dean of the College of Business, the top three candidates have been identified for the Dean of the College of Informatics, and Kent Johnson has accepted the position as Director of General Education.
  - NKU is slowly improving its 6-year graduation rate: currently 34% (up from 32%)

- Congratulations were expressed for the increase in student credit hours per FTE. The most recent statistics lists that this rate has increased 3.8% (towards a 3-year goal of 10%)
- **Faculty Regent** (Chuck Hawkins):
  - The Board of Regents will meet March 16.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- **Benefits Committee** (K.C. Russell):
  - Announcements will soon be made for the annual Faculty Senate Scholarship/Book awards (deadline in April)
- **Budget Committee** (Ken Engebretson):
  - The Faculty Priority Survey has been completed and results will soon be distributed. There was a low response rate (27%). The report has been split between full and part-time faculty responses. The appropriate administrators will respond to the various survey results.
  - The Committee still needs a Chair for the 2011-2012 academic year.
- **Professional Concerns Committee** (Jeffrey Williams)
  - The Committee is currently reviewing its agenda for the rest of the semester.
- **University Curriculum Committee** (Richard Fox):
  - Thanks were expressed by Richard Fox (Chair of the Director of General Education Search Committee) for all involved in the selection process and to those who provided input for candidate consideration.
  - The Instructional Leadership (P-12 Principal) full program proposal was approved.

#### **Officer Reports:**

- **President** (Alar Lipping):
  - A faculty representative is needed for the Classroom Utilization and Scheduling Policies Committee.
  - Administrator evaluations will take place from Feb. 21-March 7. An announcement will be forthcoming.
- **Vice President** (Carol Bredemeyer):
  - Interest in forming a Kentucky Chapter of AAUP will be discussed at a forthcoming event. See Carol for more information.

#### **New Business:**

- Steve Weiss asked that the amendment to the Free Speech Policy (Speakers From Off Campus) be placed on the agenda for the March Faculty Senate meeting. The policy was

discussed as an informational item at the Feb. 17 Professional Concerns Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry Bratcher, Secretary