

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

November 21, 2011

Members present: Jim Allen, Seyed Allameh, Blas Puente-Baldoceda, Michael Baranowski, Diana Belland, Richard Boyce, Perry Bratcher, Carol Bredemeyer, Kim Clayton-Code, Irene Encarnacion, Richard Fox, Emily Detmer-Goebel, Diane Gronefeld, Patrick Hare, Chuck Hawkins, David Hogan, Yi Hu, Ken Katkin, Alar Lipping, Phil McCartney, Kim McErlane, Ausbra McFarland, Jacqueline McNally, Kevin Muento (for Scott Nutter), Jim Thomas, Teri J. Murphy, Ljubomir Nacev, Louise Niemer, Sara Runge, Judy Voelker, Steve Weiss, Jeffrey Williams, Xiaoni Zhang

Members absent: Tobias Brauer, Gary Clayton, Rich Gilson, Caroline Macke, Joe Mester, John Metz, Patty Schumacher, Ron Shaw

Guests: Jim Votruba, Gail Wells, Grace Hiles, Carole Beere, Scott Eaton, Kathy Steffen, Mary Kirk, Mary Leper, Ken Kline, Brandon Barb, Stephen Wilder, Erik Pederson

The meeting was called to order by senate President Alar Lipping at 3:05 pm. The minutes of the October 24, 2001 meeting were approved.

Guest Reports:

- **Provost** (Gail Wells):
 - 115 Reappointment/Promotion/Tenure binders are being reviewed. Faculty members are performing impressive work.
 - There has been an increase in responses to online course evaluations. From fall 2010 to spring 2011, the response rate for course evaluations increased from 51.7% to 68.7%.
 - Graduation ceremonies are Dec. 17 – 9am for undergrads, 3pm for graduate students.
- **Presidential Search Committee** (Carole Beere):
 - There have been two open forum sessions for each of the following groups: faculty, staff, students, community. Information is shared on the search committee's website where comments can also be made. Hopefully the top 3-5 candidates will be on campus for interviews between March 15-30, 2012.
- **Athletics Presentation** (Jim Votruba, Scott Eaton (Director of Athletics), Mary Kirk (Faculty Athletics' Representative):
 - Dr. Votruba outlined the thought process and reasoning for NKU's move to Division I (D1) status. Highlights include:
 - Politically, NKU and KSU are the only Kentucky regional universities not in D1.
 - Financially, NKU can generate a fan base and donor support for this move.
 - This move will provide greater institutional visibility and hence better recruitment/retention of students.
 - This move will contribute to the campus quality of life
 - NKU doesn't "fit" into the current GLV conference (expansion of conference westward, conference made up of smaller liberal arts colleges). NKU fits a D1 "profile".

- Support for this move has been seen through two consulting groups, Board of Regents subcommittee, faculty town hall meetings, Student Government Association, Staff Congress and community leadership.
 - Discussion has taken place with other university presidents who have made this move, with positive results.
 - Core institutional investments should not suffer.
 - Investigation being made into the following conferences: Horizon, Ohio Valley, Summit, Atlantic Sun.
- Scott Eaton presented the history behind the move to D1 and funding for the move. Highlights include:
 - Appreciation was expressed to faculty for their work with student athletes. Two-thirds of the student athletes have GPA's of 3.0 or above.
 - Successes of athletic teams in the past have helped pave the way for this move as well as build a strong fan base.
 - A feasibility study was performed in 2004-05 for this move. The university wasn't ready at this time, but planning began with increasing the athletic budget and facilities improvements.
 - A second feasibility study in 2010 noted that facilities were in place, but that the university needed to increase scholarships and improve its infrastructure. This work is being done.
 - If all goes according to plan, the following milestones will occur: 1) invitation to a D1 conference (Fall 2011), 2) 4-year reclass process to D1 (beginning Fall 2012) – all sports ineligible for NCAA post-season play, 3) Eligibility for play and revenue distribution related to sports sponsorships and grants (Fall 2016), 4) Eligibility for revenue distribution related to men's basketball tournament (Fall 2019).
 - Funding needed is \$3.5M - \$1.78 recurring from the general fund (\$500K needs to be added at this point), with the rest from "repurposed" funds (\$700K), revenues, and a capital campaign.
 - D1 places more emphasis on academics with an Academic Progress Rate (APR) minimum standard for athletes.
 - Mary Kirk provided a handout which outlined details on academic performance of student athletes. Highlights include:
 - There are several procedures in place to monitor performance. The athletic program is in good shape.
 - Coaches support student athletic performance.
 - Details of GPA performance of NKU athletes in the various sports were provided.

Committee Reports:

- **Benefits** (Kevin Muentel for Scott Nutter): Summer Fellowships (27 applicants, 15 available awards), Project Grants (18 applicants (\$78K), 13 available awards (\$56K)), and Sabbatical requests (19 applicants (all approved), 20 available awards) have been forwarded to the Provost
- **Budget** (Ljubomir Nacev): Working on annual faculty survey

- **Professional Concerns** (Jeffrey Williams): Mid-term grade issue will be addressed at the December meeting.
- **Teaching Effectiveness and Enhancement Committee** (Ken Rhee): Faculty Development workshops will be taking place next semester.

Officer Reports:

- **Senate President** (Alar Lipping): Senate elections for At-Large and Review Committee representatives are still taking place. The Dec. 16 meeting will be in the UC Ballroom (3 pm).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry Bratcher
Secretary