

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

January 23, 2012

Members present: Jim Allen, Seyed Allemeh, Blas Puente-Baldoceda, Michael Baranowski, 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, Tara McLendon (for Caroline Macke), Joe Mester, John Metz, Teri J. Murphy, Scott Nutter, Louise Niemer, Jim Thomas, Judy Voelker, Steve Weiss, Jeffrey Williams, Xiaoni Zhang

Members absent: Diana Belland, Tobias Brauer, Gary Clayton, Rich Gilson, Jacqueline McNally, Ljubomir Nacev, Sara Runge, Patty Schumacher, Ron Shaw

Guests: Jim Votruba, Gail Wells, Greg Hatchett, Tobias Brauer, Grace Hiles, Erik Pederson

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Alar Lipping at 3 pm. The minutes of the December 16, 2001 meeting were approved (with noted attendance corrections).

Guest Reports:

- **University President** (Jim Votruba):
 - State budget requests are being reviewed. Currently, the Governor has recommended a 6.4% budget reduction for universities, which would result in a \$3.4M cut for NKU. However, the legislative session is in process and final decisions regarding budget will not be finalized until around April. Investigation is underway by NKU administration regarding how to meet cuts. State level reserves could meet \$1M of this amount with another \$500K from NKU reserves. At this point there is no talk of hiring freezes or travel restrictions. The following two areas will most likely make up for the shortfall: 1) lost opportunities, 2) costs to students. Note: since 2007, NKU has lost \$8.2M (of \$55M) in funding from the state. The Board of Regents is also concerned with a state proposal to make the University of Pikeville a state university – which could affect funding for all state universities. It was noted that this proposal suggests funding for the University of Pikeville at \$6,000/FTE (\$1,800/FTE less than NKU currently receives).
- **Provost** (Gail Wells):
 - International student enrollment is at 627 (up 56.3% from last spring).
 - Faculty searches are progressing with excellent pools of candidates.
 - Online student/course revenue goals have been met.
 - The Board of Regents approved recent sabbatical, project grant, and summer fellowship requests.
 - Faculty art exhibits are open in the Fine Arts Building.
- **Faculty Regent** (Chuck Hawkins):
 - The Board of Regents was impressed with the recent presentation regarding the work of faculty sabbaticals, project grants, and summer fellowships.
 - Regent Hawkins reiterated concerns from the Board regarding the possible loss of funding if the University of Pikeville were to become a state-supported regional university.

- **Senate Elections Chair** (Greg Hatchett):
 - Members of the 2012/13 Faculty Senate met prior to this meeting and elected the following officers for 2012/13:
 - Alar Lipping – President
 - Carol Bredemeyer – Vice President
 - Perry Bratcher – Secretary
 - Steve Weiss – Parliamentarian
 - Richard Fox – University Curriculum Committee
 - Jeffrey Williams – Professional Concerns Committee
 - Scott Nutter – Benefits Committee
 - Vacant – Budget Committee

Committee Reports:

- **Benefits** (Scott Nutter): Everyone was urged to review the document (in the most recent Provost's "News For Now" email) outlining last year's faculty sabbaticals, project grants, and summer fellowships. This document can be found on the Faculty Senate Benefits Committee website http://facultysenate.nku.edu/docs/2010-2011_FacultyDevelopment_Booklet.pdf.
- **Budget**: Faculty were encouraged to respond to the budget priorities survey
- **Professional Concerns** (Jeffrey Williams): The committee will be presenting a recommendation regarding mid-term grades to the next Senate Executive Committee. Professional Concerns is working with the Budget Committee regarding summer faculty salaries.
- **Teaching Effectiveness and Enhancement Committee** (Ken Rhee): Response to online evaluations was above 80% for the fall semester. Faculty development workshops are now underway for the spring.
- **Interim General Education Committee** (Steve Weiss): "Communication" issues exist regarding the administration of "Cap" tests (state administered achievement tests). The committee is reviewing SACs recommendations regarding the university's Associate Degrees and General Education requirements.

Officer Reports:

- **Senate President** (Alar Lipping):
 - **University Presidential Search**: Progress is proceeding on schedule. The committee met on Jan. 17 to review candidates. On Feb. 29 the committee will identify semi-finalists and references will be checked. In March, this list will be narrowed down for campus visits by the finalists the last two weeks of March.
- **Senate Vice President** (Carol Bredemeyer):
 - Faculty were encouraged to participate in this year's health screening activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry Bratcher
Secretary