

## **FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**December 19, 2008**

**Members present:** Seyed Allameh, Scottie Barty, Kevin Bosnoy, Perry Bratcher, Heather Bullen, Tom Cate, Steve Crites, Doris Coy, Patty Connelly, Adele Dean, Chuck Frank, Emily Detmer-Goebel, David Hogan, MaryCarol Hopkins, Barbara Klaw, Alar Lipping, Cathy Pence, Phil McCartney, Ausbra McFarland, John Metz, Carl Miller, Ban Mittal, Phil Moberg, Scott Nutter, KC Russell, Toru Sakaguchi, Ron Shaw, Karen Tapp, Jim Thomas, Jeff Ward, Steve Weiss

**Members absent:** Iain Barksdale, Michael Baranowski, Rebecca Evans, Rich Gilson, Nancy Hancock, Eric Jackson, Brant Karrick, Aron Levin, Julie Mader-Meersman, Kristi Martinez, Jacqueline McNally, Duke Thompson

**Guests:** Mary Lepper, Ken Kline, Raymond McNeil, Pat Moynahan, Kathy Bennett, Curtis McCartney, Jen Stansbury

The meeting was called to order by Senate President David Hogan at 1:30 PM. The minutes of the November 17, 2008 meeting were approved.

### **Guest Presentations:**

- **NKU President** (Jim Votruba): Thanks were expressed to Steve Weiss for his excellent representation of faculty on the Board of Regents. As everyone is aware, the state of Kentucky is in a \$450M deficit which may grow to \$1B in the next FY. Economic recovery for the state will most likely lag a general economic recovery – therefore we may be looking a lean 2-3 year period. The state is considering the passage of a cigarette tax to help with the budget shortfall. This economic situation will result in the following immediate repercussions for NKU: 6-month hiring freeze (exempting instructional positions) with exemptions made on a case-by-case basis, deeper non-instructional cuts by the Vice Presidents, more reliability on student workers, travel slow down, and careful scrutiny of operational funds. Long-term effects could/would include a 10% budget reduction scenario, restructuring/process reengineering, review of revenue, productivity and expenses, per credit hour fee, and limiting growth (being more selective with acceptable deficiencies).
- **Provost** (Gail Wells): Gail will generate a letter regarding general education needs/concerns. RPT binders have been reviewed as well as summer fellowship, sabbatical, and project grant proposals. Sympathy was expressed for the deaths of Ed Brewer, Mari York and John DeMarcus.

## Committee Reports:

- **Benefits** (KC Russell): No report
- **Budget** (Carl Miller): Ken Ramey and Andy Meeks attended their recent meeting and discussed parking/general facilities issues. A greenhouse gas emission programs are being implemented across campus for energy efficiency.
- **Curriculum** (Ron Shaw):
  - The following General Education courses were approved without dissent:
    - ART 291W Common Core (new)
    - BIO 200 Natural Science (new)
    - ENV 200 Natural Science (new)
    - ENV 220L Natural Science (new)
    - GLY 225 Natural Science (new)
    - WGS Diversity Race/Gender (new)
    - WGS 211 Humanities (new – crosslisted with ENG 211)
    - WGS 212 Humanities (new – crosslisted with ENG 212)
    - WGS 444 Race/Gender (new – crosslisted with HIS 444)
    - WGS 445 Race/Gender (new – crosslisted with HIS 445)
  - The following programs were approved:
    - Master of Science in Computer Information Technology
    - Master of Science in Nursing and Health Informatics
- **Professional Concerns** (Scottie Barty): Discussion ensued regarding the university-wide pilot of the Online Student Evaluation Project (OSEP) for spring semester 2009. After discussion, the following resolution regarding expectations of the project was approved:
  - That the questions will be identical in content and format (other than being presented online) to those used in the current system with the exception that student information for current questions 12 (year in college), 13 (cumulative grade point), 14 (current course load), 16 (degree sought) and 17 (gender) will be collected automatically from SIS. The new system will inform students about the collection and use of this demographic information using a statement such as: Specific demographic information (year in college, cumulative grade point, current course load, degree sought, and gender) is collected automatically but confidentiality will be maintained;
  - That the summary reports available to individual faculty members will provide at least the same content and be presented in the same format as the reports provided by the current system, including cumulative frequency distributions and averages for the discipline, department, college, and university;
  - That the faculty member will be able to review and/or print, at his or her discretion, individual student evaluation forms on a form-by-form basis, analogous to the review of individual paper forms as provided by the current

system. Comments and demographic information will be retained with the numerical evaluations on each individual form, as is now the case, and will be readily available to the faculty member for a minimum of one calendar year;

- That the new system will limit the ability of students to submit evaluation forms to only those sections in which they are currently enrolled, to only one form per student per section, and to only a window of time that does not exceed the last two weeks of actual classes for a full-semester course or the last week of actual classes for an eight-week course;
- That the new system will limit the length of a student session to complete a single evaluation form to a maximum of 40 minutes, with an unlimited number of sessions for a single section but no opportunity to change the form for a section once it has been submitted;
- That students will complete evaluation forms individually, outside of any regular or special class meeting. Faculty will not require or allow students to complete forms during a class meeting in a computer lab or other room equipped with computers; and
- That each faculty member, for each of his or her classes, will utilize the OSEP mechanism for monitoring the percentage of students who have completed the evaluation process and will encourage student participation in the OSEP pilot.

#### **Officer reports:**

- **Senate President** (David Hogan):
  - Nominations for Senate offices will be accepted until January 12. The slate currently consists of:
    - President: Alar Lipping
    - Vice President: Open
    - Parliamentarian: Steve Weiss
    - Secretary: Perry Bratcher
    - Budget: Carl Miller
    - Benefits: KC Russell
    - Professional Concerns: Scottie Barty
    - Curriculum: Ron Shaw

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry Bratcher  
Secretary

