

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

May 8, 2009

Members present: Seyed Allameh, Scottie Barty, Kevin Besnoy, Perry Bratcher, Heather Bullen, Tom Cate, Steve Crites, Doris Coy, Patty Connelly, Adele Dean, Chuck Frank, Emily Detmer-Goebel, Kristi Haik, Nancy Hancock, David Hogan, Irene Encarnacion (for Barbara Klaw), Alar Lipping, Augustine Yaw Frimpong Mansoh, Julie Mader-Meersman, Phil McCartney, Ausbra McFarland, Jacqueline McNally, John Metz, Carl Miller, Phil Moberg, Scott Nutter, Cathy Pence, K.C. Russell, Toru Sakaguchi, Ron Shaw, Karen Tapp, Jim Thomas, Duke Thompson, Jeff Ward, Steve Weiss

Members absent: Iain Barksdale, Michael Baranowski, Richard Boyce, Rich Gilson, Eric Jackson, Brant Karrick, Aron Levin, Ban Mittal, Duke Thompson

Guests: Jim Votruba, Gail Wells, Grace Hiles, Jen Koenig, Mary Lepper, Ray McNeil, Salina Shrofel

The meeting was called to order by Senate President David Hogan at 1:40 p.m. The minutes of the April 20, 2009 meeting were approved.

Presentations:

- **President** (Jim Votruba):
 - Opportunities for meeting with students have been numerous in recent weeks. Throughout all the meetings, it is clear that the NKU faculty/student relationship is strong.
 - Demand for access to the university is strong. Flat enrollment for the fall is anticipated.
 - General education reform will be very important for the university
- **Provost** (Gail Wells):
 - NKU will be holding its first graduate student graduation as a separate ceremony. About 170 graduates are anticipated to graduate.
 - Online evaluations have concluded for the spring semester. These will be studied, a report will be created, and a recommendation will be made in the fall regarding continuation of the program.
 - Summer school offerings are up. Also strong in other areas of applications – 38% increase in freshman applications, 54% increase in African-American applications. Also 34% increase in those with 29 or higher on the ACT.

- General education structure committee will work in the summer with those working on the QEP and active learning. A document reviewing consolidating these recommendations will be created in July for review by faculty and a Faculty Senate vote in August/September. Late fall/spring will be spent identifying courses (through the Curriculum Committee) that will fill the adopted general education structure.
- **Faculty Regent** (Steve Weiss) - At the most recent Board of Regents meeting:
 - Heard an overview of the new College of Informatics building. Groundbreaking is set for May 28.
 - The university budget was approved
 - Steve thanked the everyone for their support in his tenure as Faculty Regent

Committee Reports:

- **Benefits** (K.C. Russell): The Faculty Senate Scholarships were awarded to:
 - **Virginia Shelley** (daughter of Jill Shelley – Political Sci./Criminal Justice)
 - **Sean Ryan, Book Award** (son of Jennifer Jolly-Ryan – Chase)
 - **Laura Schreiner, Book Award** (daughter of Dolores Schreiner – World Languages & Literatures)
- **Curriculum Committee** (Ron Shaw):
 - The Master of Arts Degree in Public History was approved.
- **Professional Concerns** (Scottie Barty):
 - The addition of the M.A. degree in Dance was approved as an acceptable degree for the Department of Theatre and Dance.
 - Discussion ensued regarding a proposed change to the *Faculty Handbook* regarding prior service. There were several suggested amendments and discussion items regarding this issue. These included when the negotiation can take place (before hiring or a set time period thereafter), where this item fits in the handbook, and several suggested wording changes. It was decided that the proposal should be taken back to the Professional Concerns Committee so that these issues could be finalized, with an edited version brought back to Senate for review.

Other:

- Discussion ensued regarding a proposed resolution for discussion brought by Phil McCartney regarding teaching effectiveness. The Provost voiced her willingness to start a dialogue regarding this issue which would include (but not be limited to): what is teaching effectiveness, how it can be assessed, and the role of student evaluations in the

process. It was suggested that the Professional Concerns Committee consider this issue and bring forth a resolution in the fall regarding this process. Phil McCartney volunteered to work on this issue. During the summer, interested parties can contact Phil McCartney regarding this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 3 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry Bratcher