

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

January 26, 2009

Members present: Seyed Allameh, Michael Baranowski, Scottie Barty, Kevin Besnoy, Perry Bratcher, Heather Bullen, Tom Cate, Steve Crites, Ken Engebretson (for Doris Coy), Patty Connelly, Adele Dean, Richard Boyce, Chuck Frank, Nancy Hancock, David Hogan, Brant Karrick, Barbara Klaw, Aron Levin, Alar Lipping, Julie Mader-Meersman, Kristi Martines, Phil McCartney, Jacqueline McNally, John Metz, Carl Miller, Phil Moberg, Scott Nutter, K.C. Russell, Toru Sakaguchi, Karen Tapp, Jim Thomas, Steve Weiss

Members absent: Iain Barksdale, Rich Gilson, Emily Detmer-Goebel, MaryCarol Hopkins (sabbatical), Eric Jackson, Cathy Pence, Ausbra McFarland, Ban Mittal, Ron Shaw, Jeff Ward

Guests: Jen Stansbury-Koenig, Mary Lepper, Debra Meyers, Karen Campbell, Pat Moynahan

The meeting was called to order by Senate President David Hogan at 3:05 pm. David acknowledged the new Senate officers for 2009/10 elected at the 2:30 meeting. The minutes of the December 19, 2008 meeting were approved.

Presentations:

- **NKU President** (Jim Votruba): Dr. Votruba thanked Scott Nutter regarding his presentation to the Board of Regents demonstrating use of faculty development (sabbatical) funds. The state budget continues to dominate campus planning for the near future. The following are examples of topics being discussed:
 - NKU looking at a \$3.5M budget reduction
 - Tuition freeze has been discussed, but not generally supported
 - A lot of “posturing” will take place during budget negotiations
 - The federal stimulus package could bring some support to higher education
 - The new federal administration seems to have a better understanding of the impact of higher education on economics
 - NKU Vice Presidents have been asked to prepare 10% budget reduction scenarios. Half of the instructional budget will be exempt from these reductions
 - An emphasis will be made on maintaining current enrollment
 - Per credit hour pricing plan being proposed
 - Any ideas on administrative overhead savings should be passed to Dr. Votruba
 - No opportunities for major new investments at this time
- **Provost** (Gail Wells):
 - A pamphlet outlining the activities for faculty development projects (summer fellowships, project grants, sabbaticals) was enthusiastically received by the Board of Regents
 - General Education update: a report from the fall town hall meetings is forthcoming. The committee for revision of general education will reopen the process for input. Suggestions will build on student learning outcomes. Discussion ensued regarding Gail’s

letter to the faculty regarding the general education process/expectations. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the reduction to 30 hours. Concern was also expressed regarding cost of implementation during these economic times. Communication with administration is important in this process. Any ideas regarding this process should be forwarded to Steve Weiss or Scott Nutter.

- **SACS Update** (Pat Moynahan, Jacqueline McNally, Debra Meyers):
 - Focus reports have been submitted regarding compliance. SACS committee members will be on campus Feb. 23-25.
 - The QEP with an emphasis on active learning has been finalized. This emphasis will be made as part of the general education process and will prepare students for the workforce via life-long “deep leaning”. Deep learning includes participation in class and with other students/faculty.
 - Five student learning outcomes have been identified: 1) critical synthesis, 2) application to complex problems, 3) teamwork/collaboration, 4) clarity in oral and written communication, and 5) personal and social responsibility awareness
 - Fall 2010 will include implementation in all general education courses of the QEP goals/objectives and student learning outcomes, including discipline specific assessment tools. Faculty development opportunities will be available
 - Detailed information on the QEP process can be found through Blackboard and faculty should become acquainted with the process

- **Healthy Workplace Committee** (Karen Campbell): A presentation was made regarding healthy workplace issues and the upcoming (Feb. 24/25/26, March 3/4) health risk assessment. The free screening includes a fasting blood test for cholesterol, blood sugar and a complete blood count/chemistry profile, height, weight and blood pressure. A report will be mailed to the employee’s home. Additional tests (PSA/Thyroid) are available for a fee (\$37/\$35). This information will also be used as group data used to determine costs for healthcare plans. The Healthy Workplace committee (Iain Barksdale, Senate representative) is working on a strategic plan for campus.

There were no other reports and the meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry Bratcher
Secretary