

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

March 16, 2009

Members present: Seyed Allameh, Iain Barksdale, Michael Baranowski, Scottie Barty, Kevin Besnoy, Perry Bratcher, Heather Bullen, Tom Cate, Steve Crites, Doris Coy, Patty Connelly, Adele Dean, Emily Detmer-Goebel, Kristi Haik, David Hogan, Barbara Klaw, Aron Levin, 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, Jeff Ward, Steve Weiss

Members absent: Richard Boyce, Chuck Frank, Rich Gilson, Nancy Hancock, Eric Jackson, Brant Karrick, Ban Mittal, Duke Thompson

Guests: Jim Votruba, Gail Wells, Mary Lepper, Jen Stansbury Koenig

The meeting was called to order by Senate President David Hogan at 3:05 PM. The minutes of the February 16, 2009 meeting were approved.

Presentations:

- **NKU President** (Jim Votruba): Report focused on three primary areas:
 - **Frankfort Update:** Current session almost over. Appears funding approved for completion of Johns Hill Road improvements and Connector Road. Increased taxes will help the financial situation. Looking at a \$113B shortfall next year. NKU will receive \$3.8M each year for 2 years as part of the stimulus package – this is non-recurring (“thing”) money rather than recurring (“people”) money. This should help with the College of Informatics building funding.
 - **Budget:** Next year’s budget reduction will be 2.7% (on top of the 2% this year). This can be covered with a 2.9% budget reduction. The lower than expected budget cut allows NKU the ability to cover fixed cost increases, replenish \$400K in the “rainy day fund” and keep scholarship funds. It would be difficult to fund raises, non-tenure track to tenure track conversions, and allow no high demand/deferred programs. The next two years will involve internal reallocations rather than new money. NKU needs to review its priorities. Next year’s tuition will rise 4%.
 - **Personnel evaluations:** President Votruba has initiated a process of dean/administrator evaluations on a rotating basis by an outside consultant every 5 years. This year, Gail Wells and Ken Ramey were a part of this process. The results of this process have led to the following conclusions:

- Need to focus campus initiatives/slow the pace. The current strategic plan has 77 priorities – this needs to be pared down over the coming months
 - Review needs for administrative overhead
 - Enrollment needs to be stabilized at current levels as well as the management of student credit hours at current levels
 - Need to protect small class sizes (currently at 24.6 average)
 - Improvement of communication/consultation by the administration
 - Move to per credit hour pricing
- **Provost (Gail Wells):**
 - The ACT CAAP exam has been approved in a bill by the Kentucky Legislature for assessing general education learning outcomes. Results will be reviewed state-wide. A document was distributed giving an overview, summary, merits, and recommendations of the program for faculty senate review.
 - Kentucky House bill 226 - A new section of KRS Chapter 164 (the “Textbook Bill”) has passed the House and is now in the Senate. A copy has been distributed to faculty senators for review. If passed, the Professional Concerns Committee will need to review it before implementation.
 - Plus/minus grading will be implemented in the fall.
 - Per comments from last month’s Faculty Senate meeting, the fee for processing of H-1B Visa and LPR casework was eliminated as well as the UNV 101 Instructor Training fee.
 - **The Provost presented a new “enrollment based” policy for compensating faculty teaching during the winter and summer sessions. (The policy is described in the Academic Update document dated March 2009). A long and spirited discussion ensued between the senators and the Provost on how compensation would be determined if course enrollment dropped between the time the faculty person agreed to teach the course (two weeks before the beginning of the course) and when an “official” count of enrollment was taken (the day after the last day to enroll). At the end of the conversation, the Senators were still confused and frustrated about what the final compensation policy would be and were disappointed with the prospect that compensation could be less than they expected at the time they agreed to teach the course.**

Officer Reports:

- **Senate President (David Hogan):**
 - Karen Tapp has volunteered as Faculty Senate representative on the Council on Institutional Effectiveness and Accountability
 - Faculty Regent nominations due March 27. Regent elections are April 13-24.
 - “A Conversation with Governor Beshear” will take place 7 pm 3/26 in the Student Union ballroom

- COSFL is discussing whether to ask the legislature to investigate whether the KCTCS Board had legal authority to eliminate tenure status for new hires in the KCTCS system.
- **Faculty Regent** (Steve Weiss):
 - The NKU master plan was approved at the March Board of Regents meeting.
 - The Board of Regents approved the 4% tuition increase.

Committee Reports:

- **Professional Concerns** (Scottie Barty): The “NKU Administrator Evaluation and Reporting Parameters” document was distributed for final Senate approval. The following change was made: delete the sentence “No administrator will be evaluated until 1 full year of service at NKU is completed”. This change was approved and consequently the full document was approved.
- **Benefits** (K.C. Russell): Currently collecting applications for the Faculty Senate Scholarship
- **Budget** (Carl Miller): The committee recently met with Ken Ramey and Andy Meeks regarding several issues. There wasn’t much support for a proposal to assess employee’s a percentage of their annual income to pay for parking .

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Bratcher
Secretary