

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

September 17, 2012

Members present: Jim Allen, Seyed Allameh, Tom Lambert (for Michael Baranowski), Diana Belland, Perry Bratcher, Carol Bredemeyer, Tobias Brauer, Gary Clayton, Kim Clayton-Code, Steve Crites, Jacqueline Emerine, Irene Encarnacion, Richard Fox, Sandra Grinnell, Diane Gronefeld, Steven Gores, Patrick Hare, Lisa Holden, David Hume, Mary Kirk, Kajsa Larson, Alar Lipping, Gail Mackin, Ausbra McFarland, Tara McLendon, Joe Mester, John Metz, Karen Mutsch, Scott Nutter, Jeanne Pettit, Ron Shaw, Jim Thomas, Jeffrey Williams

Members absent: Richard Boyce, Roxanne Kent-Drury, Nancy Firak, Yi Hu, Rich Gilson, Phil McCartney, Louise Niemer, Steve Weiss, Xiaoni Zhang

Guests: Geoffrey Mearns, Gail Wells, Mary Lepper, Megan McCartney, Larry Geismann, Grace Hiles

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Alar Lipping at 3:05 pm with a quorum present. The minutes of the August 20, 2012 meeting were approved. Senate President Alar Lipping gave a brief welcome for President Mearns, mentioning that collaboration and shared governance are values held dear to President Mearns as evidenced through his work with the Faculty Senate at Cleveland State University. President Lipping welcomed the attendance of Professor Emeritus Dr. Larry Geismann to the meeting. Dr. Geismann will be attending future Faculty Senate meetings and providing historical perspectives on issues as needed.

Guest Reports:

- **University President (Geoffrey Mearns):**
 - Reemphasized his strong working relationship with the faculty and AAUP at Cleveland State University.
 - Meetings with various campus constituents, both formal and informal, have been taking place since this summer in order to get a feel for the campus climate
 - Meetings have also taken place, off-campus, in Frankfort, and with the Kentucky Society in Washington DC.
 - A “stakeholder survey” will be distributed to campus personnel to further assess the campus climate. This will be a brief, 4-5 open-ended question survey.
 - All information gathered from the above resources will be considered when beginning development of the campus strategic plan in January. The university will work toward ambitious but realistic goals with the plan linked to resource allocations. The primary goal will be to support student success using various measurement metrics.
 - The campus will continue with the “Points of Focus” plan currently in place until the new strategic plan is implemented.
 - \$600,000 has been allocated over a two year period to hire the firm Royall & Co. to assist with student recruitment. This investment was made in order see how NKU could improve recruitment efforts in our competitive market area over the

short term (18 month) period. Royall & Co. has the resources to commit to this project over the short term period which could not be done readily in-house. This recruitment effort will include targeting high school students beginning in their sophomore year.

- **Provost (Gail Wells):**
 - The installation ceremony for President Mearns will take place at 2 pm Oct. 26 in the Bank of Ky. Center. The Music Dept. will play a significant role in the ceremony.
 - A two mile “walk” around campus will occur at 9 am on Oct. 27
 - Nominations for the six Faculty Excellence Awards are due Oct. 5.
 - There are currently nine tenure-track and six renewable lecturer position searches taking place.
 - The faculty handbook will soon be made available in PDF format.
- **Faculty Regent (Jacqueline Emerine):** Highlights of the 9/12 Board of Regents meeting include:
 - Enrollment updates included a report that the Freshman class is the most qualified in the university’s history. Enrollment is flat overall, however the number of student vets, international students and online student numbers have increased. The \$600K Royall & Co. initiative (mentioned above) was also discussed.
 - A report on student success included the fact that 1,980 Bachelor Degrees were conferred. Also, there is a collaborative initiative between First Year Programs and University Connect and Persist using 14 sections of UNV 101 and other networks of support in order to retain Freshmen students. The new Student Success Center and increase in funding for advising was also discussed.
 - Reports about the success of the project SOAR program and an athletics update were given which included issues regarding the scheduling of games and the ineligibility of student athletes for NCAA post-season tournaments.
 - President Mearns discussed the future strategic planning process.
 - Ken Ramey discussed construction issues.
 - Sue Moore discussed reorganizational changes.
 - Gerry St. Amand discussed up-coming fundraising.
 - Various miscellaneous issues included voting on personnel. actions/appointments, faculty handbook changes (recently approved by Faculty Senate) and university organizational chart changes.
- **Web redesign (Megan McCarty):**
 - Phase 1 (majority of college sites) and Phase 2 (nku.edu home and top-level) of the new university website design have been completed. Phase 3 (remainder of colleges) will be completed in the spring of 2013.

Committee Reports:

- **Professional Concerns** (Jeffrey Williams):
 - Currently formulating a plan of action for the year
- **Benefits** (Scott Nutter):
 - Faculty development award applications are due 10/2. Two workshops were held with a total of 20 in attendance.
 - There will be 21 sabbaticals, 15 fellowships and a total of \$56,000 for project grants.
 - The Provost is looking at ways to increase funding
- **University Curriculum** (Richard Fox): Curriculum deadlines for 2013 catalog inclusion are:
 - New programs: 10/4
 - Major changes: 10/15
 - Graduate changes: 10/25
 - UG changes: 11/15
 - The course descriptions in the University Catalog are being “cleaned up”. Minor changes will not require Curriculum Committee approval. Substantive changes will come to the Committee for review.
- **Budget Committee** (Gary Clayton):
 - The goal this semester is to administer the faculty survey by the end of the semester in order for results to be used in the spring university budget planning process.
- **Teaching Effectiveness and Enhancement Committee** (Ken Rhee):
 - Revision of the course evaluation process will continue this fall with pilot departments identified.
 - Spring faculty development workshops will include the following topics: improving feedback to students, increasing student engagement via course design, and balancing teaching, research, service and personal responsibilities.
 - Working on improved faculty communication via the creation of a newsletter.

Announcements:

- In celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, Latino Student Affairs will present keynote speaker Mariela Dabbah on 9/19 at 12 pm in the Budig Theater. Her keynote topic is “Making Yourself Visible: The Key to Multiplying Your Opportunities”.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Perry Bratcher
Secretary