

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

April 22, 2013

Members present: Jim Allen, Seyed Allameh, Michael Baranowski, Diana Belland, Perry Bratcher, Carol Bredemeyer, Tobias Brauer, Gary Clayton, Kim Clayton-Code, Steve Crites, Jacqueline Emerine, Irene Encarnacion, Nancy Firak, Richard Fox, Sandra Grinnell, Diane Gronefeld, Steven Gores, Isabelle Lagadic (for Patrick Hare), Lisa Holden, Mary Kirk, Kajsa Larson, Alar Lipping, Phil McCartney, Ausbra McFarland, Tara McLendon, Joe Mester, John Metz, Karen Mutsch, Scott Nutter, Louise Niemer, Jeanne Pettit, Jim Thomas, Steve Weiss, Jeffrey Williams, Xiaoni Zhang

Members absent: Richard Boyce, Roxanne Kent-Drury, Rich Gilson, Doug Hume, Gail Mackin, Ron Shaw

Guests: Geoffrey Mearns, Gail Wells, Ken Rhee, Peter Gitau, Erik Pederson, Allen Hornung, Mary Lepper, Ray McNeil, Grace Hiles

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Alar Lipping at 3:00 pm with a quorum present. The minutes of the March 18, 2013 meeting were approved.

Guest Reports:

- **University President** (Geoffrey Mearns):
 - President Mearns introduced this year's student "President for the Day" Colin Kremer. Mr. Kremer expressed his appreciation on behalf of the students for the availability of faculty.
 - Dr. Peter Gitau, the new VP for Student Affairs, was introduced. He noted the synergy he has noticed amongst the various departments and the willingness to collaborate. He is looking forward to working with other units on campus.
 - Everyone was urged to provide input to the search firm (Isaacson, Miller) regarding the Provost position. The firm is holding forums in order to gather perspectives on what we should be looking for in NKU's next Provost.
 - An additional faculty member (Burke Miller – History & Geography) has been added to the Provost Search Committee. President Mearns considered input from various areas on campus regarding makeup of the committee and "struck a balance" for membership after careful consideration of this input.
 - President Mearns expressed his thanks to faculty for support during his first year.
 - Currently reviewing reorganization needs at the university, focusing on the Advancement Division and realignment of Information Technology.
 - President Mearns will look into concerns regarding minor teaching equipment needs for Founders Hall.
- **Provost** (Gail Wells):

- The Celebration of Student Research and Creativity events were successful with 20% growth in participation over last year.
- Commencement ceremonies are Saturday, May 11 at 9 am (College of Arts & Sciences and College of Informatics), 2 pm (College of Education & Human Services, Haile/US Bank College of Business, and College of Health Professions) and 6 pm (Chase College of Law)
- **Faculty Regent** (Jacqueline Emerine):
 - The next Board of Regents meeting is May 8 with a full report at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Committee Reports:

- **Professional Concerns** (Jeffrey Williams): Three handbook changes were brought forward by the committee as voting items. A motion was made and approved to bring forth each change separately for voting. The recommended changes were:
 - Replacement paragraph Section I. J. 4: “A professor holds all the qualifications of an associate professor and is recognized as a very effective teacher; has a record of high-quality scholarly and creative activity; has demonstrated significant service activity as defined in the NKU Faculty Handbook; and has attained professional recognition at the regional, national, or international level. These criteria are listed in order of importance.” **(Approved)** NOTE: The same change was approved for the Assistant Professor (J.2) and Associate Professor (J.3) requirements.
 - Insert the following paragraph in Section I. J. 4: “The applicant’s entire academic career will be considered, with an emphasis on activities after tenure and promotion to associate professor. Applications may be submitted as soon as the above criteria are met, but faculty applying for promotion to professor will typically have completed six years at the rank of associate professor.” **(Approved)**
 - Changed heading and added clarification to Section II. F: “PROBATIONARY CONTRACTS WITH CONDITIONS TO BE REMOVED BEFORE TENURE CAN BE GRANTED. Conditions to be Removed indicates that the faculty member being reviewed is not making satisfactory progress in the area or areas indicated.” **(Referred back to Committee for further clarification)**
 - The issue regarding the adoption of a policy stating the observance of religious holidays was discussed in committee but no action has been taken at this time.
- **Benefits** (Scott Nutter):
 - The following changes to the Benefits Committee By-Laws were approved by the Senate:
 - Changed Article IV C. “Proxy votes will not be considered nor counted toward the quorum.”
 - Added Article V A. 4) Faculty Senate Scholarship Award

- Changed Article V B. “Each subcommittee shall consist of at least five members, one of whom shall be recommended subcommittee chairperson by the subcommittee members and approved by the FBC chairperson.”
 - Added Article V D: Each subcommittee should be composed of faculty from diverse disciplines.
 - Changed Article F 2: “Applications received after the deadline stated in the FPPH will not be considered.”
 - Changed Article F 3: “Proposals submitted to the FBC, including comments from the program’s chairperson and/or Dean, shall be provided to all members electronically.”
 - Changed Article F 4 b: “Each proposal shall be assigned a numerical value by each subcommittee member using the evaluation instrument approved by the Committee.”
 - Changed Article V F 9: “Project Grant recipients may not request reconsideration from the Faculty Benefits Committee regarding changes in line item funding of approved grants. If the recipient does not agree with the changes in funding by the Faculty Benefits Committee, he/she may seek additional funding from the appropriate Department Chair, Dean, and/or the Provost.”
- Chairs/Deans letters of support will now be replaced by forms.
- A mechanism to provide feedback to unsuccessful project grants applications will be given a trial run in the fall.
- A statement on the sabbatical proposal form has been added for the applicant to provide information on how they met the requirement of “communicate results to other faculty through presentation, performance, or publication within 1 year” from a previous sabbatical award.
- **University Curriculum** (Richard Fox):
 - The committee approved the implementation of a reserve number (yet to be determined) for study abroad courses. Old courses will be grandfathered into the system, but will be encouraged that these courses be renumbered. This change will help improve the visibility of these courses.
- **Budget Committee** (Gary Clayton):
 - The annual faculty survey will be administered around mid-September in order to give more time for the results to be incorporated into the campus budget planning process.
 - This year’s raises have been announced at 1.5% (last year’s “raise” was a one-time merit-based bonus). It should be noted that the CPI was 2.1% this past year and that inflation has been 3.1% and 3.2% the past couple of years.
- **Interim General Education Committee** (Steve Weiss):

- The Committee will move from interim to permanent status this fall, with membership almost the same. The two At-Large committee members will be elected rather than appointed and a general election will soon take place to fill these vacancies.
- **Teaching Effectiveness and Enhancement Committee** (Ken Rhee):
 - The final faculty workshop was held last week.
 - The following recommendation was **approved**: “The Teaching Effectiveness and Enhancement Committee proposes the full deployment of the updated on-line course evaluation questionnaire for the fall semester, 2013”.

Officer Reports:

- **Senate President** (Alar Lipping):
 - Kim Clayton-Code has agreed to serve as Chair of the Benefits Committee beginning next fall.
 - The last Senate meeting will be on Friday, May 10. Lunch at noon (Faculty Senate Scholarship Award recipient(s) will be recognized and others recognized for service) with the Senate meeting following at 1pm.
 - Everyone was encouraged to attend one of the Provost search firm forums and also encouraged to nominate any individuals they feel are qualified.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Perry Bratcher
Secretary