

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

November 17, 2008

Members present: Seyed Allameh, Michael Baranowski, Scottie Barty, Perry Bratcher, Heather Bullen, Tom Cate, Patty Connelly, Steve Crites, Adele Dean, Chuck Frank, Emily Detmer-Geobel, David Hogan, MaryCarol Hopkins, Brant Karrick, Barbara Klaw, Alar Lipping, Cathy Pence, Julie Mader-Meersman, Phil McCartney, Jacqueline McNally, John Metz, Carl Miller, Phil Moberg, Scott Nutter, KC Russell, Toru Sakaguchi, Ron Shaw, Karen Tapp, Jim Thomas, Jeff Ward, Steve Weiss

Members absent: Iain Barksdale, Kevin Besnoy, Ed Brewer, Doris Coy (meeting w/Dean), Rebecca Evans, Rich Gilson (sabbatical), Nancy Hancock, Eric Jackson, Aron Levin, Kristi Martines, Ausbra McFarland, Ban Mittal, Duke Thompson (class conflict)

Guests: Jim Votruba, Gail Wells, Pat Moynahan, Mary Lepper, Kathy Bennett, Connie Kiskaden

The meeting was called to order by Senate President David Hogan at 3:05 PM. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Danny Miller. The minutes of the October 27, 2008 meeting were approved.

Guest Presentations:

- **NKU President** (Jim Votruba): A moving service was held for Danny Miller on Nov. 15th. The budget outlook doesn't look promising. The recovery period from this economic downturn will not be quick – 18 months to 2 years with an additional year for state revenues to recover. Kentucky is facing a \$270M-\$300M budget deficit and higher education may not be exempt from the next round of cuts. It is mandated that the state balance its budget. Looking at a possible 6-10% additional cut this next year (up to \$5.5M for NKU). Last round of cuts was 6%. Enrollment demand and revenues are currently strong but this could change depending on the credit crisis and the increase in unemployment. Probably looking at no new operating or capital funds. Affordability will remain an issue. Advice from all areas of campus is being sought. A tuition increase would be difficult during this time. Possible solutions being investigated include: per credit hour fee without free hours from 12 to 16 hours, growth limitations, reduction in the number of students with developmental needs, streamlining general studies, administrative efficiencies and new revenues. Working together and increased communication will be essential during this time. The Senate Executive Committee will be meeting with Dr. Votruba on 12/8 to discuss these and other issues.

- **Provost** (Gail Wells): The issue of summer school pay is being investigated with the Professional Concerns and Budget committees. Ideas being considered include continuing the 3% salary/credit hour (from a \$65,000 annual salary cap) but also implementing pro-rated salaries for under-enrolled courses instead of cancelling them. The hope would be to support students in their continuing educational goals and support faculty with some compensation, although less than expected. A minimum salary would also be set. Everything is still in the discussion phase.
- **SACS Accreditation** (Pay Moynahan, Mary Lepper): Compliance reports have been submitted and are being reviewed. The QEP is being finalized (due 1/9/09). Campus visit by SACS committee on 2/23-26/09. Detailed documentation can be found at <https://access.nku.edu/sacs2009nku>. This is a password protected site. Web site statistics were distributed. Compliance results are as follows:
 - **Core Requirements:** all in compliance
 - **Comprehensive Standards:** all in compliance except Intellectual Property Rights (partial compliance), College-level Competencies (partial compliance), Terminal Degrees of Faculty (non-compliance), and Faculty Competency (partial compliance)
 - **Federal Requirements:** all in compliance

OFFICER REPORTS:

- **President** (David Hogan): Everyone was encouraged to run for Faculty Senate offices. Several members of the Executive Committee met on 11/10 with Ken Ramey and Andy Meeks regarding bookstore issues. Suggestions for improvement will be monitored for the Spring semester. Volunteer needed for the Admissions and Academic Planning Committee. See David if interested.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Curriculum** (Ron Shaw): A motion was made and approved for a new Bachelor's of Science degree in Statistics.
- **Benefits** (KC Russell): Rankings for sabbaticals, project grants, and summer fellowships have been submitted to the Provost.
- **Budget** (Carl Miller): A handout was distributed regarding the results of the annual faculty budget priority survey. This will be made available electronically to the Senate for distribution to all faculty members. Jim Votruba and Gail Wells also have copies of the survey and the Executive Committee will be discussing the results with them.

- **Professional Concerns** (Scottie Barty): Currently ironing out issues regarding online evaluations.