

Kentucky State University Faculty Senate Minutes

November 30, 2015

<u>Senators</u>		<u>Ex Officio Members and Guests Present</u>
<u>Alhuani, Abdallah E</u>	Nursing	<u>Tierra Freeman, BSS</u>
<u>Amusan, Ibukun</u>	Math & Sciences	<u>Mara Merlino, BSS</u>
<u>Andries, Ken</u>	AFE	<u>Elgie McFayden, Faculty Regent</u>
<u>Capriles, Nancy</u>	BSS	<u>David ShabazzLLP</u>
<u>Graham, William</u>	Education	<u>Hunt Butler, Fine Arts</u>
<u>Griffin, Robert</u>	Fine Arts	<u>Narayanan Rajendran, Math/Sci</u>
<u>Griffis, Bruce</u>	Math & Sciences	<u>John Sedlacek, Interim Chair AFF</u>
<u>Grimes, Kristopher E</u>	AFE	<u>Raymond Burse, President</u>
<u>Gyawali, Buddhi E</u>	at-large	<u>Lorna Brown-Wright, VPAA</u>
<u>Kumar, Ashok</u>	at-large	<u>LeChrista Finn, AFF</u>
<u>Landy, Tucker</u>	Whitney Young	<u>Fariba Olden, AFF</u>
<u>Liu, Zhanping</u>	Computer Science	<u>Tyra Dunn-Thomas</u>
<u>Moffett, Joe</u>	LLP	<u>Chi Shen, Chair COS</u>
<u>Ray, Andrew</u>	Aquaculture	
<u>Ross, Scott</u>	Fine Arts	
<u>Rye, Reba</u>	at-large	
<u>Sharma, Rita</u>	Math & Sciences	
<u>Sipes, Kim</u>	at-large	
<u>Smith, Peter</u>	LLP	
<u>Tate, Debra</u>	Library	
<u>Tope, Avinash A</u>	AFE	
<u>Ulrich, Stephen</u>	PUA, SW, CJ	
<u>Wang, Changzheng</u>	at-large	
Representative still needed from School of Business, 1 from Behavioral & Social Sciences, 1 from Nursing		

The seventh meeting of the AY 2015-16 Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:10 pm on Monday, November 30, 2015, Hathaway Hall Room 123. Agenda was approved and the Faculty Senate minutes of November 16, 2015 were approved with one correction.

Vice-President Academic Affairs:

VPAA Brown-Wright reported that she and Senate President Smith have discussed an adhoc committee to look at evaluation criteria for the tenure/promotion process and to make recommendations relating to clarity. The goal is to identify the committee by Chair nominations and volunteers, meet before January and elect a Chair, and have recommendations by March 15, 2016. Unit benchmarks will be solicited and reviewed for discipline specifics.

Dr. Brown-Wright wants faculty input into Faculty Development possibilities, especially relating to retention and graduation.

President's Comments:

President Burse emphasized closing the gaps in advising processes to help address low retention and graduation rates. He reported that the 2010 freshmen cohort for graduation rates stands slightly over 10%. Since KSU adopted a zero financial balance there have been numerous dis-enrolled students from that cohort and the graduation rate at the end of this fiscal year is anyone's guess. He said a "whole new approach to advising" must be developed and adhered to that is always based on the catalogue basics and ladder curricula of degree programs. He said that availability of money to hire advisors is a problem.

President Burse is working on the issue of students not buying textbooks. While xeroxing readings is helpful it is not enough and financial aid options will possibly need to be implemented.

He emphasized the significance of the political changes pursuant to the gubernatorial election and that the new administration will want to know what the return is on the state's \$24M investment in KSU. The 10% graduation rate is a "white flag" unless KSU takes ownership and responsibility.

During the question/answer period Regent McFayden emphasized KSU's transfer-out rate. President Burse reported that next year the CPE will begin tracking transfers and credit will be accrued to KSU if a student transfers out.

In response to Regent McFayden's concerns about Criminal Justice and Social Work understaffing, President Burse said he plans a search to fill those positions.

President Burse cited two anecdotal instances of questionable schedules for students as evidence of advising problems. A senator pointed out the varied considerations that impact students' need to take on-line classes; such as work-schedules, families and non-availability of lecture classes, and advised President Burse to not be so quick to "jump to conclusions" that the problem is always advising.

A discussion ensued regarding who is "qualified" to advise students per their major. Also, the advisement of all students below 30 credit hours by CAPS (The Center for Academic Persistence) was discussed. There are problems when advisors are not well informed on individual degree curriculum

ladders, as well as specific major requirements that must be taken the upcoming semester due to infrequency of offering.

One senator pointed out that, while he cannot speak to advising policies in other divisions, he has encountered issues with students showing up as newly declared majors, or in his class, who have been poorly advised to over-schedule degree classes without advancing properly in the liberal studies core.

Several senators made the case for inadequacies in the current system with CAPS and that faculty are the best informed to advise their majors. President Burse was responsive to that opinion and said he will reconsider that recommendation since he has been hearing this opinion since he first arrived.

Early finals for graduating seniors was discussed, with senators saying that the change in schedule was unfair to students due to a shortened semester in which to complete their coursework. President Burse said that he takes responsibility for the “administrative mess” that developed into the current situation and assured the Senate that it will “be better going forward.” There were conflicting opinions expressed by senators about the policy at other schools.

A senator asked if there are classes on December 8, Gubernatorial Inauguration, and the answer was no.

A senator asked about the status of the Distinguished Professor schedule. President Burse responded that responsibility is not in his office and VPAA Brown-Wright said she will get with Senate President Smith to discuss the issue.

There was a discussion about the significance of Scholarly/Creative Research in expectations of faculty at a “teaching institution.” President Burse said that, while we are first and foremost a teaching institution, he considers research to be a way to improve and enhance education. He said that KSU has chosen Student Engagement (student participation in symposiums/conferences and presentations/papers/exhibitions/performances) from six categories presented by the CPE on which to be evaluated. KSU will debate with CPE on where our percentage should be relative to graduates.

It was pointed out that historically we have not received funding for student participation in conferences, even when they have projects and papers accepted for presentation. President Burse reported that Greg Rush is working on an “Instructional Improvement Fund” based on the number of faculty within a unit.

Chair of the BASC, Scott Ross, said that his committee has yet to receive a line-item budget. President Burse said to email him directly again and he will respond. Chair Ross inquired of the additional budgetary concerns that the Committee has asked about in two previous emails pertaining to the contingency plan for balancing the budget that was presented to the Board of Regents. This plan calls for: 1.) a 10% reductions in headcount and 2.) use of the University General Account, which includes equipment and equipment attrition expenses for academics. President Burse responded that units supplied him with the 10% headcount reduction contingency plan but none have been implemented to date. He pointed out that if it should become necessary in the Spring the percentage may be double. He verified that the University General account is still held in reserve for balancing the budget but that select necessary expenditures have been approved. BASC Vice-Chair Rye pointed out that some of the money encumbered in the University General account includes equipment specific for instruction and, as such, instruction has been cut. The President said that only a small percentage is in that category but indicated that units could submit requests for such items that are essential for instruction.

A non-senator said that he completed training for on-line courses, developed the course, and now is told by his Chair that Dean Shaw instructed him to not schedule any 100 level on-line courses, even if none of the registered students are Freshmen. Other Divisions have been allowed to schedule 100 level on-line courses. The President indicated that he has a committee “looking at that issue.”

Budget and Academic Support Committee Report:

Chair Ross said that some concerns of the Committee were dealt with in the discussions with President Burse today. He reported that the BASC is working on an Action Item that addresses policy for publication of KSU’s budget, both on-line and archived in the Library. Regent McFayden said that the budget is supposed to go to archives anyway, and Chair Ross replied that the policy is not “written down” anywhere and needs to be. Regent McFayden forecasts that the BASC will still not receive a line-itemed budget and it will be “general.”

Vice-Chair Rye said that the Board of Regents’ minutes are not updated on the KSU website while the Faculty Senate minutes have been required to be on very short notice. VPAA Brown-Wright assured the Senate that they are “working on that” as well.

Curriculum Committee Report:

Chair Andries reported that the Committee is working on cleaning up paperwork relating to a class offered by KSU off-site (Louisville) through the “Bridges of Opportunity Training Program.” KSU does not offer certificates for the class, but the Department of Transportation does. The class does not “lead to a degree” but can be used as a University-Wide General Elective and is transferrable as such. The Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Obielodan, raised the question of facility compliance.

The Curriculum Committee is not looking at content and delivery but only at compliance with “off-site” regulations. The class “evolved” into off-site class classification, and the administration did not realize that it had done so. The class is taught by Fred Scheffler.

The Action Item passed unanimously by voice vote.

Professional Concerns Committee Report:

Chair Kumar reported that Police Chief Jones met with the full Committee. Most of the department is new, including the Chief, and officers are currently going through training. Once this is completed then faculty, staff and students will be included. Chair Kumar said the Active Shooter alert system does not seem to be working. He was able to enroll previously but now the site does not recognize his email account. He proposes there should possibly be training planned for the Spring Institute, especially since here are a number of new employees.

It was pointed out the KSU website does not have a published phone contact for emergencies and that should be included in the new re-design.

A non-senator inquired if faculty who went through Post-Tenure Review last year can reclaim their dossiers. There was no clear answer.

President Smith observed that Patti Marraccini in Nursing is up for Post-Tenure review, yet there is no one else in the Nursing program tenured to serve on the Post-Tenure Review Committee. Regent McFayden asked if Nursing is hiring. A senator replied that the University is certainly not awarding tenure. Regent McFayden corrected, “Unless you are an administrator.”

Academic Policies Committee Report:

Committee Chair Moffett reported the Committee continues to look into online class policies and reached out to other committees in order to be inclusive. PCC Chair Kumar observed that the policy should be consistent across the University. President Smith added that an ad hoc committee develop an evaluation for online classes specific to components relating to online delivery.

VPAA Brown-Wright said that the charge to develop policies for online courses originated because there are no defined parameters. Courses are going “from face-to face to on-line,” and the Board of Regents wants an assessment as to who approves such changes. A non-senator said he was aware of only one such situation and inquired if there were others. Dr. Brown-Wright replied there have been seven classes that were scheduled to be face-to-face and were changed to on-line, and not necessarily officially. A senator inquired if the study relates to class delivery method or evaluation of the instructor. Chair Moffett replied it is class delivery system.

VPAA Brown-Wright said the Board wants to look at percentage of on-line students who receive D, F or W and that 29% of freshmen who took online courses failed. A senator asked how many Freshmen failed traditional lecture classes and pointed out that the 29% statistic doesn’t “say anything” if not compared. Another senator observed that the pass-fail rate is virtually the same for both on-line and traditional classes. Brown-Wright said they are not looking at comparisons but only at on-line course statistics. Other senators cited situations when availability of online classes for freshmen contributes to progression toward degree, such as traveling athletes. Brown-Wright reiterated that, as of the last Board meeting, Freshmen are not to be enrolled in on-line classes. Question: does that mean that no 100 level courses are to be offered, even for non-freshmen? Brown-Wright responded, “No, there could be 100 level on-line courses offered if freshmen are not enrolled.” A non-senator pointed out, once again, that some Chairs are not approving any 100 level on-line courses. On inquiry, Brown-Wright verified that this request can be directed personally to her via email. A senator asked Dr. Brown-Wright if there is any written policy currently that prohibits freshmen from taking online courses and if there is a policy prohibiting 100 level on-line courses. She replied that there is no written policy but rather a verbal directive from the Board of Regents.

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm.

Minutes Submitted by: Reba Rye, Faculty Senate Secretary