

# **Faculty Senate**

Northern Kentucky University Highland Heights, Kentucky 41076

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING

April 17, 1989  
3 p.m.

### UNIVERSITY CENTER BALLROOM

#### AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes of March 20, 1989
- II. Agenda Deletions and/or Additions
- III. Committee Reports
  - A. Curriculum
    - 1) Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Philosophy (voting)
      - a. Course Change: ANT 110
      - b. New Course: ANT 210
    - 2) Department of Mathematical Sciences (voting)  
Course Change: MAT 205
    - 3) Amendment to Curriculum Manual (voting)  
Part III, item II (page 14); add the following:  
Deletions: will not require distribution of copies of course change form. Notification on the agenda of the UCC will suffice. The original course change form will be filled out and sent through the normal channels for approval/disapproval.
    - 4) Criteria for General Studies Course (voting) and Implementation Plan.
  - B. Professional Concerns
    - 1) A Faculty Statement on Outcomes Assessment (voting)
    - 2) Academic Council (voting)  
Please note that this is a revised proposal.
  - C. Benefits  
Discussion: Early Retirement Plan (Gene Scholes, guest)
  - D. Budget
- IV. Senate President's Report
- V. Status of Senate Recommendations
- VI. Other Old Business
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Adjournment

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## FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Meeting of April 17, 1989

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Barry Andersen, Carol Bredemeyer, Tom Brossart, Andrea Cornuelle, R. Kent Curtis, Sudesh Duggal, David Dunevant, Sandy Easton, W. Vernon Hicks, J. Lynn Jones, William R. Jones, Mike Klembara, Nancy D. Martin, Art Miller, Marjorie Muntz, Margaret Myers, Lou Noyd, Phil Obermiller, Dennis O'Keefe, Terry Pence, Fred Rynhart, Denise Robinson, Fred Schneider, Frank Stallings, James Thomas, David Thomson, Bill Wagner, Robert Wallace, Richard Ward, Ted Weiss, Emily Werrell, Macel Wheeler, Geraldine Williams.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lynn Ebersole, Chris Stiegler.

**GUESTS:** Michael Thomson, Frances Mosser, Kathleen Brinker, Tom Cate, John Johnson, David Jorns, Lew Wallace, Darryl G. Poole.

### I. Corrections and Additions to the minutes.

Under the Professional Concerns Committee report, topics were labeled on page 5, #2 at the paragraph beginning with "changes", #3 at the paragraph beginning with "Information", and #4 at the paragraph beginning "Recommended". In addition, "on the student handbook recommendation" was included after question in the sixth paragraph. Sandy Easton moved approval of the minutes as corrected. Marjorie Muntz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### II. Under committee reports, a Wellness Committee report by Kathleen Brinker was added as item E.

A voting item on the "Interaction between the Faculty Benefits Committee and the Office of Research, Grants and Contracts" was added as number 2 under the Benefits Committee report.

Dr. Jorns was added as a guest speaker on the Early Retirement Plan discussion.

Time limits were suggested for the items on the agenda.

Curriculum - items 1 through 3 - 10 minutes.

Criteria For General Studies Courses - 20 minutes

Faculty Statement on Outcomes Assessment - 20 minutes

Academic Council - 15 minutes

Early Retirement Plan - 20 minutes

Interaction between Benefits and Office of Research, Grants, & Contracts- 5 minutes

Budget Committee Report - 5 minutes

Wellness Committee Report - 5 minutes

Senate President's Report - 5 minutes

State of Senate Recommendations - 5 minutes

Bob Wallace moved approval of the agenda changes and time limits. Art Miller seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### III. Committee Reports

#### A. Curriculum Committee - Mike Klembara

- 1) ANT 110 and ANT 210 passed with 1 negative vote.
- 2) MAT 205 passed with 1 negative vote.
- 3) The amendment to the Curriculum manual to not require full distribution of course deletion forms passed unanimously.
- 4) Criteria for General Studies Courses. See attachment 1 for proposal.

After much discussion and many meetings, this has been brought to the Senate. There are two statements - criteria and implementation.

90 level courses are considered pre-college level work and it does not need to be stated that they do not qualify for general studies.

"Current state of affairs" in number 2 means what is happening within the discipline currently.

A concern was raised about conflict of criteria regarding category "history of discipline" and criteria 2.

Concern was expressed about the last sentence in item 1. As written it does not allow 300/400 level course which would meet this. Concern was expressed about the limitation for 300/400 level course. Currently English courses at that level will still be accepted. Next year the General Studies Subcommittee will review courses based upon these criteria. Support will be given to 300/400 level courses which are broad based enough to meet other criteria. Some majors have 60-70 hours. If all 300/400 level courses are taken out, they may not be able to meet the 300/400 level course requirement. The word "future" was added at the last curriculum meeting to criteria 5.

Time was called. Since time was saved on previous curriculum items, the chair suggest that discussion be continued.

Question whether criteria currently exist to define level of courses. Since criteria do not currently exist, criteria for course numbers need to exist as well.

Barry Andersen moved to delete criteria #5. Bob Wallace seconded. The motion passed - 15 for, 11 against.

Discussion continued about general studies courses not having prerequisites.

The proposal excluding criteria #5 passed with 1 negative vote.

#### B. Professional Concerns - Ted Weiss

- 1) A Faculty Statement on Outcomes Assessment at NKU was presented for approval.

Concern was expressed about the effect these guidelines will have on the Curriculum Committee based upon the March 20th motion passed by Faculty Senate. The statement is seen as being restrictive on what they can do.

Fred Rhyhart moved to refer the statement to the Curriculum Committee for review. Bill Wagner seconded.

Outcomes assessment has a broad range which is outside the purview of UCC. It is important to the faculty as a whole. The statement provides a framework for the whole process. This was developed by a committee of faculty to establish some philosophical guidelines on assessment. Should not be referred to committee as guidelines are for faculty as a whole.

Discussion on content included concern that "value added" is a touch phrase.

Professional Concerns saw this statement as providing parameters in which to develop assessment. If no sense of territory exists, why should Professional Concerns mind referral to UCC. Discussion included normal route issue reaches Senate. Professional Concerns saw outcomes assessment as part of Strategic Plan which was assigned to the Professional Concerns Committee. The UCC looked at the substance of the statement and has concerns. Value-added was seen as a very dangerous concept. This was not seen necessarily as role of assessment.

The motion to refer the statements to the UCC to review passed - 18 for, 11 against.

## 2) Academic Council

Main concern previously stated was that it would dilute the power of Faculty Senate. As written now it is an extension of the Senate. It would be a permanent body called into session by the group as needed. With Senate President as convenor, control over agenda and meeting times would be held by the Senate.

Concern is still present that it will detract from the authority of the Senate. Council will not make decisions, merely provide vehicle for discussion and exchange of ideas. The President of the Senate traditionally meets with various governing bodies. The University Council does not meet frequently. The Executive Committee can meet with various faculty or other groups. Fear is present that a "kitchen cabinet" might emerge. Channels of discussion currently exist and another layer is not needed.

An at-large faculty member was suggested. Barry Andersen moved to add an at-large faculty member who is not a member of the Senate. Sandy Easton seconded. The motion was defeated - 7 for, 15 against.

If the job is not getting done, the Senate should be made better.

The question was called. The Academic Council proposal was defeated - 10 for, 20 against.

3) The evaluations of administrators have been completed. Summary accounts are available in the Senate Office.

4) Another recommendation on sexual harassment is being studied.

C. Benefits Committee - Marjorie Muntz

2) The voting item on Interaction between Faculty Benefits Committee and the Office of Research, Grants, and Contracts passed with 2 negative votes.

1) Discussion was held on the problems with the Early Retirement Plan due to the new tax program. The full amount of compensation needs to be included in gross income in the year of retirement rather than at time of payment. The value of health and life insurance would also be included as income for tax purposes. Therefore Mr. Hickman and Ms. Bell recommended the program be disbanded.

The Benefits Committee met and voted to recommend that the plan not be disbanded until a way of setting up another plan could be investigated. It was felt that April to June was not a good time for deliberations and final conclusions.

Dr. Nacev from Chase presented the committee with an estimated cost to a person earning \$50,000 at the time of early retirement. The accelerated tax for the program benefits would only equal about \$500. A subcommittee has been appointed. Dr. Jorns, Dr. Scholes, a representative from the Law School and representation from the Benefits Committee. A special thanks is given to Professor Nacev for the well needed information.

The only issue remaining is the question of possible violation of the IRS code which involves providing the same benefits to all employees.

D. Budget Committee - Sandy Easton

The committee chose to take no position on the COSFL statement on athletic funding.

Carol Bredemeyer presented a short report on the COSFL meeting on April 1st.

E. Wellness Committee - Kathleen Brinker

The first meeting was held in March. \$30,000 has been allocated for this program. Monies are expected to be ongoing. A preliminary proposal on physical fitness has been presented to the committee. They visited the R. A. Jones Company to see their wellness program. They are looking for someone to coordinate the wellness program. Approximately \$15,000 will be spent for purchase of fitness equipment for use by faculty and staff. Any input from faculty would be appreciated.

IV. Senate President's Report - Nancy Martin

A letter has been received by Dr. Jorns from Dr. Cates from SACS concerning clarification of institutional effectiveness recommendations. Copies of this letter have been distributed to all Senators.

The elections committee has received names of all department senators for 1989-90. Votes for at-large representatives are due April 20th.

The Faculty Handbook Committee has completed work on appeals hearings and grievences. Thanks go to Fred Schneider as chair. Other committee members included Linda Olasov, Dennis O'Keefe, Janet Miller and Jonathan Bushee.

Dr. Jorns and Nancy Martin attended the National Symposium on Faculty Governance. Nancy will be sending a written report to the Senators. There is a proposal for a National Network of Faculty Senates. Nancy has asked Dr. Boothe to approve of the Senate joining.

On April 14, all the former NKU Senate Presidents met. Discussion was on the future of the Senate at NKU. This is not being formalized as an ongoing committee but could be an excellent resource for future Senates.

The election of Senate officers will take place at the next meeting on May 11th. After April 20th, a list of the new Senate will be circulated. Nominations will then be requested.

The constitution revisions suggested by the Elections Committee will be postponed until fall to allow an appropriate time for deliberation.

A letter has been received from a faculty member expressing concern about the lack of administrative response to the report of the Faculty Study Committee submitted in October 1988.

#### V. Status Senate Recommendations

No action has been taken on the faculty appeal process recommendation.

The student appeal and hearing process is being studied by Vice-President Dickens and Legal Counsel Bell. Perhaps it could be consider as part of a revision of the student handbook.

Dr. Boothe has requested the Senate to move the time period forward for the faculty evaluation of administrators.

Dr. Boothe approved the Senate recommendation that the UCC consider assessment of General Studies.

Dr. Boothe responded to the Senate budget request for expansion funds for release time for the Chair of Budget & Commonwealth Affairs Committee and the Chair of Professional Concerns, and the supplemental compensation for the President of the Faculty Senate for summer load. As stated in the March 29, 1989 memo, "As you probably suspect, the total request from all divisions of the University was several times in excess of the money available. After close and careful scrutiny, I regret to inform you that funds are not available to support the request outlined in your memorandum of March 1. Thank you for taking the time to bring this to my attention. I only wish that more funds were available to the institution than is currently the case."

Dr. Boothe has responded to the governance issue thanking us for our concern but no action has been taken. This is a critical area for the spirit of the Senate.

VII. New Business

An on campus teaching conference will be held on Friday, May 12. Good proposals have been received. Faculty are urged to attend.

If a special meeting of Senate is held on May 1st, Dennis Taulbee has asked to speak on expansion distribution. If a sufficient amount of other agenda items are received, a meeting on May 1st will be held.

A concern was expressed about the short length of time available to discuss the new academic council proposal with department faculty.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.