



Faculty



Senate

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS KY 41099 859-572-6400

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Monday, October 27, 2003

UC Ballroom

3:00 PM

AGENDA

Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda

Approval of Minutes – September 22, 2003 Meeting

Guests

- **Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost—Dr. Jerry Warner**
- **Robert Wilcox-Faculty – Proposals to Amend Faculty Regent Election Rules and Regulations**

Officer Reports

- | | |
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| • President | Steven Weiss |
| • Vice-President | Carol Bredemeyer |
| • Parliamentarian | Ed Brewer |

Committee Reports

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| • Professional Concerns | Phil McCartney |
| • Curriculum | Ron Shaw |
| • Benefits | David Hogan |
| • Budget | Dennis Lye |

**New Business
Announcements
Adjourn**

NKU Faculty Senate—Minutes of the October Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 3:00. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Bob Wilcox, Faculty Elections Officer, presented several changes to the elections procedures. All the changes passed. Exact wording of the changes will be reflected in the published election procedures.

President Weiss updated the Senate on D grade transferability. The policy will have 2 prongs, the first part accepting the grades, and subsequently including those D grades in the NKU GPA.

Phil McCartney (PCC) reported:

1. a subcommittee working on an Honor Code Revision
2. another looking at reporting dates for summer projects/fellowships
3. graduate faculty status under review
4. a new initiative to establish a campus-wide faculty mentoring program
5. online student evaluation/teaching effectiveness evaluation is being examined

David Hogan (BC):

1. Committees ranking all proposals
2. FACDEV center will host fall benefits workshop, with chair moderating (8, 16, Sept. '04)
3. Benefits for Domestic Partners (voting item, postponed from previous meeting). Claudia Zaher proposed a substitute motion. Motion to Substitute Passed. Main Motion as amended (by substitution) passed.

New Business

Dr. Hewan pointed out that the faculty staff dining room is being used for storage. President Weiss said he would look into it. He also expressed concern about towing of cars related to special events. If a faculty member parks earlier in the day, he/she may be subject to towing.

Scottie Barty requested clarification of the policy for fall break: Are faculty required to be here?

MEMORANDUM

FROM: SENATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

TO: FACULTY SENATE

SUBJECT: PROPOSALS TO AMEND FACULTY REGENT ELECTION RULES AND REGULATIONS

DATE: September 10, 2003

(I)

As reported at the final meeting of the Senate in May 2003, the Faculty Regent Election revealed some issues that I wish to bring to the attention to the Senate and request consideration for amendment. These issues involve faculty eligibility and run-off rules.

- A) **Faculty Eligibility** - during the election, the committee discovered that certain faculty were not permitted to vote according to the Faculty Regent Election Rules and Regulations. These were non-tenured permanent renewable lecturers.
- 1) By election rule **Three (3)**, these people were not permitted to vote because they did not hold a tenured or tenure-track position. The rule reads as follows: "The Election Committee shall also determine the eligibility of all faculty to vote in the election for Faculty Regent. Anyone with **faculty rank of assistant professor or above**, including administrators with faculty rank, is eligible to vote for Faculty Regent, provided that the faculty member has a full-time appointment at Northern Kentucky University (regardless of his/her current assignment) **and their position is tenured or tenure-track.**"
 - 2) However, since non-tenured permanent renewable lecturers can vote and serve on Senate committees, the elections committee believes they should be extended the opportunity to vote in future Faculty Senate Regent elections. The committee proposes amending the rule to read as follows (~~striketrough~~ items have been removed; **bolded** items have been added):
"The Election Committee shall also determine the eligibility of all faculty to vote in the election for Faculty Regent. Anyone with faculty rank of ~~assistant professor~~ **non-tenured permanent renewable lecturer or above**, including administrators with faculty rank, is eligible to vote for Faculty Regent, provided that the faculty member has a full-time appointment at Northern Kentucky University (regardless of his/her current assignment) ~~and their position is tenured or tenure-track.~~"
 - 3) Alternative: "The Election Committee shall also determine the eligibility of all faculty to vote in the election for Faculty Regent. ~~Anyone with faculty rank of assistant professor or above~~ **All members of the General Faculty, including non-tenured permanent renewable lecturers** and administrators with faculty rank, **are** eligible to vote for Faculty Regent, provided that **each eligible** faculty member has a full-time appointment at Northern Kentucky University (regardless of his/her current assignment) ~~and their position is tenured or tenure-track.~~"
 - 4) Mary Ryan has determined that as of the Fall 2003 semester there are 100 affected faculty at the university, apparently many of them in the Learning Assistance Program. Mary and Teresa Westlund are willing to work with the elections committee to provide a list that Rita Thomas can add to her database and which can be updated easily for the next Regent election.
 - 5) The elections committee recommends that the Senate consider favorably one or the other proposed amendments to Rule Three (3).
- B) **Run-off Election Rules** - the election also raised the possibility of a run-off election. While this was not necessary, in reviewing the rules for run-off the committee finds them to be unnecessarily complicated.
- 1) Rule 14 (d) reads: "To determine the eligible candidates for the run-off election, the election committee will first rank all candidates by percentage of vote received from the largest to the smallest. Starting from the top of this ranked list, the committee will determine the smallest list of candidates whose combined percentage of vote exceeds 66 2/3 percent. This list will constitute the candidates eligible for the run-off election."

- 2) Since under this system there is considerable potential for multiple run-offs (as has been the case in the past), thus complicating and delaying final selection, the Elections Committee would like to simplify the process and amend Rule 14 (d) to read:
"To determine eligible candidates for the run-off election, the election committee will rank all candidates by the number of valid votes won, scheduling a run-off election between the two candidates with the most votes. If two or more candidates are tied with the most votes, these candidates will contest the run-off election. In the case that following the front runner there is a tie between the next two or more candidates, then these candidates will be included in the run-off. The candidate who receives 50% + 1 of votes in the ensuing run-off election(s) will be declared the winner."
- 3) The elections committee recommends that the Senate consider favorably the above amendment to Rule 14 (d).

(II)

In addition to the above issues, and in consultation with University Counsel, Sara Sidebottom, we have identified two issues that we believe would be advisable to add to the rules and regulations. They have to do with familiarization of candidate eligibility and inability to take office.

- A) **Candidate Familiarization of Eligibility** - in the past we have encountered situations whereby candidates have been ineligible to take a seat on the Board of Regents because a close relative was employed at the university and that person did not wish to resign his/her position.
 - The Kentucky State rules are clear on this, as expressed in state laws from State Colleges and Universities, specifically regulation KRS 164.360 (2): **"....No person shall be employed at an institution where his relative serves on the board of regents for that institution."**
 - "Relative" is defined in regulation KRS 164.002 (17) as: **"'Relative' means a person's father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, son, daughter, aunt, uncle, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law."**
 - 1) It is the Election Committee's belief that with the addition of a clause in the election rules that requires the potential candidate to be familiar with all rules, including the above, the responsibility for determining one's eligibility will fall fairly on the candidate him/herself. As a result, we propose adding the following paragraph to the election rules and regulations:
 - **"16. All potential candidates shall familiarize themselves with Faculty Regent election rules, including those referring to eligibility as explained by the State of Kentucky regulations for Board of Regents, particularly those in regulations KRS 164.003 (17), 164.321, and 164.360 (2)."**
- B) **Inability to Take or Maintain Office** - though the elections have not had a problem with any elected member being able to sit out his/her term, Sara Sidebottom also brought to our attention the potential for such an event.
 - 1) As a result, we would like to propose an additional clause to anticipate such a situation that would read:
 - **"17. If the elected candidate is unable to serve or serve out his/her term by reason of death, disability, or legal restriction, automatically the runner-up will fill the position, thus requiring no new election. If the runner-up does not wish to take the position, then the next most-voted candidate will fill the position. The same procedure will apply if the Board member chooses to resign during his/her term."**
- C) The elections committee recommends that the Senate consider favorably the above additions to the rules and regulations.

Thank you for your attention.

Robert Wilcox
Chair,
Faculty Senate Elections Committee