



# Faculty Senate

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS KY 41099 859-572-6400

## FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

October 22, 2001

**Present:** J. Smith, S. Zachary, C. Zaher, S. Weiss, C. Hewan, R. McNeil, M. Roszmann-Millican, C. Sheng, S. Barty, S. Duggal, P. Fairbanks, C. Frank, M. Gers, P. Goddard, D. Gronefeld, V. Kumar, A. Long, D. Lye, C. McDaniel, M. McGatha, C. McKenzie, T. Pence, H. Riffe, M. Stavsky, J. Thomas, K. Vogler, T. Weiss.

**Guests:** W. Vernon Hicks, Rogers Redding, Annie Dollins, Linda Albert, James Votruba

**Absent:** E. Brewer, G. Clayton, G. Sheard-Grout, R. Holt, B. Houghton, R. Jenisch, B. Mittal, B. Thiel, W. Wood

1. President Jeff Smith called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. The minutes of the 9/24/01 meeting were approved.
3. Provost Redding distributed copies of "Creating Our Future: Northern Kentucky University's Academic Strategic Plan. November 2001". See Attached. (Copies of the document had been sent to all faculty prior to the meeting.) The document was the work of the committee whose names are listed on the last page. They had more than 20 conversations with over 500 people, including faculty, staff, students and the community, and identified the strategic priorities to guide NKU's future planning.  
In response to a question from J. Smith, he agreed that it is a broad plan, and said that the committee did not set priorities.  
In response to a question from J. Thomas, he said the administration was seeking input from the Faculty Senate.  
President Smith asked for guidance on the next step – should the document be sent to a subcommittee? Should the Senate vote to approve the document? J. Thomas suggested the report be sent to a subcommittee of the Professional Concerns Committee (PCC), with a time limit for reporting on it. Provost Redding said the Regents need to have items on their agenda at least 7-10 days before their scheduled meetings, and their next meeting is set for 11/14/01. S. Zachary questioned if there was sufficient time to review the document, and T. Weiss asked whether the Senate would be involved when items from the document are actually at the implementation stage.  
J. Thomas moved to refer the document to the PCC to be reported on by the next Senate meeting. Second by (T. Pence?). The motion passed.  
T. Weiss asked for clarification of items 2 and 6 on the distinction between outreach and distance learning.
4. Dr. Votruba's remarks: The momentum NKU has recently enjoyed has been threatened by the falling revenue projections for the state. The governor is still intent on shielding higher education from budget cuts, but cuts are possible. The University has already set aside enough to cover a 2% budget cut this year, but more cuts are expected next year. He is still committed to the scheduled 6% faculty raises, if possible. The Council on Postsecondary Education is still committed to the benchmark process, if possible.  
NKU is aggressively managing the revenue side, and not just waiting to see how much money will be available from the state. The four revenue strategies:
  1. Seeking marginal growth that doesn't require additional investment. EX: the Provost will be looking at the possibility of increasing section size without compromising quality.
  2. Find where major growth is possible and target those areas with front loaded funding. Find those areas in high demand in the community and do a financial assessment of those programs.
  3. Reward academic entrepreneurship; seek opportunities in distance education, summer sessions, weekend instruction. Put extra revenue into the departments that are inventive and creative and let the departments keep the revenue.

4. Seriously review NKU's pricing structure to balance access and quality. A 9% tuition increase is possible if benchmark funding is not secured.

President Votruba will discuss these revenue strategies at the November Board of Regents meeting. Prof. S Weiss suggested it is time to look at the limit on the amount of teaching and income professors are permitted in summer school.

5. Committee Reports:

- a. **UCC- M. Roszmann-Millican** explained the voting item on Rank I Certification Program – Instructional Leadership. The program is designed to provide an option for those persons who are currently certified as P-12 principals to further their education in the area that they have chosen as a career path. The program was created as a collaborative effort between NKU and UK. It is specifically designed for candidates who have completed the Master of Arts degree in Instructional Leadership and have received certification in that area. In addition, this certificate would provide participants with the opportunity to complete an endorsement to their certificate for the Supervisor of Instruction and/or for the Superintendent. There was no discussion. The item was approved without objection.

- b. **Benefits:** C. Hewan. No Report

- c. **Budget:** C. Sheng. The committee's recommendations for budget priorities are

1. Maintain planned salary increases;
2. Funding for equity issues;
3. Funding for the benefits package.

J. Thomas commented that the priorities are important because the administration has listened to the priorities in the past. R. McNeil proposed that the Budget Committee should review the 4 revenue strategies identified by President Votruba.

- d. **PCC:** R. McNeil. No report

6. Old Business. None.

7. New Business: J. Smith - Voting item - Proposed changes to the Faculty Senate Constitution: The Executive Committee proposed amending the Constitution to allow for additional members when new departments are created. 2/3 of the Senate will be composed of departmental representatives, and 1/3 will be at-large representatives. The number of at-large representatives will grow as the number of departmental representatives grows. The constitution can be changed only by a meeting of the general faculty, and 2/3 of those present and voting must approve the changes. In response to a question from C. Frank, the number of representatives will increase to 38 at this time. In response to a question from T. Weiss, 2/3 of those present at the general faculty meeting must approve. In response to a question from J. Thomas, he hopes to call the general faculty meeting immediately, and have the results to the Board of Regents before their meeting on 11/14/01. Provost Rogers said that voting items for the Regents must be on the agenda 7-10 days before their meeting. C. McDaniel moved (P. Goddard, second) that the Senate recommend passage of the proposed amendments to the general Faculty. The motion passed without objection.

8. President's Report. J. Smith: NKU is facing new health care rates. They are facing 20% rate increases, and have budgeted for 15% increases. With the recommendation of the health care committee, some co-pay amounts will increase. There is an additional dental option, and the advanced dental option includes orthodontia treatment.

9. The Space committee approved the occupants of the renovated Natural Science building. Occupants include but are not limited to: Art Appreciation, Geography, CINSAM, Lit & Lang, Dean of Arts of Sciences, and Political Science. The renovations are expected to take 18 months. There will be additional moves in Landrum, BEP, and the Health Center after the moves to the renovated building.

10. There were no other officer reports.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Claudia Zaher