

Faculty Senate

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS KY 41099 859-572-6400

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

March 18, 2002

3:00 PM

UC Ballroom

AGENDA

Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda

Approval of Minutes – January 28, 2002 Meeting

Guests

Robert Freed, Faculty Representative on CPE

Officer Reports

- President Jeff Smith
 - Campus Environmental Issues Committee
 - Voting Item: Approval of the Committee Recommendations
- Vice-President Sam Zachary
- Secretary Claudia Zaher
- Parliamentarian Steve Weiss

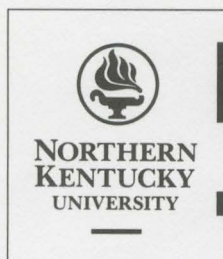
Committee Reports

- Curriculum Michele Roszmann-Millican
- Professional Concerns Ray McNeil
 - Voting Item: Transferability of D Grades
- Benefits Clinton Hewan
- Budget Chenliang Sheng

Old Business

New Business

Adjourn



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Faculty Senate Meeting

March 18, 2002

Present: J. Smith, S. Zachary, C. Zaher, S. Weiss, C. Hewan, R. McNeil, M. Roszmann-Millican, C. Sheng, S. Barty, E. Brewer, G. Clayton, S. Duggal, P. Fairbanks, C. Frank, P. Goddard, D. Gronefeld, V. Kumar, A. Long, D. Lye, C. McDaniel, C. McKenzie, T. Pence, B. Ramjee, H. Riffe, J. Thomas, T. Weiss, W. Wood.

Absent: P. Cooper, M. Gers, B. Houghton, R. Jenisch, A. Lipping, M. McGatha, B. Mittal, R. Pennington, M. Stavsky, B. Thiel, K. Vogler.

Guests: A. Dollins, R. Redding.

1. J. Smith called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. The minutes of the 2/25/02 meeting were approved.
3. J. Smith introduced Richard Freed, the faculty representative on the Council of Postsecondary Education (CPE). He said that the CPE is more powerful since it was given budgetary powers under House Bill 1. Some funds pass thru the CPE, others are distributed at the discretion of the CPE. The CPE has statutory authority to review, eliminate and approve new programs. It fosters cooperation between the presidents of all the state universities, and it is responsible for the KY Virtual University and the KY Virtual Library. Any faculty member can contact him at richard.freed@eku.edu.
4. **Officer Reports** – J. Smith introduced the Campus Environmental Issues Committee, represented by Steven Finke, Yvonne Meichtry and Barry Dalton.
 - a. Steven Finke reviewed the formation of the committee and presented its three proposals:
 1. We recommend creation of an Environmental Advisory Committee. This committee should consist of individuals whose disciplines and areas of interest make them informed representatives, qualified to speak for environmental interests. In order for this committee to have any real impact, it must have representation at the level where decisions concerning University lands and lands to be acquired are initiated, discussed and made. To our knowledge, this would include the Master Plan Committee, which is currently not meeting, and an informal committee called the Facilities Leadership Committee. It is the hope of this committee that by utilizing the scholarship, expertise and social responsibility inherent in this academic institution, we can continue to grow in an environmentally responsible manner, setting an example to the community and assuring continued access to the natural beauty of this region. We feel that this dialogue will result in a better integration of the form and function of our campus and enhance the educational objectives of this university
 2. We recommend the creation of an Outdoor Educational Center in the forest behind the Honors House. There has already been much work done in assessing needs, research and planning by Yvonne Meichtry from the College of Education. Funding from the state in the form of “seed” money has been awarded to each of the eight state universities to establish Environmental Education Centers. The accessibility of the Honors Forest and the quality of the ecosystem as shown on the maps produced by the ERMCM makes it an ideal location.

3. The original impetus for this committee's work was the attempt to save a small ravine, adjacent to the former Steffen property, from adverse development. While the maps show us that this land is not on university property, we see that it is on property that the university would like to acquire. The ravine represents one of the few areas of "very high" quality in our area. On it we have found the largest and oldest trees and an excellent variety of native wildflowers, including ginseng, black cohosh and bloodroot, which are considered rare, or becoming rare. It also contains the least amount of invasive species and represents a fine example of a mature Mesic Hardwood forest from our region. We recommend that the university seek to acquire this property for the purpose of conservation, to preserve this area for its aesthetic and educational value.
- b. B. Dalton presented a slide show and maps from the Environmental Resource Management Center.
- c. T. Weiss moved (V. Kumar, second) to postpone Item 2 until Tom Zaniello of the Honors Program can explain his concerns about the committee's recommendations. A. Long suggested that the wording of Item 2 be amended to "consider creation of an Outdoor Educational Center". T. Weiss withdrew his motion. A. Long moved (R. McNeil, second) that the wording of Item 2 be changed as suggested. E. Brewer proposed a substitute amendment (R. McNeil, second) that Item 1 remain as is, Item 2 be amended to read "consider creation of..." and Item 3 be amended to read "Consider acquiring this property for the ...". J. Thomas proposed a substitute amendment (P. Goddard, second) that Item 1 remain as is, Item 2 be amended to read "a committee shall be formed to consider the creation of an Outdoor Educational Center in the forest behind the Honors House. This committee shall include representation from the Honors Program" and Item 3 be amended to read, "consider acquiring this property..." E. Brewer withdrew his amendment. The proposal passed unanimously as amended.
5. **Officer Reports** - S. Zachary announced that the evaluations of administrators have been received, the commentaries are being collated, and the information will be given to the administrators.
6. There were no other officer reports.
7. **Curriculum Committee (M. Roszmann-Millican)** has no voting items. The General Studies subcommittee has submitted their recommendations to the Committee, which will begin discussion of the report at their next weekly meeting.
8. **Professional Concerns Committee (R. McNeil)** The committee was asked by the Provost to review the policy on the transfer of D grades. After thoroughly reviewing the current policy, which prohibits the transfer of D grades, and two alternatives (allowing transfer of both credit and grade, and allowing transfer of credit but not the grade), the committee endorses the current policy. The committee's recommendation passed unanimously. The committee further recommended a change in the wording in the catalog from "Only coursework from a regionally accredited institution for which the student earned a minimum GPA of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale will be considered for acceptance" to "Only coursework from a regionally accredited institution for which the student earned a minimum grade of C (2.00 on a 4.00 scale) will be considered for acceptance". The committee's recommendation for the change passed unanimously.
9. **Benefits Committee** – no report.
10. **Budget Committee** – no report
11. **Old Business**—none
12. **New Business** – none
13. **The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Zaher

Dear Faculty Senate,

In The Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold describes the land ethic as one which, "enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants and animals, or collectively, the land." Inspired by this ethic, an ad hoc committee of the Faculty Senate was formed to look into the creation of a Land Sanctuary on the campus of Northern Kentucky University. This committee, formed at the end of Spring Semester 2001 consists of: Barry Dalton (Environmental Resource Management Center), Steven Finke (Art Department), Kathleen Hughes (College of Law), Yvonne Meichtry (College of Education), Mary Paula Schuh (Campus Planning) and Tom Sproat (Biology Department). The goals of this committee were to:

1. Identify university property, which should be put into a binding conservation easement.
2. Establish guidelines for its use.
3. Create a means of implementation.

In order to make a recommendation, we first needed to know what we had on campus, what kinds of ecosystems and what condition they were in. During the summer of 2001, the Environmental Resource Management Center with the aid of a CINSAM grant began a land assessment survey of University owned and adjacent properties. The results of this effort, completed in February 2002, are three maps which show the various types of ecosystems found in our area and the quality in which they were found. The criteria used to judge quality were the age of the system and percentage of invasive species. The oldest systems with the least amount of invasive species were considered to be of the highest quality.

These maps, which will be available on the Campus Planning Website, have proved to be a valuable tool in understanding the land situation at NKU and have had a profound effect on the recommendations of this committee. Initially we had thought to identify the ecosystem of highest quality and recommend that it be preserved. After looking closely at the maps and seeing that there are no ecosystems of high quality on campus the committee feels that what we need is to have a voice which represents ecological concerns in relation to University lands.

In *Sierra Club v. Morton* (405 U.S. 727 1972), Justice William O. Douglas in his dissenting opinion raises the issue of who can speak for the "valleys, alpine meadows, rivers, lakes, estuaries, beaches, ridges, groves of trees, swampland or even air that feels the destructive pressures of modern technology and modern life." "The problem," he states, "is to make certain that the inanimate objects, which are the very core of America's beauty, have a spokesman before they are destroyed." It is the opinion of this committee that the University needs to address ecological concerns in its development and we make the following three recommendations.

1. We recommend the creation of an Environmental Advisory Committee. This committee should consist of individuals whose disciplines and areas of interest make them informed representatives, qualified to speak for environmental interests. In order for this committee to have any real impact, it must have representation at the level where decisions concerning University lands and lands to be acquired are initiated, discussed and made. To our knowledge this would include the Master Plan Committee, which is currently not meeting and an informal committee called the Facilities Leadership Committee. It is the hope of this committee that by utilizing the scholarship, expertise and social responsibility inherent in this academic institution, we can continue to grow in an environmentally responsible manner, setting an example for the community and assuring continued access to the natural beauty of this region. We feel that this dialogue will result in a better integration of the form and function of our campus and enhance the educational objectives of this university.

2. We recommend the creation of an Outdoor Educational Center in the forest behind the Honors House. There has already been much work done in assessing needs, research and planning by Yvonne Meichtry from the College of Education. Funding from the state in the form of "seed" money has been awarded to each of the eight state Universities to establish Environmental Education Centers. The accessibility of the Honors Forest and the quality of the ecosystem as shown on the maps produced by the ERMC makes it an ideal location. (see attachment #1)
3. The original impetus for this committee's work was the attempt to save a small ravine, adjacent to the former Steffen property, from adverse development. While the maps show us that this land is not on University property, we see that it is on property, which the University would like to acquire.
This ravine represents one of the few areas of "very high" quality in our area. On it we have found the largest and oldest trees and an excellent variety of native wildflowers including ginseng, black cohosh and bloodroot, which are considered rare, or becoming rare. It also contains the least amount of invasive species and represents a fine example of a mature Mesic Hardwood forest for our region. We recommend that the University seek to acquire this property for the purpose of conservation, to preserve this area for its aesthetic and educational value. (see attachment # 2)

It is evident that concern over the environment already exists in various aspects of the University community. We can point to the new Environmental Science Program, The Center For Environmental Education, the Environmental Resource Management Center, the interdisciplinary group of faculty working with the Sustainability Group and the student organization ECOS (see attachment #3). There may be others that we are not aware of. With this kind of positive energy already on campus, we feel that the time is here for the University to adopt in its own planning what is being learned by its faculty and taught and recommended to its constituents. We thank you for considering these recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Finke

**Statement on the Transfer of Credit
For Coursework Completed at Other Institutions**

The Professional Concerns Committee and the Faculty Senate affirm the University's current policy regarding transfer of credit for coursework completed at other regionally accredited institutions. We support the continued acceptance of transfer credit only for those courses for which the student earned a minimum grade of C (2.00 on a 4.00 scale).

The primary reasons for this position are

1. Fairness to NKU Students. Acceptance of transfer credit for D grades without including the grades in the student's GPA could provide the transfer student with the same number of credit hours and a higher GPA than an NKU student who received the same grades but took all of the coursework at Northern.
2. Academic Standards. A D grade may not indicate an acceptable level of proficiency in a given course.
3. Difficulty in Implementation. Comprehensive implementation of a change in policy at this time would be difficult and time-consuming given current technology and staffing levels. The PCC and the Senate encourage the University to seek improvements in technology so that, if a change in policy is later recommended, it can be fully implemented in a timely manner.

To clarify the statement of the current transfer policy on page 32 of the 2001-2002 University Catalog, the PCC and Faculty Senate further recommend that the wording be changed

From

"Only coursework from a regionally accredited institution for which the student earned a minimum GPA of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale will be considered for acceptance."

To

"Only coursework from a regionally accredited institution for which the student earned a minimum grade of C (2.00 on a 4.00 scale) will be considered for acceptance."

The term GPA implies an average grade over a number of courses. Current practice is to consider acceptance of transfer credit on a course-by-course basis only.