

Kentucky State University Faculty Senate Minutes

November 30

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 c

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.

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