

**Kent State University
Tuscarawas Campus**

**Faculty Council Meeting
November 9, 2009
Approved Minutes**

Faculty Present

Bears, Carlton, Crume, Davis Patterson, Fox, Graff, Halter, Hoffman, Jewell, Kang, Keiller, Lashley, Li, McMillen, Montgomery, B. Osikiewicz, Pech, Porr, Powers, Rajagopal, Vasudevan, Wang, Welch, Willey

Administrators Present

Andrews, Haldar, Kobulnicky

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Tuscarawas Campus Faculty Council meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the October meeting stand approved, pending corrections recommended by Lashley, Kobulnicky, and Andrews.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Davis Patterson reports that there is no update to the October balance of \$746.50 in the Flower Fund because the books are currently with the auditors; however, an additional \$410.00 was deposited into the account. Thanks to those who have already contributed their annual dues. For those who still need to contribute, dues are \$10.00 and checks should be made payable to the Tuscarawas County University Foundation.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

- A. Lashley announced that RCFAC met on Friday, Nov. 6th. At this meeting, they
- discussed a confidential issue regarding a tenure case on another campus.
 - briefly discussed the new Regional College (which Lashley will elaborate on in her Faculty Senate report).
 - received a draft copy of the proposed policy for regulating Dual Credit course offerings, which Lashley mentioned at our October Faculty Council meeting. If anyone would like to see a copy of it, please let her know. She acknowledged that the proposed draft does state that the only way someone can be approved to teach a dual-credit offering is if they have at least a master's degree in the subject and not a master's in education.
- B. Reappointment files for our three first-year tenure-track faculty are due on Dec. 1, and senior faculty will be doing a review of these during either the final week of this semester or the first two weeks of spring semester. First-year faculty have the option of submitting their files via FolioWeb or on paper.

- C. Reviews of NTT faculty are also coming up. As explained in the correspondence affected individuals have already received, there are some changes in the process for this year. NTT faculty who are in their first or second year will need to submit their materials by January 19, 2010 and will submit their files on paper. Those in their third or sixth year will undergo a Full Performance Review and have the option of submitting their files on paper or via FolioWeb; their submission deadline is January 19, 2010. Those in their ninth, twelfth, or fifteenth year will undergo a Simplified Performance Review. Their materials are due on January 4, 2010, and MUST be submitted via FolioWeb. Senior faculty will be evaluating the Simplified Performance Review cases during the first two weeks of spring semester and will then evaluate the Full Performance Review cases in early or mid February.

V. FACULTY SENATE REPORT

- A. Faculty Senate met on October 12th. At this meeting, they
- approved (although not unanimously) a resolution protesting the fact that the administration usurped the authority of Faculty Senate by 1) creating an ad hoc committee to draw up revisions to the current LER curriculum, 2) creating an ad hoc committee to consider changes to the existing policy governing Faculty Professional Improvement Leaves, and 3) mandating changes to the University tenure and promotion policies, all without appropriate input from Faculty Senate as a whole and/or the appropriate subcommittee of Senate.
 - unanimously approved a proposal to establish a Master of Public Health degree, as well as a Ph.D. degree in Public Health.
 - unanimously approved a proposal to require baccalaureate-seeking students who have Exploratory or generalist majors to declare a degree major before 45 credit hours have been earned. (This does not apply to pre-major, associate degree, or certificate students.)
 - discussed the proposed revisions of the Liberal Educations Requirements (LERs), including a proposed name change to Kent Core. Among the more substantive issues discussed was the proposed adoption of a learner-centered, outcomes-based, pedagogy centered around four key outcomes: Knowledge, Insight, Engagement, and Responsibility. It was pointed out by Senate that mandating a particular pedagogy is an infringement of academic freedom; that this particular pedagogy would seem to require substantially smaller class sizes at a time when budget issues are paramount; and that LER sections (at the Kent Campus) are currently taught largely by graduate students and adjunct faculty, while meeting the stated goals of the Kent Core would seem to require that the courses be taught by more experienced, full-time faculty, which again is at odds with the goals of the RCM budgeting model. Another issue is that the proposed Kent Core would potentially allow ANY course to apply for Core status, while the current LERs are all at the 10000 or 20000 level, which seems to dilute the stated purpose of having a “Core” at all and renders the Core designation almost meaningless.
 - unanimously approved a resolution calling for online SSIs to be implemented this semester, but ONLY for courses that are fully taught online.

- B. At the November 2nd meeting, members of the Faculty Senate
- were shown a film in which a group of undergraduates were interviewed regarding their experiences with the current LERs. They had a variety of concerns about the “meaninglessness” of the courses, the poor quality of instruction typically experienced in LERs, the poor advising they received, and the fact that, if they changed majors, they would typically have to delay their graduation by a semester or two in order to meet the LERs of the new major. The students in the film were also present at the meeting so that they could elaborate on these issues. Senate then discussed the concerns raised by the students and pointed out that poor instruction and poor advising are separate issues from curricular changes, and that the proposed Kent Core is not likely to address these problems and may even exacerbate them. We also pointed out that it is not unreasonable that students may be set back a semester or two when they change their majors, and that neither the proposed Kent Core nor any other curricular change we might reasonably propose would address this problem. The Kent Core proposal is slated to be voted on at the December meeting of Senate.
 - heard another update from the Professional Standards Committee regarding their work on the University promotion and tenure policies. Some potentially very good news for regional campuses: the Professional Standards Committee, persuaded by compelling arguments from regional campus faculty and faculty from several of the professional schools, unanimously decided to once again uncouple promotion and tenure (that is, to remove the requirement that candidates for tenure also undergo a successful review for promotion to associate professor, which they had included in their previous draft at the request of the Provost). This has not yet been voted on by Senate, but there appears to be a lot of support from Senate as a whole. The Professional Standards Committee also decided to backtrack on another of the changes they had previously proposed: language that focused on the *impact* of a tenure candidate’s scholarship rather than its quality. Overall, the most recent drafts of the tenure and promotion policies are much more regional-campus friendly than the previous drafts we have been so concerned about. These most recent drafts are also much better written than the current policies and, if approved, would go a long way towards clarifying the procedures, particularly in the case of regional campus candidates. These newest proposals also eliminate some of the odd discrepancies between the current promotion and tenure policies that came about because those two policies were written by different groups of people at different times.
 - approved (by a vote of 27 to 7) the establishment of a Regional College to serve as the administrative home for programs unique to the regional campuses. Included in the college will be three divisions: Applied Business, Health Occupations, and Professional Studies. Lashley reported at our last Faculty Council meeting that RCFAC had simplified the proposal, eliminating any reference to RPT or other issues raised by Think Tank II, so that the proposal focused solely on the creation of the college. The simplified draft created by RCFAC then went to EPC, where the proposal was again substantially amended in response to faculty from some units arguing that they did not want to be a part of the new college. EPC approved the creation of the Regional College but with

some programs, most notably all of the engineering technology programs, excluded. These programs will be left in their current home in the College of Technology. Re: Engineering Technologies, Dean Andrews clarified that we are essentially a flagship campus. We have the largest number of students and faculty and the most comprehensive program. Two of our programs are accredited by ABET and we are the only campus in the system to have attained that accreditation. We are also one of only twelve university-affiliated campuses in the United States to have that accreditation. This puts us in company with Penn State, Purdue, and SUNY. The reason this discussion has been extended is due to our insistence that we need to carefully evaluate whether not being connected to a College of Engineering or a College of Technology will negatively impact our ABET accreditation.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Academic Affairs

No report.

B. Faculty Affairs/ Handbook Committee

Fuller stated that the committee met on Friday Nov. 6th and is about 90% of the way toward a workload equivalency policy that they hope to complete when they meet Wednesday, Nov. 11th. They have also made progress toward setting a procedure and standards for faculty excellence awards. There has also been initial discussion of reappointment, tenure, and promotion.

D. Electronic Communications

Wang announced that the committee met on October 28th. They have three charges for this year. The first is to update and oversee all faculty web pages, encouraging all faculty to participate. The committee proposed a common web page where students and community members can access faculty information. Faculty can provide very basic, generic information for this page, such as a brief bio sketch and a list of courses taught. Information for the webpage can be provided to Donley, who will upload it into the database. Their second charge is to assess faculty needs re: web-based and/or web-enhanced instruction. Faculty who may wish to use Blackboard and don't yet know how to do so don't have time to attend seminars at Kent. Therefore, the committee is considering bringing Kent personnel down to the Tusc campus to provide brief tutorials. Their third charge involves the committee's status as a standing committee. Given that many of the functions for which the ECC was originally formed have since become obsolete or subsumed by other groups/committees, is there a continuing need for this committee to remain as a standing committee of the Faculty Council. Most committee members feel that the committee should stand, but that its name should be changed to the Electronic Communications and Instruction Committee to more accurately reflect campus needs and committee responsibilities.

E. Library

Keiller announced that the committee met last week and began to review collection development guidelines. They used the Kent model to draft a set of Tusc-specific guidelines. They are also reviewing department and school guidelines, tailoring them to our campus. They looked primarily at the Nursing, Psychology, and Vet Tech programs, but would like to include all disciplines. They will be soliciting feedback from all faculty next semester. Kobulnicky clarified that they will send an e-mail containing links for Kent Campus departmental guidelines to the faculty for review.

F. Student Affairs

On behalf of Roman, a reminder was issued that the deadline for submitting Student Research Colloquium applications is November 24th. Please encourage your students to participate.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Service Learning

Willey announced that the committee had a workshop last Friday and was able to get feedback from community partners. The strategic plan is moving forward and will be presented to FAC in the spring semester. She will be asking service-learning faculty for end of semester info soon.

B. Artist Lecture Committee

Davis Patterson announced that the committee met on Oct. 27th and began planning for the 2010-2011 Artist Lecture series.

C. Diversity Committee

Davis Patterson announced that the committee has tentatively scheduled the first week of April 2010 as Heritage Week. A Taste of the World will be held on Wednesday, April 7th of that week.

D. May 4th Committee

Powers announced that the committee has planned four major events – one for each month during the spring semester. On January 26th, the Emmy Award winning film *Kent State: The Day the War Came Home* will be shown at noon. It will be shown again in the evening on January 27th. In conjunction with the film, on January 28th, we will host Carol Barbato and Laura Davis, who will offer a multimedia presentation at noon and again in the evening.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. DEAN'S REPORT

Dean Andrews announced that

- we have met with the Provost re: the 2010-2011 budget and received approval for the budget proposal as well as for the positions that the FAC endorsed at the last meeting. We will begin forming search committees and getting the ads out for

those positions. Our timeline endeavors to close these sometime in January so that the search committees can get their charges and begin the work of assessing candidates, with a goal of completing hires by the end of April.

- In terms of staff, we are also moving forward with the retention specialist that we talked about at the last meeting. The business office support person will be moved forward, recognizing that we need to look at spring numbers before we make an offer on that position. The Library Director position is slated for hire around July 1st; House Manager for the Performing Arts Center around September 1st; Technical Director for the Performing Arts Center around July 1st. There are a couple of support positions that go along with the PAC as well, and our plan is to hold on those until we see fall 2010 numbers.
- The Performing Arts Center continues to make good progress. We are now shooting for an October 1, 2010 final completion date. One of the issues that has arisen in connection with the PAC is the insurance claims. Although the claims are good and will be paid, they will not be paid in a timely manner. For this reason, we will need additional resources to front end load the budget.
- We are waiting for determination from the USDA re: our academic center at Atwood Lodge as well as the economic development administration on the incubator project at the tech park. We should hear something at about the same time on these (late December/early January).
- On Friday, we tested our emergency broadcast system on the campus. The system worked extremely well; we have an advantage with speakers located not only in common areas of the campus but also on the grounds. **AN IMPORTANT REMINDER: every one of these broadcasts tells you exactly what to do in the event of an emergency. If you get a “shelter in place” announcement, this means lock the door, turn off the lights, and get everyone under their desks. Do not do anything until you hear that there is an “all clear.” Remain in place.**
- President Lefton will be on the Tusc Campus next Monday from 10:030 to noon. If you can make it to the meeting with the president, please try to do so. It is always good to have an excellent faculty turnout when the president is here.

B. ASSISTANT DEAN’S REPORT

On behalf of Fran Haldar, Dean Andrews announced

- The written notification deadline for summer teaching at another regional campus is November 15th. Faculty have already received a memo to this effect.
- The last day to withdraw from semester-long classes was November 8th. Be sure to check your rosters for updates.
- Classes run until noon on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Kobulnicky announced that the United Way deadline has been extended until Friday, November 13th. If anyone needs a form, he brought some with him. Additional forms are available in the library.
- Kobulnicky wishes to thank all the faculty working with him on Destination Kent State this Fall. They've been a great help.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 1:00 p.m.