

FACULTY SENATE OVERVIEW – JANUARY 2014

The Faculty Senate met in regular session on January 8, 2014 in the Rauch Planetarium on Belknap Campus. Chair Joe Steffen presided. University Photographer, Tom Fougerousse was on hand before the meeting to take photos for the Senate's web site.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **MEETING MINUTES:** The meeting minutes from [December 4, 2013](#) were approved unanimously as distributed.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- **STUDENT AWARDS:** Pam Curtis, from the [Office of Student Involvement](#) spoke to the Senate on a major program sponsored by that office in the spring semester – Student Awards. This program recognizes exceptional student performance in various service areas. She noted that student workers and advisors to student groups can also be nominated. The event to celebrate the award winners for 2013, will be held on April 17th. She encouraged senators to submit nominations.
- **CELEBRATION OF TEACHING & LEARNING:** Marie Brown spoke briefly to the Senate about the upcoming [Celebration of Teaching and Learning](#) on Friday, February 7th. The all-day event will be held on ShelbyHurst Campus in the Founders Union Building and is open to all faculty members. There will be 8 concurrent sessions that will explore theory and practical techniques designed to increase student motivation in the classroom. The keynote speaker is Dr. Ken Bain, author of *What the Best College Teachers Do*.

REPORTS:

- **SGA:** Grant Ford – Grant reported that he had worked with Libraries Dean Fox on a proposal for a student library fee to underwrite expenses for staffing extended library study hours and updating thesis/dissertation databases. The proposal has been sent to the Tuition and Fee Setting Committee for consideration.
- **STAFF SENATE:** Ginger Brown – The Staff Senate met on December 9th and had a budget presentation from Susan Howarth. An election was held to replace Vice Chair Christian Gamm, who has become the Director of Graduate Studies at Northern Kentucky University. Will Armstrong was elected as Vice Chair. An election to replace Armstrong as Secretary/Treasurer will be held at the February meeting.
- **STANDING COMMITTEES:**
 - **Academic Programs Committee (APC)**– This committee did not meet since last month.
 - **Committee on Committees and Credentials (CCC)**- This committee did not meet since last month. Reminder: Senate elections are coming up in May.
 - **Part-time Faculty Committee (PTF)** – This committee met with Bob Goldstein and discussed conducting a PTF salary review; will meet to discuss career paths for PTF.
 - **Planning & Budget Committee (P&B)** – This committee met, discussed and prepared the [Faculty Senate's response](#) to the 21st Century Initiatives Report. The document was sent to the Executive Committee for review and on to Provost Willihnganz. Chair Steffen lauded the committee for its work and well-written response document.
 - **The REDBOOK Committee (RB)** – This committee met just prior to this Senate meeting. It is reviewing changes to The REDBOOK and will make a full report next month.
 - **Executive Committee (XC)** – [This report was online.](#)

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- **UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:**
 - [Faculty Athletic Rep \(FAR\)](#) – Elaine Wise
 - [Human Resources Advisory Committee \(HRAC\)](#) – Pam Feldhoff
 - [Parking Advisory Committee \(PAC\)](#) – Karen Singleton
- **PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** James Ramsey – Dr. Ramsey asked the Faculty Senate to consider the American Studies Association’s boycott of certain Israeli institutions, based on Israel’s treatment of resident Palestinians’ academic freedoms. The announcement of the new football coach will be made tomorrow after the ULAA personnel committee meeting. The new legislative session has started and will last for 60 days. The CPE presented its budget requests to the Governor, who will make his own recommendations in 2 weeks and forward it to the Legislature, for a vote. All decisions on the budget will be made by April 15th. He said that the report on the 21st Century Initiatives is a status report and that nothing has been decided. It is intended that this effort be campus-driven and not mandated by any one group. Reporting on the KY1 operating partnership, President Ramsey said that issues have arisen and are being ironed out to ensure the original agreement is maintained.
- **DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES:** Robert Fox - Dean Fox reported that when he arrived at UofL 3 years ago as Dean of the [University’s Libraries](#), he inherited the Faculty Senate Committee on Libraries as the financial guardians for new programs. With little success in getting the approved funding to actually be paid to the Libraries, the committee searched for its identity. In December, that committee was eliminated from the Faculty Senate bylaws. Working with the Faculty Senate chair, Dean Fox has redefined the role of a faculty advisory committee and the best mechanism for its implementation. He is developing a Faculty Advisory Board made up of representatives from each unit and constituencies, such as the Faculty Senate. He hopes to have this committee populated and ready to work by the fall semester. Dean Fox then gave an update on the Library’s budget. Though the Library’s Collections budget has taken a nearly \$1M cut, no major journals have been eliminated. Three of the major journal bundles cost between \$800K and \$2M, each. He is considering dropping one, but they are essential to support faculty work. He wanted the Faculty Senate to be aware of this dire budget situation.
- **COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN:** Ann Larson – Dr. Larson is the newly appointed chair of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#). The Executive Committee leads the commission’s work. The COSW was created in 1994 and advises the president and provost on issues, policies and practices that affect women. The Commission is comprised of staff and faculty appointed by the president, a representative from the Commission on Diversity and Racial Equality (CODRE), Faculty, Staff and Student Senates, and Ex-Officio members from the Vice Provost for Diversity and International Affairs Office, Human Resources, Women and Gender Studies, PEACC and the Women’s Center. She said serving on a commission committee as a volunteer is a good way to get a possible appointment to the Commission. The commission focuses on 3 areas: Campus Climate, Recognition and Rewards, and Integration of Work and Public Life. The commission generates an annual report sent to President Ramsey and Provost Willihnganz.

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- **CHAIR'S REPORT:** Joe Steffen – Over the coming month, we will work to populate several committees: i2A – our representative, Roger Buskill, left due to an increased work load; the Academic Technology Committee asked for 1-2 reps. Speed Dean Pinto is the committee chair. A brief discussion took place on improving the committee's name to more closely reflect its mission of teaching/classroom technology. Senators Tom Simmons (CEHD) and Dror Biran (Music) volunteered for this committee; and, the Academic Program Review Committee needs 2 faculty senators to review all academic degree programs across the University. This is a very important committee with a lot of work. Nominations are needed as soon as possible. If anyone is interested in any of these committees, please contact Chair Joe Steffen.
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - Chair Steffen congratulated Faculty Senator Daya Sandhu (CEHD) on his two very prestigious awards:
 - [Fulbright Senior Specialist Program](#) - which promotes linkages between U.S. scholars and their counterparts at host institutions overseas.
 - [2014 Star of India](#) – is given by the country's president to nonresident Indians who have made exceptional contributions to society. About 25-30 recipients worldwide are selected for the honor each year.
- **ADJOURN:** 4:50 p.m.