

## **FACULTY SENATE**

**December 17, 2008**

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Tim Collins, Barbara Evans, Seema Imam, Renee Judd (via phone), Rebecca Lake, Phillip Moulden, Jim Nowotarski, Brian Reynolds (via phone), Gale Stam, Howard Zacks

**Guests:** Kent Kay, George Litman, Carol Melnick, Rob Morrison, Richard Pappas,

#### **Approval of Minutes –**

Brian Reynolds' name was omitted from the November minutes and will be added to a revised set of minutes.

Gale Stam moved to accept the minutes as corrected; Seema Imam seconded the motion.

#### **President's Report –**

President Richard Pappas addressed the issue of the volatile economy. NLU's endowments are down to the level they were at in 2005. Administration has placed a freeze on hiring, travel, and supplies. Dr. Pappas said that there is no need to panic yet be cautious in regard to the budget.

NLU will move ahead aggressively with its major funding campaign and with its undergraduate marketing.

The budget for next year will remain at the actuals for this year.

He went on to discuss the differentiation of NLU's programs and how important it is to be able to market the reasons NLU's programs are outstanding compared to similar programs at other institutions.

Howard Zacks asked if the faculty will have input on how the budget is affected by cuts. Dr. Pappas replied that he will conduct a Budget Forum at which everyone who is an NLU stakeholder will have a chance to provide suggestions.

Gale Stam suggested that student fees be looked at. Perhaps some of these should be raised. Kent Kay also mentioned that unbundling text books could save the university money.

#### **Provost's Report –**

George Litman reported that the Promotion and Tenure process is underway and the college committees have already done their work.

The Board of Trustees neither approved nor rejected the sabbaticals which were submitted to them. They will address this issue at the spring Board meeting when they have a better idea of what next year's budget will look like.

The teach-out in Virginia/D.C. is going well. No issues have arisen with the students.

The Provost's Office faculty development funds may not be budgeted for next year due to projected cost cuts.

Dr. Litman said that he would support the concept to contract an intellectual property consultant. Mr. Kay suggested that this may not happen though until July when the new budget is in place.

### **Financial Report –**

Mr. Kay reported that the Deans and other budget heads have been asked to find ways to reduce cost through the rest of this fiscal year. The goal is to reduce spending by 2%.

Dr. Stam asked if there is a penalty for late registration. If earlier registration were encouraged, perhaps students would commit earlier to enrolling.

### **Old Business –**

The Faculty Association Meeting will take place on January 14<sup>th</sup> when the colleges each have their meetings. Items to be addressed include: approval of the University Leadership Charter and approval of two amendments to the constitution including electronic voting. Carol Melnick asked whether the comments from the HLC relating to the AQIP shared governance project should be included in any information sent to the faculty regarding the ULC. Consensus was that this would be a good idea.

### **New Business –**

Shared Governance Proposal from SASC - Willy Burnside answered questions about the proposal to include administrators and staff on the SASC (Senate Academic Support Committee). The SASC would like to include representatives who could address facilities, books, and printing and photocopying issues. Dr. Stam explained that this proposal would have to be submitted as an amendment to the faculty constitution; no one other than faculty has the right to vote on this committee. These individuals could be invited to attend meetings to provide feedback and input but they wouldn't be able to vote. Dr. Zacks indicated that he will discuss this with the President to ensure that those invited do in fact attend the meetings as concern was expressed that in the past they have been invited but did not show up.

Luminus Proposal from SASC – Jim Nowotarski suggested that OIT talk to each of the user groups of Luminus and Blackboard before any decision is made regarding this proposal.

Dr. Zacks recommended that this proposal be discussed by the colleges as well as students. Should Blackboard be moved on immediately? Decisions need to be made regarding Luminus; should NLU move away from it?

David San Filippo reported that a Luminus site will be set up by the end of the week for discussion regarding the University Leadership Charter. Faculty will have full accessibility to this site.

Consultant Proposal from the Intellectual Property Task Force – Rob Morrison asked the Senate for support to hire a consultant to update the Intellectual Property policy. It is very outdated and the university really shouldn't wait on this. The consultant fee would be between \$1500 and \$2000 with a June deadline for completion of the update.

Because of the low amount being asked for, the Senate would like to push this forward now rather than wait until July as Mr. Kay had suggested.

Mr. Morrison will get relative points to Dr. Zacks so that he can write something to present to the administration encouraging them to proceed with this proposal. Once the proposal is written, it will be e-mailed to the Senate for their approval.

Rebecca Lake moved to adjourn; Dr. San Filippo seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Osen

Administrative Assistant to the Vice Provost

December 18, 2008

