Kent State Stark Faculty Council Minutes
January 20, 2017

I. Chair Warren called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM.

II. Secretary Moneysmith called the roll and determined a quorum was present.


**Ex-officio:** Dean Denise Seachrist, Associate Dean Bathi Kasturiarachi.

**Guests:** Bei Cai, Rob Kairis, Gwendolyn Purifoye, Jim Seelye, Faith Sheaffer-Polen.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: Councilor Garchar
Second: Councilor Lehnert
The agenda was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes for the November 18, 2016 Meeting

Motion to approve: Councilor Starkey
Second: Councilor Mukherjee.
The minutes were unanimously approved.

V. Chair’s Report

Chair Warren began by thanking Councilors for their service last semester. She is looking forward to working with everyone again this semester. She then gave the following report.

A. **First-Year TT Reappointment and FTNTT Review.** The RTP committee met in December to evaluate first-year tenure-track reappointment files. The FTNTT review committee met earlier today to evaluate the candidates who had submitted simplified files for renewal of appointment. We will meet again next month to evaluate the candidates who have submitted full files for renewal of appointment. Chair Warren thanked the committees for their service.

B. **RCFAC.** RCFAC met on December 2, 2016. Both the chair of RCFAC and Dr. Ritchey noted concerns surrounding the post-election campus climate. The chair reported that at the Provost Advisory Council meeting there was discussion of a concern for those faculty
who teach “controversial topics.” Dr. Ritchey related that there had been a few incidents at the Kent campus, but there had been nothing officially reported on any of the regional campuses at that time. He further stated that the University is reviewing security measures at the Kent and regional campuses.

In her last chair’s report Chair Warren noted that there were concerns expressed about shared hires and that RCFAC would be asking Dr. Ritchey for his perspective on them. He didn’t directly answer the question. He did say that he has authority to directly approve FTNTT faculty hires and shared TT faculty hires but that solo TT hires must go through the provost. He also stated that, in his opinion, the ratio of TT to FTNTT faculty should be less than that of the Kent campus (70/30) largely due to the fewer number of bachelor’s degrees offered. He suggested somewhere between 50 and 70% TT, maybe a ratio of 50/50. He further said that to make a clear case for a TT hire, there must be a convincing argument that the hire will be integral to the campus. Finally, Dr. Ritchey reiterated the need to “stabilize” enrollment at the regional campuses, but did not go into detail.

C. Campus Bookstore. It was brought to Chair Warren’s attention that, at least in some cases, the bookstore was ordering new editions of texts despite faculty “opting out” of said new editions using the digital text ordering system. Cynthia Howard advised that she has brought the issue up with corporate to no avail. It also came to Chair Warren’s attention that at least in one case, the bookstore refused to order a text from a specific publisher because it was a small foreign venue that did not have a return policy. She shared this information with the deans and was subsequently asked to collect more information to determine the scope and nature of faculty issues with the bookstore. She has met with Julie Spotts and will have a Qualtrics survey to make available to faculty shortly. Thank you to Jayne Moneysmith and Stephen Neaderhiser for their assistance with this survey. She will be asking Cabinet to email their constituencies to encourage faculty to complete the survey so that we can gather more data.

Councilor Campbell indicated that she had tried to retain an older edition because there was not enough change in the new edition to warrant switching texts. She was told that she had to use the new edition or else students’ financial aid would not cover the cost of the book. Dean Seachrist said that this was not true. Councilor Barb indicated that she had been told that a new edition is often necessary because the bookstore cannot obtain enough copies of the old edition; Councilor Blundell said that the older editions can often be found through online vendors. Several councilors asked exactly what we were permitted to tell students, as they were under the impression that our contract with Barnes & Noble forbids us to tell students to use other vendors. Councilor Earley asked if we could get clarification on this point, and Dean Seachrist responded that she would check it out and get back to Council as soon as possible.

VI. Dean’s Report

A. Campus Security. We are continuing to work on elevating campus security. We need to make certain the campus is safe. Right now we’re working on security cameras. At the last RC deans meeting, the assistant chief and chief of police at Kent attended to give some input. There will be additional meetings. Jeff Futo, the officer assigned to the regional campuses, will soon be meeting with La Tarsha Miller and Dean Seachrist.
B. **Climate Survey Results Presentation.** At 10:00 on Tuesday, January 24, a presentation on the results of the climate survey will be given in the Hoover Seminar Room in our Conference Center. This presentation will focus on regional campus results and will be given by the firm of Rankin & Associates Consulting, which analyzed the data from over 8,000 responses. The presentation will be live streamed and will later be posted to the Kent website.

C. **President’s Excellence Awards.** President’s Excellence Award applications are due today by 5:00 PM. So far only four have been submitted, which is down from last year. Councilors will be reviewing them, as they did last year.

D. **Professional Development Opportunity.** Dean Seachrist announced a professional development opportunity primarily for staff but also for interested faculty. A conference focusing on Title IX and sexual assault will be held on April 25, from 9:00 to 4:00 at the Quest Conference Center in Columbus. The IUC has made attendance available to any member of the IUC. Dean Seachrist and several staff members will be attending. Chair Warren will distribute information to faculty.

E. **Results from Meetings with Groups of Faculty.** Dean Seachrist indicated that she has gone through the surveys she received when she met with different groups of faculty. Of 113 faculty, she received eight responses. She will be following up on recommendations as appropriate. She plans to hold such meetings in future years and also will continue to hold informal gatherings such as “Dish with the Dean.”

F. **University Dining Services Vendor Presentations.** The Kent Campus has put out an RFP for Dining Services because the current contract will soon end. President Warren sees this as an opportunity to include the regional campuses in the agreement. Food service is handled differently on different campuses, with some campuses having nothing at all. President Warren wants us to be the healthiest university in the country and is looking for food with less sodium, fat, etc. There is some talk about a mandatory meal plan for all students. Presentations from three vendors will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of next week. Dean Seachrist and some key staff members will be attending all the sessions.

G. **Moving to Canton.** Finally, Dean Seachrist announced that she will be moving to Canton next week.

At the end of Dean Seachrist’s report, several Councilors raised questions about security. Councilor Campbell asked if the campus is still considering a security partnership with Stark State. The dean said that she and the president of Stark State have discussed the idea but both agreed it was not in the best interest of either campus. Dean Seachrist indicated that her request to hire a full-time security person was denied, but she did get permission to hire an intermittent. Councilor McKenney asked if there was any discussion about providing security after hours, when some faculty come to their office to work. Dean Seachrist explained that she hoped to have security cameras operating at all times. Chair Warren, a former police officer, said that she was also concerned that our security personnel do not have adequate training.

Councilor Campbell asked for a clarification of the protocol when a student becomes ill and needs medical treatment. She indicated that she had been told that she was not allowed to call 911, but rather should call security, who would decide what action to take. Dean Seachrist said that if there is cause for concern, call 911. Councilor Shelestak said that faculty in the nursing program had called 911 when someone needed assistance and then called security, which Dean Seachrist said was a good approach.
VII. Associate Dean’s Report

A. **New Program Updates.** Associate Dean Kasturiarachi reported that we have submitted two new programs to Kent, a B.S. in applied math and a minor in health care. The environmental studies program is still in progress.

B. **Searches.** After a long process, we have hired Dr. Younghun Chae for our computer science position. He will be FTNTT this semester, moving to TT in the fall. Associate Dean Kasturiarachi expressed thanks to the search committee chair, Dr. Angela Guercio.

C. **Summer Schedule.** The summer schedule will be visible on Monday. It may not yet be perfect; his office will spend a few days cleaning it up. Online courses are being coordinated among regional campuses to avoid low enrollments. It is difficult to guarantee FTNTT faculty online courses in the summer because the *Collective Bargaining Agreement* allows tenure-track faculty from other campuses to claim them.

D. **Global Initiatives.** All twenty-seven students made it safely home to China. He would like to thank Sarah Schmidt, the ESL instructors, and everyone else who helped provide the students with such a positive experience.

E. **Multicultural Initiatives.** Multicultural initiatives are currently being overseen by Kristin Wray, while Kathy Kinzer-Downs is on leave. Yesterday we held a successful MLK Day event.

F. **Retention.** Retention efforts will take off this semester, with more to come in the fall. Two grants written this week would help us get scholarships, which will help retention.

G. **Peer Review for Classes.** In response to comments from the dean’s meeting with the pre-tenure group of faculty, he will be working on streamlining the peer evaluation of teaching process.

H. **Bulldog Flash Academic Initiative.** The campus has formed a partnership with McKinley High School to establish a four-year program to help get students ready for college. If they stay in the program for all four years, they will be admitted to Kent State Stark and receive a scholarship.

I. **Grant Activity.** The campus continues to be active in grant activity. For example, two people here at the meeting today, Councilor Lehnert and Councilor Mukherjee, have recently submitted grants, along with several others. We are indebted to Theresa Ford for her assistance in all our grant efforts.

J. **Faculty Issues Brought by Chair Warren.** Chair Warren brought to his attention some issues that had been brought to her, which he has resolved. For example, there will now be six more parking spots added in the lot near the Science and Nursing Building for faculty and staff. There was a safety issue in one of the labs in SNB to which the Business Office was not responding. He suggests that all such issues be brought to him.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. **PAAC.** Vice-Chair Garchar reported that everything is going well with PAAC.
B. **Committee II.** Councilor Starkey reported that the committee has been working on the second portion of its charge, creating a draft of a new strategy map. The committee met with the deans on November 30 and met as a committee yesterday (January 19). This new strategy map will cover just a year, and there are multiple committees working on it. Consequently, Committee II is looking at the map from the faculty perspective, editing the version that was approved in October as the basis for the new draft. The committee will have the draft to Cabinet by Friday, February 10. Councilor Moneysmith, who is a member of the committee, noted that Councilor Starkey deserves recognition for her efficient leadership of the committee. Councilor Starkey said that she wished to thank all committee members for their work.

C. **Colloquium Committee.** Councilor McKenney announced the dates for upcoming faculty colloquiums this semester: Friday, February 17, and Friday, March 17. Because it is difficult to put together a colloquium at the beginning of the academic year, the committee has decided to also plan one for next fall semester on Friday, September 15. The February colloquium will feature presentations on the topic “What We Learned from the 2016 Presidential Election.” Presenters will be Mitch McKenney, Erin Hollenbaugh, and Alan Chu. More details will be forthcoming soon.

D. **Treasurer/Social Committee.** Councilor Sato reported that planning is underway for several events this semester. We will continue to have snack days; look for upcoming announcements. The date for the spring dinner will be May 6, the Saturday after classes end before finals week. The silent auction held during the holiday reception raised $240, which was donated to Flash's Food Pantry.

E. **Handbook Committee.** No report, as the committee has already completed its work.

F. **Technology Committee.** No report.

IX. Old Business: None

X. New Business

A. **Faith Sheaffer-Polen: Student Professional Development Conference.** Ms. Sheaffer-Polen, Director of The Corporate University, came to report briefly on the first Student Professional Development Conference held last fall and to give Council a heads-up for the second iteration of the conference to be held next fall.

Last fall, their goal was 50 student participants, but 62 registered, and some faculty attended as well. Some faculty also sponsored some students who earned a certificate for professional development by taking a series of classes. This year, they would like to see at least 75 students participate in the conference. It will be held on Friday, October 13, 2017, from 8:30 to 1:30.

She also indicated that she meets with several hundred employers a year, so faculty who are looking for a project for their students might want to touch base with her to see if she has contacts who might help.
XI. Announcements

A. Councilor Taylor announced that the deadline for submitting a proposal to the AURCO conference is February 1. Complete information about the conference can be found at http://www.aurco.org/.

B. Councilor Shelestak announced that Kent State’s College of Nursing is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. A celebration next week will kick off a year-long celebration.

XII. Adjournment

Chair Warren adjourned the meeting at PM. 3:17.