Kent State Stark Faculty Council Minutes

April 15, 2016

I. Chair Earley called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

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


Ex-officio: Dean Denise Seachrist, Assistant Dean Bathi Kasturiarachi.

Absent: Leslie Heaphy, Keith Lloyd, Don Thacker.

Guests: Rob Kairis, Chrissy Kauth.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: Councilor Warren. Second: Councilor Tobias. The agenda was unanimously approved with amendments.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the February 19, 2016 Meeting

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

Approval of the Minutes from the March 18, 2016 Meeting

Motion to approve: Councilor Birch. Second: Councilor Shepherd. The minutes were unanimously approved with two corrections regarding Assistant Dean Kasturiarachi’s trip to China.
V. Chair’s Report

A. **RCFAC.** Chair Earley reported that RCFAC has not met since our last Faculty Council meeting.

B. **Faculty Council Elections.** Chair Earley indicated that Faculty Council elections for 2016-17 will be held soon. Self-nominations will be open from today, April 15, to April 22 at 5:00pm. Voting will be open from April 22 at 5:00pm to April 29 at 5:00pm. The next regularly scheduled Faculty Council meeting will be held on Friday, May 6, with both current and new Council members attending.

VI. Dean’s Report

A. **LEED Gold Certification.** Dean Seachrist announced that on Tuesday we received the official letter awarding our Science and Nursing Building LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certification.

B. **Vice-President for Kent State System Integration.** The three candidates for the position of Vice-President for Kent State System Integration will be visiting our campus within the next few weeks. Each candidate will meet with the Dean over lunch, meet with Faculty Council, and then have a student-led tour. The dates of the visits are Tuesday, April 26; Tuesday, May 3; and Friday, May 6.

C. **Changes in Use of Library Space.** At the March Faculty Council meeting, we discussed possible changes in the library and the Writing Center. Dr. Jay Sloan, Director of the Writing Center, met with Brian Gardner to look at the proposed space in the library for the Writing Center and believes it will serve the Writing Center well.

   We are also making plans to house our URAs (Undergraduate Research Assistants) in the library as part of an ongoing effort to create a more comprehensive student research center.

D. **Meeting with Akron-Canton Food Bank.** Dean Seachrist recently met with representatives from the Akron-Canton Food Bank. We have been getting supplies for our campus Flash Pantry from Fishers Foods, but the food bank can get items at a much reduced rate. We are exploring opportunities to work together.

E. **Meeting with Stark Community Foundation and the Capital Campaigns Committee.** One potential funding source for our Fine Arts Expansion and Renovation is the Stark Community Foundation. They have a Capital Campaigns Committee that meets once a year in April, but we were not quite ready at that point. The President of the foundation indicated that there are opportunities to come before the committee to give them information about a project without actually asking for money, and there was one opening, which we accepted. The committee is excited about our project, and they look forward to us coming back next year to ask for money.

F. **Meeting with President and Provost of Walsh.** Dean Seachrist and Assistant Dean Kasturiarachi met with the President and Provost of Walsh University to discuss ways we can partner with them. Some ideas will be brought to faculty in the coming months.
G. Meeting with Representatives from Timken. Dean Seachrist recently met with the Organizational Advancement Officer, Director of Global Operations, and Manager of Talent Acquisitions and University Relations of The Timken Company. The campus has not worked much with Timken, and we are looking for ways to collaborate. For example, Timken has already been in touch with Shaan Fowler, Assistant Director for Employer Relations and Internships. Until recently, Timken didn’t know that we have a person on our campus who oversees internships. Timken is also interested in global initiatives. They often bring in people for short-term assignments running from 4 weeks to 11 months, and there may be some ways that we could be involved with these endeavors.

H. Meeting with Mercy Medical Center. Earlier today, Dean Seachrist and Assistant Dean Kasturiarachi met with the President and CEO and the Vice President of Development and Government Relations of Mercy Medical Center. They toured the Science and Nursing Building. We are discussing ways that we can form a partnership with them.

I. Meeting with Pro Football Hall of Fame. This week Dean Seachrist met with the President, Senior Vice President of Corporate and Community Relations, and the Vice President of Communications of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. They discussed extending our partnership with them, prompted by new opportunities that may be available with the completion of the Hall of Fame Village. The Hall of Fame representatives expressed interest in our Music Tech program and in bringing the Hospitality Management program to our campus.

J. Ohio Department of Education and Gates Foundation. The Ohio Department of Education and the Gates Foundation are working on a project together and had some specific questions about developmental programs and how we work with the Kent Campus, which does not offer developmental courses. Lisa Hart, Director of Academic Services, was called in to share her expertise.

K. Research and Sponsored Programs. Paul DiCorletto, the Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs, came down from the Kent campus to meet with Dean Seachrist, Assistant Dean Kasturiarachi, and our Grants Administrator, Theresa Ford, to learn more about the grant activity on our campus.

L. Smoke-Free University. Dean Seachrist indicated that Kent State University will definitely be smoke and tobacco free by Fall 2017. The initiative will be rolled out to all campuses.

VII. Assistant Dean’s Report

A. Schedule and Enrollment. Summer 2016 enrollment is down at this time. Assistant Dean Kasturiarachi is looking at past schedules to determine what can be added. Fall 2016 enrollment is steady. We may see some changes, especially in the College of Business, due to some accreditation changes. Spring 2017 schedule requests will go out to coordinators today. For the spring semester, classrooms will be entered into the system so they will be visible upon registration.

B. College Credit Plus. For the 2016-17 academic year, we will have even more institutions partnering with us for College Credit Plus. We are tracking those who attend this campus after participating in the College Credit Plus program.
C. **Multicultural Initiatives.** Campus multicultural initiatives are doing well and will continue to expand in the fall.

D. **Global Initiatives.** Assistant Dean Kasturiarachi thanked Dr. Bei Cai and Sarah Schmidt, Outreach Program Coordinator, Office of Global Initiatives, for their hard work on expanding our global education programs. He and Dr. Cai recently met with three universities in Beijing and one in Shenzhen. We’ll be working on forming strong partnerships in the coming months.

E. **Searches.** Several searches are now underway. Most are finishing up phone interviews and will be having campus interviews soon.

F. **New Programs.** Our Academic Planning Committee has been assisting with some work on new programs, including bringing part of the Hospitality Management program to our campus and a new minor in social media, on which we are taking the initiative. We are also exploring a pre-pharmacy partnership with NEOMED. Finally, we are working on creating more pathways for students taking math courses. By taking a Kent system-wide approach, we are also meeting the needs of the state.

G. **Workload Letters and Faculty Workload Statements.** All faculty should receive their Fall Workload letters by April 22. Tenured faculty need to submit a workload statement for 2015-16 plus a CV to his office by the end of the semester.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. **PAAC.** Councilor Warren indicated that there have been three travel requests since the last Faculty Council meeting. Currently PAAC is reviewing load lifts proposals. Nine were submitted for the traditional load lifts, and four for the new post-tenure load lift. PAAC will meet next Thursday to discuss the proposals. We will submit our recommendations the week of April 25.

B. **Committee II.** No report, as the committee currently does not have a charge.

C. **Colloquium Committee.** Councilor Starkey reported that 11 people attended the March 18 Colloquium presentation by several people involved in the *Bicentennial Project*. The last Faculty Colloquium of the year will be held this evening, with Eric Taylor and Andrea Myers presenting.

D. **Treasurer/Social Committee.** No official report. Chair Earley reminded councilors that the Spring Dinner is on May 7.

E. **Handbook Committee.** No report. The committee does not have a charge.

F. **Technology Committee.** Dr. Neaderhiser could not attend the meeting but sent a report indicating that the committee had submitted a proposal for a large poster printer.

IX. Old Business

A. **Space Committee Recommendations.** Chair Earley reminded Councilors that at the last Faculty Council meeting, we voted to accept the report of the *ad hoc* Space Committee, with the understanding that at this month’s meeting we would decide if we want to recommend that any action be taken on any of the three recommendations.
identified in the report. Councilor Engelhardt moved that Faculty Council recommend that a permanent Space Committee be established, and Councilor Warren seconded the motion. Councilor Moneysmith asked if Councilor Engelhardt would accept a friendly amendment to form an ad hoc committee for one year and then re-assess whether the committee should continue. Councilor Engelhardt accepted the amendment. Councilor McKenney asked how large the committee would be, and Chair Earley indicated that he thought it could be fairly small, perhaps about three members. After additional short discussion, the motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously as amended.

Councilor Engelhardt then moved that Faculty Council pass the second and third recommendations in the report on to Dean Seachrist and Assistant Dean Kasturiarachi. The second recommendation is to adopt and publicize a set of "standard office configuration" guidelines, and the third recommendation is for possible uses for "dead spaces." Councilor McKenney seconded the motion, and discussion ensued. Assistant Dean Kasturiarachi suggested that the term "dead spaces" be changed to "open spaces." The motion was unanimously approved as amended.

B. Letter Regarding Regional Campus Dean Consolidation. The idea of consolidating the deans for regional campuses was recently presented to the Board of Trustees. Under this plan, there would be a northern dean, a southern dean, and a Stark dean. Other campuses are not in favor of this plan, and the RCFAC wrote a letter to this effect to the provost. We need to decide whether our Faculty Council should also write a letter in solidarity with our colleagues at other regional campuses, as was discussed briefly at our last meeting. Chair Earley indicated that although a letter to the provost may do absolutely no good, it is still the right thing to do. Councilor Warren moved that Faculty Council send a letter that expresses our concern that a plan to consolidate the deans of the regional campuses is moving forward without faculty input, and Councilor Lehnert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. It was agreed that we would work on the letter and have a draft ready to discuss at the next meeting.

X. Announcements

A. Dean Seachrist announced that she approved the contract for Environmental Design Group to meet with the Memorial Committee to develop the design for our Memorial Garden. The design contract was recently executed, and meetings now need to be scheduled with the committee to develop the design.

B. Councilor Starkey reminded Councilors that the Faculty Colloquium will begin at 5:15 pm tonight, in the Library Conference Room.

XI. Adjournment

At 3:47 pm Chair Earley adjourned the meeting to Executive Session to discuss a faculty member salary reconsideration.