I. Call to Order: 2:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Absent: Finer, Moneysmith, Sato, Lloyd
Guest: Chris Post

III. Approval of Agenda
Chair Norton-Smith proposed an addition to new business (PAAC discussion)
Motion to add a PAAC discussion: Councilor Fox
Second: Councilor Thacker
Vote to approve the agenda with changes: 14 Y, 0 N

IV. Approval of Feb. 21, 2014 minutes
Motion: Councilor Hovhannisyan
Second: Councilor Shelestak
Vote to approve the minutes: 14 Y, 0 N

V. Chair’s Report
a. Chair Norton Smith reminded the group that the HLC visit will be April 1, 2014.
b. FAC elections will take place in April. A call for self-nominations is forthcoming.
c. RCFAC Marathon Meeting report (highlights only)
   i. Invitees F. Crawford, M. Tankersley, and M.A. Stephens were in attendance.
   ii. Discussion ensued about the HLC visit in light of the controversial Psychology review of last AY. Invitees stressed that outside reviewers must recognize the different missions of the various departments and campuses.
   iii. Chair Norton-Smith introduced Committee II’s draft memorandum on DL courses. The document was “roundly and soundly praised”. Wanda Thomas pronounced the report as “most effective”. Dr. Thomas summarized Provost Diacon’s message to the college deans regarding DL
      1. The academic unit decides who is qualified to teach a course
      2. The regional campus determines courses to be offered
      3. The academic unit determines if a course can be taught online—if it cannot, then no campus can deliver the course in this manner.
      4. Faculty need to receive training in the delivery of on-line courses
         a. It was suggested that the Provost’s message has had little effect on the college deans.
   iv. Chair Ciuba continues to push for an explanation of the services provided for by the 14% service fee on RCs. The Director of Media Relations (E. Mansfield) and
University Counsel continue to push the vague and evasive (finer interpretation), “unspecified services” explanation.

v. Chair Ciuba updated members on the University Handbook revisions.

vi. Dr. Thomas suggested the time had come for a recommendation regarding regional campus structure and the relationship of regionals to the Kent Campus.

VI. Dean’s Report

a. Clarification: two regional campus architects are paid for out of the service fee.

b. Distance learning

   i. Provost Diacon’s comments at the all-faculty meeting regarding distance learning have not been received favorably at Kent.

   ii. The Stark campus should be proactive in completing training for DL teaching, demonstrating that we are well equipped to offer DL courses. There is a difference between training to develop a course vs. training to teach a course. There are online modules on the OCDE website for each. Dean Wagor believes we should use this as a foundation for what we do on the Stark campus, but we have an added “personal touch,” involving one-on-one training, teaching circles, workshops, etc.

   iii. As technology quickly changes, we may have to consider some ongoing training for faculty teaching DL. Start thinking about what that might look like.

   iv. Suggests as a faculty we should consider how to address assessment of DL and face-to-face courses. The current SSI form doesn’t address differences in DL. We can’t change the SSI itself, but Dean Wagor encouraged the faculty to consider what we can do in addition to fairly assess DL instruction (e.g., how should we address online peer reviews?).

c. HLC visit, April 1 – There will be no open meetings or wandering reviewers, which are typical of a normal visit. But the Stark campus is a special type of visit, given this multiple site review. The purpose is to ensure that students at this site are getting an equivalent education and access as the home campus. Identified faculty, students, staff/administration (Student Affairs; Academic Affairs), and Advisory Board members will meet with the HLC visitor.

d. Faculty Excellence Awards – Faculty who were awarded merit have received their retroactive pay in their March 15 pay.

e. Associate’s degrees awarded at the Kent campus is a “dead” issue this semester. Kent administration will have to go to the Ohio Board of Regents to get permission to grant associate’s degrees. The press generally has not been favorable toward this decision. Many foundations have collected and analyzed data showing that awarding associate’s degrees to bachelors seeking students is advantageous to the students, but this has not shown up in the media.

   i. Discussion ensued regarding how labor intensive it would be for the Stark Campus Student Services office to identify those students who could earn associate’s degrees.

VII. Assistant Dean's Report

a. Summer enrollments are slightly up compared to this time last year. Thank you to coordinators for looking at their summer schedules carefully and making needed adjustments.

b. Fall registration is underway.

c. Search updates:

   i. Three searches completed (TT Music, TT English, TT HDFS).

   ii. Math, Sociology, Biology, US, and Communication are in progress.
iii. Thank you to committees, as this is a difficult time to run a search.

d. Online learning – Bathi has met several times with Katie Baer and Jayne Moneysmith to provide training for those teaching DL in the coming semesters (with the most emphasis placed on first-time online offerings this summer).

e. Load lift applications are due to PAAC April 4.

VIII. Committee Reports:

a. PAAC (Fox)
   i. 27 requests this spring, spent just under $16,000 of the $23,000 that we started with ($5,900.38 remaining).

b. Committee II (Khourey-Bowers)
   i. Wrote a response to the College of Arts and Sciences’ draft DL policy.

c. Colloquium Committee
   i. No report.

d. Treasurer/Social Committee (Heaphy)
   i. Fiscally sound. Thank you for timely payments for coffee fund, etc.
   ii. Spring dinner is May 3, 5 p.m. (dinner starting around 6 p.m.). Focus will be celebrating retirement for Ken Kramer. Cost TBD.

e. Handbook Committee (Thacker)
   i. Continually working through Handbook revisions. Waiting on a determination of PAAC’s responsibilities. Anticipate delivering revisions at the April meeting.

f. Technology Committee
   i. No report.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

a. Memorial Committee report (C. Post)
   (The following reflects notes of the discussion-not the written report)
   i. Council created this committee September 2013 to consider how to commemorate faculty who have passed away, which broadened to consider how we honor faculty who have served this campus in significant ways.
   ii. Two ideas:
      1. Name people at the spring graduation who are going into retirement, emeritus status, long-serving members of the campus who have passed away, students who have been tragically lost during the academic year. Will recognize these people to the community.
      2. Commemorative landscape with names associated. Propose working with the current area around the clock and reuse this space to be a commemorative space for those with 20+ years of service (faculty, staff, administration). Brick with name, degree, and years served. Instead of just hedges around the clock, add flowers for more visual appeal. Perhaps a corresponding website with information on the named individuals.

   a. Cost with etching the bricks. Bricks would last longer in this space because snow is not always cleared (less wear and tear with salt, etc.).
   b. Perhaps a local business would be willing to give discounted services.
iii. Would look back to the beginning of this campus’ history for the first “class” of people in the commemoration.

iv. For those who have not served 20 years, there should be a method for nomination and review on an ad hoc basis.

v. Discussion regarding lumping retiring individuals with those who have passed away. Talked about ways to separate the two.
   1. For example, a board/plaque to honor one group and the plaza to honor the other.
   2. Could be by petition only to get into this space with review by the appropriate body.
   3. Unable to name a room without the appropriate donation and approval form the Board of Trustees.
   4. Separate with a memorial garden/sculpture

vi. Discussion ensued regarding memorializing at commencement.

b. PAAC duties with reviewing summer travel requests (Fox)
   i. PAAC overseeing travel requests during the summer is untenable because faculty are not under contract in the summer. Some options:
      1. Interim Assistant Dean oversees requests during the summer.
      2. Set the deadline for summer travel before the end of the academic year, giving the committee some time during their contract to review the applications.

   ii. Discussion about the options, including contract dates, faculty governance outside of contract terms, dictating committee work over the summer vs. expecting it without it being in writing.

   iii. Councilor Fox expressed concern about willingness of others to serve in the future, given the required participation in the summer.

   iv. No resolution. Suggested that next year’s Faculty Council take up the discussion.

XI. Announcements
   a. Councilor Heaphy – Deadline to submit to the Student Conference is Monday, March 24. Remember that faculty need to send a letter of support via email to Leslie Heaphy.
   b. Councilor Shelestak – College of Nursing has a new dean – Dr. Barbara Broome, who is a Kent alumna.
   c. Dean Wagor – Half price tickets are available for faculty and staff to tonight’s Canton Symphony concert. This is an opportunity to redevelop a relationship with the Canton Symphony through informal concerts.

XII. Adjournment: 3:43 p.m.