Kent Stark Faculty Council Minutes  
October 18, 2013  

I. Call to Order: 2:04 PM  

II. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum  

Attending:  

Absent: L. Fox, K. Lloyd, S. Tobias  

Guests: F. Sheaffer-Polen, M. McKenney, D. Warren  

Ex-Officio: Dean Walter Wagor, Assistant Dean A. Bathi Kasturiarachi  

III. Approval of agenda:  
Motion to approve: Councilor Heaphy  
Second: Councilor Moneysmith  
Discussion: Addition of two agenda items:  
1. Consideration of the handbook committee charge  
2. Consideration of FEA procedures  

Vote to approve the agenda with additions: 15 Y, 0 N  

IV. Approval of Sept. 20, 2013 minutes  
Motion to approve: Councilor Heaphy  
Second: Councilor Birch  
Corrections/Discussion: None  

Vote to approve: 15 Y, 0 N  

V. Chair’s Report  

Chair Norton-Smith began his report by thanking council members who participated in RPT deliberation. He went on to remind us that now we are faced with the task of considering FEA applications and the need for additional care and wisdom in our decisions. The following additional details were shared:  
• The Provost has approved the Stark handbook although Sue Averill pointed out that minor revisions will be needed to update some handbook language (thus the need for the handbook committee charge).
• Chair Norton-Smith serves on the campus committee to draft the new strategic plan. The goal is to have the draft ready by Thanksgiving 2013.
• An ad hoc committee to look into memorials for Bernstein, Ohles-Koostra and Edminson will be established in the near future.
• C. McDougal substituted for Chair Norton-Smith at the last RCFAC meeting. Points raised at that meeting include the following:
  ➢ Chair Ciuba continues to discuss the validity of “outside” teaching for Kent State faculty.
  ➢ Chair Ciuba again raised the issue of RC faculty “participating” in the presidential search process.
  ➢ The decision on the shared Dean (Trumbull/Geauga) will be delayed until the new president is hired.
  ➢ The discussion over regional campus autonomy was renewed.

VI. Dean Wagor’s Report

• Dean Wagor echoed Chair Norton-Smith’s mention of the strategic planning process. Once committee members complete their work, the broader campus community will be given an opportunity to respond to plan details.
• The University is looking at degree programs, particularly as to how they conform to the 120 hr. (Baccalaureate) and 60 hr. (Assoc. Degree) guidelines as dictated by OBR.
• The University continues to discuss “bad debt” –that debt which arises when students enroll but then fail to complete classes. As a consequence, we are responsible for reimbursing the financial aid source for that student. In response to a question, Dean Wagor emphasized the importance of faculty reporting the SA, NA, NF, and SF grading options.
• The science building bidding process will close on Oct. 30th. Bidding details will then be presented to and approved by the state controlling board and then contracts will be awarded.

Dean Kasturiarachi’s Report

• Full time faculty searches in BSCI and HDFS will begin ASAP.
• The summer 2014 schedule will be targeted to offering DL courses. The proportional pay guidelines remain in place for summer.
• The deadline for F2014 schedule submission will be adjusted (currently the deadline is Oct 24—this should be pushed back).
• Adjunct faculty have been asked to provide an updated CV to the Dean’s office in anticipation of the HLC site visit in the spring. To this date, 47% have complied.
• 74 FT faculty have completed the outside employment form while 47 have not.
• Midterm grades were submitted by all (FT and PT) but two PT faculty members

VII. Committee reports:

a. PAAC:
   i. Fall requests-33
   ii. Remaining travel funds: $18,763

b. Committee II: None
c. Colloquium Committee:
   i. Colloquium dates for the AY include Nov. 15th, March 7th, and April 11th.
   ii. Talks will take place at 5:00 PM in the Library Conference Room.

d. Treasurer/Social Committee:
   i. The holiday party has been set for Dec. 7th.
   ii. Maintenance will be attempting to repair the faculty commons coffee maker.

e. Handbook Committee: None

f. Technology Committee: Chair Cho submitted the following information:
   i. The committee has discussed plans to update FA 30 (room in fine arts building).
   ii. The committee is discussing a request for iPads with the Deans.

VIII. Old Business: None

IX. New Business

a. Council approval of five proposed spring committees
   i. Motion by Councilor Heaphy to accept committee recommendations.
   ii. 2nd offered by Councilor Thacker
   iii. Discussion: None
   iv. Vote to accept recommendations: 15 Y, 0 N

b. Handbook committee charge
   i. The Provost’s office has identified the need for handbook updating, thus council will need to charge the handbook committee with the task.
   ii. A motion was made by Councilor Heaphy to charge the handbook committee with reviewing and updating the handbook.
   iii. Second offered by Councilor Hovhannisyan
   iv. Discussion: None
   v. Vote to accept the motion: 15 Y, 0 N

c. M. Southards; presentation/discussion of enrollment and course scheduling
   i. Dean Southards began the discussion by asking how (or if) we can increase enrollment and promote retention to achieve/surpass the 5000 student enrollment threshold.
   ii. The presentation that followed revolved around several major points including but not limited to; schedule design benefitting students and/or faculty, classroom availability, 50 and 75 minute course section offerings, delivery of major’s courses in the day and evening schedule, FT faculty and evening teaching, and delivery of the “signature student experience”.
   iii. A spirited and open discussion took place during the presentation. Several councilors and guests inquired as to the role of DL courses in ameliorating the perceived scheduling issues. This information will be provided in the near future by Dean Kasturiarachi.
   iv. The presentation/discussion ended with no identified solutions, but seemed to suggest a continued need to look at the perceived scheduling concerns within and between majors and programs.
d. Discussion of FEA ("merit") procedures.
   i. The chair emphasized that all tenure-track members of faculty council will take part in FEA deliberations and ranking.
   ii. The meeting to discuss applications will take place Nov. 15th beginning at 9:00 AM, with numerical ranking to take place by Nov. 20th.

X. Announcements: None

XI. Adjournment: 4:30 PM