

MEMORANDUM

To: Sue Ott Rowlands, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
From: Matthew Zacate, Faculty Senate President
Re: Change to the Faculty Handbook to allow retired, non-tenured faculty to be eligible for emeritus status
Date: February 12, 2019

Out of recognition that there are many lecturers who have served NKU meritoriously for a large number of years, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (EC) was asked to have the senate consider changing the Faculty Handbook to allow such long-serving, praiseworthy lecturers to receive emeritus status when they retire.

The EC asked the Professional Concerns Committee (PCC) to consider this and make a recommendation to the senate. Its initial recommendation was to create a new Honored Retired status for lectures; however, there was substantial objection to this special designation at the December meeting of the Faculty Senate. Based on that feedback, the PCC changed its recommendation to allow non-tenured faculty to be eligible for emeritus status when they retire.

The PCC also considered a question that has come up a number of times in recent years: whether or not bestowing of emeritus status can only occur if the retiring faculty member is nominated before he/she retires. The PCC decided to recommend a change in wording that makes clear that a faculty member can be nominated for and receive emeritus status if this process begins after retirement.

The recommended changes from the PCC impact sections 1.7.1 and 2.11 in the Faculty Handbook. These sections, as they would appear after the recommended changes are made, are appended below. The Faculty Senate approved these recommended changes at its meeting on January 27, 2020. I hope that you, too, will recommend these changes.

Proposed text of the Faculty Handbook after recommended changes:

1.7.1 EMERITUS FACULTY

The “emeritus” designation is a way of honoring retired faculty or administrators who held faculty rank. Such persons hold the faculty title and rank held immediately prior to their retirement,

followed by the title “emeritus.” Emeritus status may be granted upon or after retirement and is conferred by the Board of Regents, following the process set forth in section 2.11.

2.11 EMERITUS FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

A department, school, or program faculty may nominate a retiring or retired faculty member for appointment to emeritus status. In order to be nominated, the retiring or retired person must hold academic rank. Normally, a person will have served the University for a long period in order to be appointed. Such a nomination will be given to the dean by the chair or director, forwarded to the provost, and then to the president. The chair or director, dean and the provost may make their own recommendations about the appointment of the faculty member when forwarding the nomination. Emeritus status may be conferred only by the Board of Regents, and then only upon recommendation by the president (see Section 1.7.1, Emeritus Faculty).