

Brothers, Sheila C

From: Roberts, Susan
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 3:55 PM
To: Brothers, Sheila C
Subject: Tenure at BCTCS
Attachments: KCTCSHealthBenefitsResolution[1].doc; KCTCSTenureResolution[1].doc

From: Roberts, Susan
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 10:19 AM
To: Aken, Stephanie; Randall, David C; Anderson, Debra; Chappell, Joe; Ford, Janet P; Jensen, Jane; Kelly, Thomas; Piascik, Peggy; Steiner, Sheldon; Swanson, Hollie; Wood, Connie; Mccorvey, Everett; Yanarella, Ernest J; Tagavi, Kaveh
Subject: Tenure at BCTCS

Dear Senate Council Members and Faculty Trustees,

I write concerning a very serious matter: the threat facing our colleagues at Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) which is part of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). The KCTCS Faculty Council passed the attached two resolutions in mid-December. They address, first, the proposal to phase out tenure by not hiring any new faculty in tenure track positions in the future and, second, to eliminate health insurance benefits for retirees.

I believe that we here at UK have a great stake in what happens at Kentucky's community colleges, especially Bluegrass. We are interlinked primarily through our undergraduate students, many of whom come to us after completing a large portion of their coursework under the guidance and instruction of colleagues in the KCTC System. We and our students benefit from the strong foundations laid by our dedicated and professional community college colleagues. We should have every interest in preserving and enhancing the quality of education offered at the community colleges in our commonwealth.

Therefore, I ask each of you to consider this matter most seriously. I understand that, of course, UK's institutions of governance (the Senate Council and the Board of Trustees) do not have any jurisdiction over matters concerning KCTCS. However, I do believe that a resolution or other statement supporting our colleagues would be meaningful and may even carry some political clout.

Please let me know if you have any ideas as to the most effective way for UK's faculty to express support for our community college colleagues at this time.

With sincere thanks and best wishes,

Sue Roberts

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Susan M. Roberts  
Associate Professor and Chair  
Department of Geography  
University of Kentucky  
Tel: 859 257 2399

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Cc: sheila.brothers@uky.edu  
Subject:

Dear Colleagues on Senate Council and Board of Trustees,

An update to my e-mail of this morning regarding the threat to faculty at KCTCS.

1. There is a website with details of the proposals. It is <http://kctcstenure.info> For an exact statement of proposed policy revision for Tenure, go to Information: Policy Revision - KCTCS Board of Regents Policy 2.0 KCTCS Employment Status and for Retiree Health benefits, go to - Information: Policy Revision - KCTCS Board of Regents Policy 3.7 KCTCS Retirement Plan Policies. The web site also contains other relevant information.
2. Time is of the essence because the KCTCS Board of Regents meets on March 13 to vote on these issues.

With thanks for your attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sue Roberts

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Resolution on Tenure at KCTCS

Whereas, The KCTCS Board of Regents (BOR) is considering the elimination of tenure-track positions for all new faculty hires effective for the 2009-2010 academic year because of the challenging economic climate in post-secondary education; and

Whereas, KCTCS strives to become the nation's best community and technical college despite the challenging economic climate in post-secondary education; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: Tenure and rank are integral parts of the identity and status of a majority of the academic faculty of KCTCS. With tenure and rank, faculty invest in the functioning of their colleges and the System as a whole because of the long-term commitment that tenure entails; tenure and rank offer a feeling of security in issuing professional judgments when dealing with controversial topics both in the classroom and in the broader community; and, tenure and rank firmly connect faculty to the academic life of the Commonwealth and to the national communities; and

Resolved, That the KCTCS BOR advance KCTCS's goal of becoming the nation's community and technical college leader by attracting and retaining dedicated, motivated, and highly skilled faculty, which will best occur if tenure-track positions are maintained and faculty have a concrete reason to invest deeply in the System; and

Resolved, That tenure is essentially a "free" benefit that will help the System attract and retain the best and brightest at a time when the KCTCS faculty salaries are stagnating; and be it further

Resolved, That the KCTCS BOR not eliminate tenure from the System.

Resolution on Post-Retirement Health Insurance Benefits at KCTCS

Whereas, The KCTCS Board of Regents (BOR) is considering the elimination of health insurance benefits for retirees because of the challenging economic climate in post-secondary education; and

Whereas, KCTCS strives to become the nation's best community and technical college despite the challenging economic climate in post-secondary education; and

Whereas, KCTCS faculty salaries are below the national average; now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the KCTCS BOR advance KCTCS's goal of becoming the nation's community and technical college leader by attracting and retaining quality faculty, which will best occur if health insurance benefits for retirees are maintained; and

Resolved, That KCTCS continue to provide this benefit to future employees.