

Meeting Minutes, Faculty Senate, full meeting, September 27, 2022

These minutes were reviewed and approved during the Faculty Senate meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 2022.

In attendance:

Uchenna Anele (S); Ayanna Armstrong (A); Phoebe Ajibade (A); Faisal Alkaabneh (S); Jeffrey Alston (S); Niroj Aryal (S); Mohammad Azad (S); Bishnu Bastakoti (S); Jennifer Beasley (A); Stephen Bollinger (S); Gina Bullock; Kelvin Bryant (S); Kimberly Bunch-Crump (S); Karlin Burks (A); Roymieco Carter (A); Arvind Chandrasekaran (A); Subrata Chakrabarty (A); Helen Clark; Dominic P. Clemence; Mike Cundall (A); Zachary Denton (S); Mookesh Dhanasar; Sherrie Drye (A); Marka Fleming (S); Paula Faulkner; Tiffany Fuller (S); Corey Graves (S); Jian Han; Kimberly Harper (S); Scott Harrison (S); Odile Hutchette; Nina Ingram; AKM Kamrul Islam (A); Geetika Jaiswal (S); Yahya Kamalipour (S); Cynthia Khanlarian (S); Lyubov Kurkalova (S); Harvey Long; Antoinette Maldonado-Devincci (A); Nicole McCoy; Kimberly McNeil (S); Devang Mehta (S); Athina Meli; Ahmed Megri (S); Emmanuel Obeng-Gyasi (S); Venkatesh Pandey (A); David Rachlin (A); William Randle; Ginger Redd; Kristen Rhinehardt (S); Constance Ross; Jacqueline Roebuck Sakho (S); Mashooq Salehin (A); J. David Schall (S); Kalynda Chivon Smith (S); Amy Schwartzott (S); Brian Schuft; Vijay Singh (A); Belinda Shipps (S); Davi Thornton (S); Maylee Vazquez (A); Jeff Wolfgang (S); James Wood (S); Guochen Yang (A); Xueying Zhang (A); Simone Smith (A); Qingan Zeng (S)

(S): Senator

(A): Alternate

Meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm by the Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Scott Harrison. Roll call was taken by Dr. Harrison.

Dr. Harrison commented that, with support and involvement from the Provost's Office, and with specific thanks to Dr. Giddings and Dr. Smallwood, 15 curricula packages from last year had been reviewed and signed. His understanding was that there were several items remaining to be possibly addressed as well.

Minutes from the August 23, 2022 full Faculty Senate meeting were reviewed. Dr. Dobbins motioned for their approval and Dr. McCoy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Dobbins (Vice Chair) spoke on the Faculty Assembly, indicating there to be a new chair of the assembly, Dr. Wade Maki. Dr. Dobbins spoke of the interaction and communications of Faculty Assembly with the UNC System leadership surrounding the UNC System's current strategic initiatives. Active areas of discussion include resignations from UNC System campuses, tenure system, issues with enrollment decline, Project Kitty Hawk, newer funding models for university campuses, goals for improved communications from UNC system to university campuses, shared governance, budgetary relationships, developments regarding how strategic plan accomplishments will be measured, and retention funds.

Dr. Harrison echoed some comments from Dr. Dobbins and mentioned how there was emphasis from UNC System leadership surrounding the value proposition of higher education, enrollment decline due in part from competition from other universities, and greater emphasis on four-year graduation rates in contrast to prior years' focus on enrollment growth. Dr. Dobbins mentioned the upcoming 50-year celebration of the UNC System Faculty Assembly

Dr. Harrison then commented on committee assignments and thanked everyone for their communications and involvements with establishing the standing committees of the Faculty Senate. Regarding current composition of committees, Dr. Harrison indicated an objective for having diverse representation across colleges among the various committees.

Reports from committees were as follows. Dr. Denton, Education Policy chair, discussed considerations of policies for degree minors and course overlap. Dr. Denton made further mention of policies surrounding scheduling of courses and considerations concerning standard course grid schedules of Monday/Wednesday/Friday (on a weekly basis for a given course) and Tuesday/Thursday; (on a weekly basis for a given course). Dr. Harrison mentioned building space being an area where administration was considering there to be a potentially high, disproportionate allocation of building space to teaching activities, and some relative need for reallocation of building space toward research activities. Dr. Randle, Faculty Welfare chair, discussed last year's efforts and continued attention regarding representation and advocacy for NTTFs. Dr. Randle also commented on the extreme nature of faculty workloads on campus. Dr. Harrison opened the floor for some general discussion. Dr. Maldonado-Devincci inquired about whether there was a formula regarding course buyout – in particular whether there could be some percentage identified relating to release time from courses. Dr. Fuller introduced herself as chair of the Faculty Handbook committee. Dr. McCoy likewise introduced herself as chair of the Academic Calendar committee and mentioned the attention that would be given to the extra week happening in the Spring semester calendar.

Dr. Harrison then described recent proposals emanating in substantial part from the administration regarding new "Faculty-Led" University Committees, in reference to materials he had distributed to Faculty Senators and Alternates on the matter, and as related to specific areas of 1) the Faculty Handbook revision, to occur every five years, and 2) curricular policy and efficiency with processing of academic program and curriculum proposals and changes. Dr. Harrison then indicated some concern that activities in these areas, while essential, should still remain well-connected to the overall faculty community and not be outside the expected considerations of shared governance and core role of faculty with respect to faculty governance and curriculum. Dr. Harrison indicated that his notes of meetings had indicated the Faculty Senate would be briefed and that findings from the committees would be subject to Faculty Senate review, but that there had been other communications that did not seem consistent with that. Dr. Wolfgang expressed some general opinion and hope that the activities in these matters would not be divisive but would rather relate to unity within the faculty community, and that activities with new committees not bring about an alternate agenda outside of generally considered interests and objectives. Dr. Harrison spoke on a common refrain he felt had been happening on campus, where faculty are ascribed some underlying and negative role by others, with respect to (for example) issues of the bookstore, IT, calendar, and curricula. Dr. Harrison was hopeful that there could be more mutual discussion, effort and resolution on these types of matters within the institution. On the topic of curriculum, Dr. Harrison felt that faculty are central to curricular considerations for how faculty have terminal degrees in their respective disciplines, and are those who develop and implement programs and curricula (up to and including stated conferral of degrees "by the faculty of" as appears on diplomas). Dr. Harrison furthermore offered a view that this be an essential ongoing consideration of shared governance as it is at many top-tier institutions.

Surrounding curricula, Dr. Thornton described there to be a real need for policy direction; i.e., policy that can be followed and acted on with certainty. Dr. Rhinehardt spoke on communication issues,

mentioning information technology (IT) on campus as an example, where there had been some need to be given more due notice of the challenging circumstances impacting campus-wide operations, and that further shared governance would ideally be surrounding concerns of IT. Dr. Dobbins commented on the Chancellor being cognizant of workload issues that could be surrounding some of the new committees being considered, and thanked Dr. Harrison in particular for his manner of engagement with the administration on matters surrounding the new committees being considered. Dr. Harrison indicated that the administration was seeking to address communication issues more specifically, and relayed some general discussion with administration surrounding how communication challenges could be re-phrased as pursuing “constructive discussions leading to actionable outcomes.”

For nomination and election of the Faculty Senate Secretary, one of the three officers of the Faculty Senate, the floor was opened for nomination. Dr. Harrison nominated Dr. Fuller. Dr. Kalynda Smith seconded the nomination. Following this period of nomination, a motion was made and seconded by Dr. Bollinger and Dr. Rhinehardt to approve Dr. Fuller as Faculty Senate Secretary by acclamation. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion surrounding representation on the UNC System Faculty Assembly was led by Dr. Dobbins. Some general interest was expressed, but this will be addressed further at a later time.

New business was then addressed. The topic of R2 and R1, and the formation of a Council of Research task force was discussed. Dr. Dobbins, Dr. Rhinehardt, and others commented that the following could be considered: representation from each college, release time, overhead, level of indirects being received back by laboratories and departments, recruiting of graduate students, balancing of teaching and research activities, and support research on teaching practices. More than several attendees expressed an interest in being part of the proposed task force. Dr. Harrison mentioned that, for the various initiatives mentioned through the meeting, the administration had indicated that they would be considering some level of staff support that could help investigate data and best practices happening at other universities across the country.

Dr. Wolfgang motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Rachlin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.