

Meeting Minutes, Faculty Senate, full meeting, February 28, 2023

These minutes were reviewed and approved during the Faculty Senate meeting on Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

In attendance:

Phoebe Ajibade (A); Tonya Amankwatia; Uchenna Anele (S); Shyam Aravamudhan (A); Niroj Aryal (S); Mohammad Azad (S); Stephen Bollinger (S); Trevor Brothers; Kelvin Bryant (S); Kimberly Bunch-Crump (S); Michael Cundall (A); Zachary Denton (S); Nicole Dobbins; Ming Dong (A); Marka Fleming (S); Tiffany Fuller (S); Kimberly Harper (S); Scott Harrison (S); Evelyn Hoover (A); Nina Ingram; Geetika Jaiswal (S); Yahya Kamalipour (S); Stephanie Kelly; Zahra Khalaf; Cynthia Khanlarian (S); Harvey Long; Mahmoud Nabil Mahmoud (A); Nicole McCoy; Kimberly McNeil (S); Ahmed Megri (S); Devang Mehta (S); Carmen Monico (S); Chephas Naanwaab (A); Farr Niere; Emmanuel Obeng-Gyasi (S); Venkatesh Pandey (A); David Rachlin (A); William Randle; Ginger Redd; George S. Robinson, Jr.; Amy Schwartzott (S); Arwin Smallwood; Belinda Shipps (S); Chantel Simpson (S); Kristen Rhinehardt (S); Jacqueline Roebuck Sakho (S); Vijay Singh (S); Kalynda Smith (S); Simone Smith (A); John Teleha; Li-Shiang Tsay (A); James Wood (S); Jeff Wolfgang (S); Qing-An Zeng (S)

(S): Senator

(A): Alternate

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by the Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Scott Harrison. Roll call was taken by Dr. Harrison and Dr. Fuller. Review of minutes from the November 22, 2022 was then conducted. Dr. Rachlin motioned to approve the minutes, and Stephen Bollinger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Dr. Dobbins gave the Faculty Assembly report. Two faculty are serving on UNC System working groups. Dr. Harrison indicated those faculty as being Dr. Joseph Graves, Jr., serving on the Faculty Retirement and Incentive Program (FRIP) working group and Dr. Carmen Monico, serving on the Faculty Workload workgroup. It was also mentioned that Dr. Tonya Smith-Jackson, our university Provost, was serving on the Post-tenure Review (PTR) working group. The Chancellor and university leadership are aware of people doing this work. For the 17 UNC System institutions to be represented on six committees, there were limited slots available to each institution in terms of representation. Dr. Dobbins mentioned upcoming development in the UNC System regarding incentives for retirement. In response to a question, Dr. Harrison mentioned that A&T was not a campus of concern within the UNC System regarding a "push" for retirement. Some of the general formulation being planned for within the UNC System may be ten years of service and a qualifying older age.

With the UNC compelled speech policy having recently been passed, there is not yet clear guidance on this policy. It was reported by Dr. Dobbins that Dr. Del Ruff is looking into policy matters. Dr. Harrison commented as follows. Thus far, as concerns the compelled speech policy, there is substantial concern from those in our faculty community regarding: 1) the autonomy of individual schools to govern their campuses, and 2) how reasonable dialogue and consideration on essential concerns - including those involving institution-wide commitments to diversity - is to be meaningfully considered and sustained.

Reports from committees were as follows. From curriculum, it was reported that a recently proposed university-level curriculum committee had one meeting already and officers were in the process of being

selected. With regard to the nomination committee, Dr. Harrison indicated that a roster of Council of Research members was going to be communicated to Dr. Muth as follows: Steve Bollinger, Solomon Bililign, Subrata Chakrabarty, Lyubov A. Kurkalova, Stephanie Kelly, Robert Newman; Amy Schwartzott; and Kristen Rhinehardt. Senate officer elections were then discussed, with planning for these elections to be at the upcoming March meeting. Nominations are open for Vice Chair and Secretary (Fall 2023-Spring 2025, whose terms are staggered in relationship to the Chair (Fall 2022-Spring 2024).

Dr. Randle inquired whether the Faculty Senate is needing to restructure itself with respect to the new committees. Faculty want to know how these newer university-level committees will work with the Faculty Senate. Dr. Harrison indicated that remains a topic needing clarification and has been some topic of discussion. Dr. Harrison indicated that, regarding opportunities for promoting input from all in the faculty community surrounding the curriculum, a proposal to have a two-week period for review and comment from the faculty at the university-level appeared to have been adopted. Dr. Randle also mentioned there having been some activity for a university-level Human Resources strategic planning committee. Issues of hiring are very impactful, and this includes issues of benefits and also support for students. This committee is engaging in a SWOT analysis. Regarding the Handbook committee, Dr. Randle and Dr. Fuller indicated their involvement on a university-level Faculty Handbook Revision committee. The committee has recently received its charge and will be soon identifying co-chairs. Communications with the Faculty Senate were reported as being one of the topics addressed during this university-level committee's initial meeting, with an expectation that there would be ongoing communication. From the calendar committee, Dr. McCoy indicated that documents for the academic calendar committee were in the process of being assembled for some of their upcoming meetings in March and April.

Other general issues were mentioned. The value of a survey on various campus needs was mentioned by Dr. Rhinehardt. Dr. Dobbins inquired about the need for more of an institutional framework to be developed in support of summertime activities involving volunteers and other participants with university programs. It was also reported by faculty that the recent new computer upgrade experience had been pleasant. Regarding ongoing issues concerning access to research computing resources, Dr. Rhinehardt indicated that e-mail requests for enabling access for students could be sent to eem@ncat.edu, cc-ing one's chair and/or dean as well. Faculty mentioned that new computer upgrade experiences have been pleasant. Discussion concluded with discussions of reaching out to university offices for dialogue and interaction with the Faculty Senate – specifically, the Provost, human resources, information technology, budget, the Graduate College, bookstore, infrastructure and facilities, and wellness and counseling services on campus. The meeting then adjourned.