

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

In attendance:

Phoebe Ajibade (A), Jeffrey Alston (S), Uchenna Anele (S), Ayanna Armstrong (S), Mohammad Azad (S), Jennifer Beasley (S), Stephen Bollinger (S), Trevor Brothers (A), Kimberly Bunch-Crump (S), Subrata Chakrabarty (A), Daphne Cooper, Mookesh Dhanasar, Sherrie Drye (A), Robert Ferguson (S), Yvonne Ford (S), Tiffany Fuller (S), Etta Gravely (A), Corey Graves (S), Scott Harrison (S), William Harrison (S), Katherine Howell, AKM Kamrul Islam (A), Yuhan Jiang (A), Cynthia Khanlarian (S), Harvey Long, Nicole McCoy, Kimberly McNeil (S), Ahmed Megri (S), Devang Mehta (S), Cephas Naanwaab (A), Sharon Parker (S), David Rachlin (A), William Randle, Kristen Rhinehardt (S), Craig Rhodes, Sydney Richardson (A), George S. Robinson, Jr., Jacqueline Roebuck Sakho (S), Mashooq Salehin (S), J. David Schall (S), Amy Schwartzott (S), Belinda Shipp (S), Chantel Simpson (S), Vijay Singh (S), Nichole Smith, Ecaterina Stepaniuc (S), John Teleha, Davi Thornton (S), Li-Shiang Tsay (A), Pauline Uwakweh (S), Nakeshia N. Williams, Jeff Wolfgang (S)

(S): Senator

(A): Alternate

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Harrison and Dr. Fuller conducted the roll call. The meeting then proceeded toward review and approval of the August and September 2023 minutes. Motions were made and seconded, followed by unanimous votes to approve both sets of minutes.

A report from the UNC System Faculty Assembly then ensued from Dr. Harrison. There have been generally constructive outcomes regarding feedback from the Faculty Assembly to UNC System leadership. Dr. Harrison then demonstrated where various transmittal letters and proposed policy draft changes were posted on the UNC System website, and encouraged everyone to pay attention to proposed policy revisions and help to send along feedback. The difference between policies and regulations were described with respect to the UNC System. Recent upcoming policy initiatives within the UNC System were summarized as follows. The UNC System has mandated that faculty workload policies be established by universities by Spring 2024. Critically, based on feedback from faculty, the description of a "24-credit-hour" workload level was revised to include "or equivalent". Post-tenure review policies will be prioritizing teaching over research and service. The UNC System has increased funding for infrastructure improvements.

Discussion proceeded then to workload. Faculty were encouraged to provide feedback during upcoming forums on workload and policy drafts to ensure accurate representation of research, service, and teaching duties. Faculty raised concerns about clinical hours, dissertation supervision, online courses, lab coordination, accreditation reports, large capacity online courses, pursuit of industry partnerships, pursuit of student internships and other involvements not being adequately counted toward workload. It was inquired about whether faculty could

express concerns about workload without retribution. It was suggested that service roles (e.g., department chairs, graduate advisors, and faculty mentoring) should be explicitly considered in workload calculations. Dr. Harrison indicated that concerns raised would be sent back to the UNC System Faculty Assembly for communication with UNC System leadership. Other issues raised included how reliable the first day readiness program was at the university - whether materials from the bookstore would be ready for students on their first day. A proposal for a "dead week" (or "reading week") before final exams was then debated, with concerns about instructional time and student engagement. This related to considering how to restore periods of time for final examinations which had been truncated in their length. Faculty discussed improving student readiness and engagement for final course activities during the fall semester after Thanksgiving break. International travel policies continue to be a concern, with faculty requesting better clarity on procedures.

The meeting concluded with a motion to adjourn, which was seconded and then passed unanimously.