

Meeting Minutes, Faculty Senate, full meeting, February 27, 2024

In attendance:

Phoebe Ajibade (A), Jeffrey Alston (S), Uchenna Anele (S), Ayanna Armstrong (S), Mohammad Azad (S), Jennifer Beasley (S), Stephen Bollinger (S), Kelvin Bryant (S), Kimberly Bunch-Crump (S), Subrata Chakrabarty (A), Mike Cundall (S), Mookesh Dhanasar, Zachary Denton (S), Sherrie Drye (A), Yvonne Ford (S), Tiffany Fuller (S), Valerie L. Giddings, Clay Gloster, Corey Graves (S), Scott Harrison (S), AKM Kamrul Islam (A), Floyd James, Yuhan Jiang (A), Joy Kennedy (A), Cynthia Khanlarian (S), Lyubov Kurkalova (S), Huan Li, Mahmoud Mahmoud (A), Nicole McCoy, Kimberly McNeil (S), Ahmed Megri (S), Devang Mehta (S), Cephaz Naanwaab (A), John Ng'ombe (A), Venkatesh Pandey (A), Sharon Parker, David Rachlin (A), William Randle, Craig Rhodes, Sydney Richardson (A), George S. Robinson, Jr., Checo Rorie, Jacqueline Roebuck Sakho (S), J. David Schall (S), Amy Schwartzott (S), Belinda Shipps (S), Vijay Singh (S), Nichole Smith, Tonya Smith-Jackson, Ecaterina Stepaniuc (S), Davi Thornton (S), John Teleha, Li-Shiang Tsay (A), Christina Tupper (S), Pauline Uwakweh (S), Maylee Vazquez (A), Jeff Wolfgang (S), Qingan Zeng (S)

(S): Senator

(A): Alternate

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Harrison and Dr. Fuller conducted the roll call. The agenda was presented. A motion was made and seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve the agenda.

Dr. Harrison commented further on recent salary adjustments and mentioned that some colleges and specific academic disciplines in particular had lower than typical faculty salaries and that many of those faculty would have been receiving greater adjustments. Links to report documents from an R1 engagement committee and a shared governance committee were then provided. Faculty were encouraged to contact Dr. Zachary Denton of the education policy committee concerning syllabi and policies that could be indicated surrounding the use of artificial intelligence (AI). Dr. Alston provided information on a resource describing different university and class syllabus AI policies. Some additional comments followed regarding the student wellness proposal as to whether this, combined with other university events such as convocation, was resulting in the loss of weeks of the semester.

Provost Smith-Jackson and Associate Vice Provost Rhodes engaged in a discussion on workload components. Provost Smith-Jackson mentioned having received notes on workload discussions from listening sessions with faculty and the recent release by the UNC System of a regulation surrounding workload for full-time faculty. The university's policy was being pursued in a way to allow for some further customization by colleges. Each faculty member would be required to, on an annual basis, have a workload plan addressing full-time engagement with respect to areas such as teaching, research, service and other institutional responsibilities. There was some discussion about how advisement of undergraduate and graduate students would be considered with respect to these different types of responsibilities. The Office of Strategic

Planning and Institutional Effectiveness would be working on considerations of measurements surrounding described research and service activities in particular. There was a discussion on contact hours as encompassing both time in the classroom, office hours and advisement. Dr. Harrison mentioned that the UNC System was moving workload consideration more toward time spent on tasks as opposed to an inventoried production of deliverables (e.g., articles published). Faculty asked about whether fulfilling administrative and operational tasks that would more typically be borne by administrators and staff would count toward workload considerations.

Provost Smith-Jackson and Senior Vice Provost Giddings then presented on the Faculty Commons space being developed within the library, and encouraged use of this space by university faculty. The design of the space was described as related to how it supported use by groups of faculty for interaction, work projects and professional development.

The Dean of the Graduate College, Dr. Gloster, then presented on updates surrounding a new graduate student funding model. There was a goal to design a funding model that provided for a more comprehensive package of assistantships, tuition and health insurance. Assistantship support levels for master's and doctoral students were being specified. Planning was for there to be institutional support for doctoral students to be for the first two years and for masters students to be for the first year, with additional follow-through support to be potentially provided by research grants, academic colleges and departments. The institutional support would be through teaching assistantships primarily. It was clarified that support for PhD students into their second year of institutional support would be based on their performance during their first year. Additional guidance was being developed to communicate further comprehensive guidelines for this newer funding model. The funding model will work to help propel greater enrollment of graduate students and provide faculty with more general support to propel additional research grant awards. There are general objectives to standardize funding across departments and specify ranges of funding regarding level of work being performed.

Additional items were then discussed. Concerns were raised about a shortened final exam week. The Calendar Committee has submitted a revised schedule with a five-day exam period and is awaiting confirmation from the administration. Elections for the Faculty Senate Chair will occur in March 2024 whereas the current chair's term is ending. Faculty Senate Chairs serve two-year terms. Nominations will be accepted in March.

Dr. Denton motioned for the meeting to adjourn and Dr. Singh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.