

Meeting Minutes, Faculty Senate, full meeting, August 29, 2023

In attendance:

Phoebe Ajibade (A), Faisal Alkaabneh (S), Jeffrey R. Alston (S), Tonya Amankwatia, Uchenna Anele (S), Ayanna Armstrong (S), Niroj Aryal, Mohammad Azad (S), Stephen Bollinger (S), Trevor Brothers (A), Kelvin Bryant (S), Kimberly Bunch-Crump (S), Mark Burkey, Subrata Chakrabarty (A), Joanie Douglas Chavis, Daphne Cooper, Mike Cundall (S), Richelle DaSouza, Zachary Denton (S), Beatrice Dingha, Chastity Warren English, Paula Faulkner, Robert Ferguson (S), Yvonne Ford (S), Tiffany Fuller (S), Corey Graves (S), Scott Harrison (S), AKM Kamrul Islam (A), Yuhan Jiang (A), George S. Robinson, Jr., Cindi Khanlarian (S), Luba Kurkalova (S), Harvey Long, Mahmoud Mahmoud (A), Antoniette Maldonado-Devincci, Nicole McCoy, Kimberly McNeil (S), Ahmed Megri (S), Devang Mehta (S), Venkatesh Pandey (A), Sharon Parker (S), David Rachlin (A), Bill Randle, Zaira Estrada Reyes (A), Kristen Rhinehardt (S), Craig Rhodes, Sydney Richardson (A), Checo J. Rorie, Jacqueline Roebuck Sakho (S), Mashooq Salehin (S), Dave Schall (S), J. David Schall (S), Amy Schwartzott (S), Belinda Shipps (S), Vijay Singh (S), Nichole Smith, Ecaterina Stepaniuc (S), John Teleha, Davi Thornton (S), Pauline Uwakweh (S), Maylee Vazquez (A), Nakeshia Williams, Jeff Wolfgang (S)

(S): Senator

(A): Alternate

Roll call began at 3:00 pm to 3:05 pm. The agenda was presented by Dr. Fuller and the meeting called to order by Dr. Harrison. Dr. Harrison introduced everyone to this year's first Faculty Senate meeting. The Faculty Senate represents 37 academic departments with additional representation for Library Services and the Graduate College. The Faculty Senate is committed to faculty representation, democratic processes, and the well-being of our faculty community.

Descriptions of committees were presented as described in the Faculty Handbook. Last year's committee chairs then described the general involvements of these committees. Dr. McCoy described the work of the Academic Calendar Committee with reviewing the general structure of each semester including university events and special dates. Dr. Harrison raised the issue of how the final exam schedule had been abruptly altered at the beginning of the semester. The scheduled durations of final examinations are now notably shorter in comparison to most other peer institutions, and this could be a topic to be addressed by the Academic Calendar Committee in communication with university administrators.

Reports from the Faculty Welfare and Educational Policy committees were as follows. Dr. Randle described how the Faculty Welfare Committee has been seeking to address ongoing challenges including the need for better general support with budgeting, personnel hiring support and grant administration support for faculty. Dr. Denton described work of the Educational Policy Committee surrounding academic dishonesty policies in relationship to software programming code, and future considerations surrounding artificial intelligence (AI).

The committee will also be continuing further deliberation on policies on academic degree minors and remain involved with syllabus template implementations at the university.

On the topic of the Faculty Handbook, Dr. Randle and Dr. Fuller indicated that work of the university's ad hoc Faculty Handbook Revision committee had been ongoing and that further updates would be forthcoming. Dr. Ford led discussion of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee consists of members from all colleges and fulfills a general role for reviewing nominations of faculty to be considered for various positions. Dr. Harrison commented on the Constitution Committee as well as the New Programs and Curricula Committee. The recent initiation of a university academic programs and curriculum committee (UAPCC) was mentioned. It was suggested that the New Programs and Curricula Committee can work to review curriculum and program proposals within the 2-week period of notification (i.e., preceding evaluation of these proposals by the UAPCC). In addition, the New Programs and Curricula committee can take a more strategic look into curriculum and potential programs at our institution (e.g., Project Kitty Hawk).

The meeting then proceeded to a discussion led by Dr. Harrison of the UNC System Faculty Assembly. Current delegate and alternate representation was indicated, with openings for two additional delegates and two additional alternates described. Dr. Cundall motioned, and Dr. Harrison seconded, an opening of the floor for discussing 2 year versus 3 year terms on the Faculty Assembly for delegates from our university. Following this discussion, Dr. Ford motioned that there be 2 year terms, and Stephen Bollinger seconded this motion. The motion carried almost unanimously with all in favor except one nay vote and no abstentions.

Dr. Harrison summarized working groups in the UNC System Faculty Assembly. The retirement program working group's recommendations were moving forward toward some likely adoption. Dr. Harrison mentioned the UNC System Policy Manual and how due process considerations were undergoing some revision. Dr. Harrison voiced concern surrounding the potential impact on academic freedom and the association of academic freedom with integrity in scholarship. Dr. Harrison recounted on the recent adoption of compelled speech policy provisions within the UNC System Policy Manual, differing perspectives on tenure within the UNC System, and the need for the faculty community to be aware and involved with providing feedback on system policies.

A moment of silence then was enacted by the full Faculty Senate in sorrow and reflection on the tragic killing of a fellow faculty member at another UNC System Institution (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill).

Dr. Harrison indicated that work had been underway on surveys of research and shared governance at the university, being released later in the semester. The research survey was being put together by a newly formed Council of Research that had been openly assembled from the faculty community through the Nominating Committee. Shared governance was an initiative at the university being led by a committee of faculty, staff, students and

administrators. Central values being espoused by the committee were transparency, inclusivity and communication.

Dr. McCoy led the final part of the agenda regarding new business and discussion on future meeting topics. Dr. Ajibade spoke about training for mental health and resources and opportunities made possible within the UNC System, including opportunities for certification. Training for faculty at our university on student mental health was also available through our Office of Student Affairs. Dr. McCoy described efforts being underway for a Faculty Commons area in the campus library. Other campus updates shared by those in attendance was that the bookstore was changing mid-semester.

A question was raised on whether faculty undergoing post-tenure review (PTR) could participate in the election of PTR committee members. Dr. Harrison indicated he would investigate this further.

Dr. Harrison mentioned that there was momentum toward accelerated BS/MS programs at the university.

Stephen Bollinger mentioned work of Library Services surrounding ORCID and also Covidence.

For an objective of ongoing interaction with the university as a whole, it was suggested that the Faculty Senate invite those from the public safety, human resources, research division and online education to some upcoming senate meetings. Dr. Amankwatia discussed some of the work being done regarding a national benchmark survey of online learners across various institutions, including R1 and HBCU institutions, Project Kitty Hawk, and other topics. It was also suggested to invite student representatives to upcoming Faculty Senate sessions.

Stephen Bollinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Singh seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned.