

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

In attendance:

Jeffrey Alston (S), Ayanna Armstrong (S), Jennifer Beasley (S), Stephen Bollinger (S), Trevor Brothers (S), Dr. Dewayne Brown (S), Subrata Chakrabarty (A), Sherrie Drye (A), Yvonne R Ford (S), Etta Gravely (A), Core Graves (S), Scott H. Harrison (S); AKM Kamrul Islam (A), Yuhan Jiang (S), Yuhan Jiang (S), Stephanie Kelly (S), Joy Kennedy (S), Luba Kurkalova (S), Roland Leak (S), Harvey Long, Laura Marshall (S), Blessing Masasi (A), Nicole McCoy, Ahmed Megri (S), Ademe Mekonnen (A), Joseph Montgomery Hyosoo Moon (A), Sharon Parker (S), Tommy Patterson, Bill Randle (S), Zaira Estrada Reyes (A), Craig Rhodes, Derrick Robinson (A), Mashooq Salehin (S), David Schall (S), Amy Schwartzott (S), Chantel Simpson (S), James Stewart, Geneene Thompson (A), Magdalene Tukov-Yual (A), Christina Tupper (S), Pauline Ada Uwakweh (S), John Paul Ward (S), Jeff Wolfgang (S), Maria Zhang (A)

(S): Senator

(A): Alternate

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Scott Harrison and roll call taken by Dr. Tiffany Fuller. The agenda was presented by Dr. Harrison and a scheduling adjustment was further proposed for the Faculty Senate October meeting date to move from Tuesday, October 22 to Tuesday, October 29. A motion was made and seconded to approve both the agenda and the scheduling adjustment. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Nicole McCoy thanked last year's committee chairs. Dr. Nicole McCoy then described the committees of the faculty senate. Various committee chairs from AY2023-2024 indicated an interest in continued service for AY2024-2025. and a survey was then presented to attendees for indicating their interest in committee service for AY2024-2025.

Dr. Harrison then provided further welcome and a report from the UNC System Faculty Assembly. Dr. Harrison indicated priorities for a faculty handbook update to be developed and enacted this academic year, discussed an objective surrounding further development of the university-level curriculum review process, and referenced current calendar discussions surrounding fall break and the final exam schedule. Dr. Harrison recapped prior events within the UNC System concerning a Foundations of American Democracy curriculum policy and DEI. Dr. Harrison mentioned the emphasis on academic program review within the UNC System, as this process was going to soon span all of the UNC System universities. Dr. Harrison spoke of working groups in the UNC System involving faculty and others. Last year's working groups were Faculty Retirement Incentive Program, Faculty Workload, Post-Tenure Review, Development of Teaching/Professional Faculty Track, Evaluation of Teaching, and Faculty Recognition. This year's working groups were described as follows (with involvements of our university faculty as indicated): APR Implementation (Nicole McCoy), Make the Case for Higher Ed (Yvonne Ford), Role and Usefulness of Micro-credentials, AI Policy, Faculty Assembly Governance (Scott Harrison), and Faculty Leadership Development (Ayanna Armstrong). Dr.

Harrison indicated the representation of university faculty on the faculty assembly to involve: Delegates - Scott Harrison (2024-2026); Kristen Rhinehardt (2024-2026); Daphne Cooper (2023-2025); Brandis Phillips (2023-2025), and Alternates – Phoebe Ajibade (2024-2026); Zach Denton (2024-2026); Dana Carthron (2023-2025); Corey Graves (2023-2025). Dr. Harrison further indicated that Kristen Rhinehardt and Daphne Cooper were also serving on the UNC System Faculty Assembly Executive Committee.

Dr. Joseph Montgomery, Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment Management presented on the topic of student enrollment.

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General updates were then provided as follows. The recent AI and Ethical Use Policy was described by Dr. Harrison, followed by a review of the Faculty Senate roster then ensued. Dr. Phoebe Ajibade then presented on a potential area of focus and possible event surrounding faculty well-being and research training. A potential speaker with expertise in helping guide and develop faculty in their research writing activities was mentioned. Dr. Tiffany Fuller and Dr. William Randle described work by an ad hoc university committee on a possible faculty handbook revision to be considered and developed further by the Faculty Senate.

Dr. McCoy presented on the academic calendar.

Dr. McCoy then led the proceeding on new business and further discussion. Dr. McCoy mentioned a new teaching effectiveness policy may be moving forward. Dr. Ford suggested improving the process for student teaching evaluations. Perhaps a paper-based format would better promote response rates and feedback compared to asynchronous digital modes of submitting teaching evaluations. IT classroom support was then discussed by multiple faculty as an area needing improvement. It was commented that understaffing was a potential issue impacting this need for improvement. Parking on campus was mentioned as a challenge, both with respect to need for more faculty parking and more handicapped parking.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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.