

Meeting Minutes, Faculty Senate, full meeting, March 26, 2024

In attendance:

Phoebe Ajibade (A), Jeffrey Alston (S), Uchenna Anele (S), Ayanna Armstrong (S), Mohammad Azad (S), Jennifer Beasley (S), Kelvin Bryant (S), Kimberly Bunch-Crump (S), Mark Burkey, Subrata Chakrabarty (A), Daphne Cooper, Mike Cundall (S), Sherrie Drye (A), Yvonne Ford (S), Tiffany Fuller (S), Etta Gravely (A), Corey Graves (S), Scott Harrison (S), AKM Kamrul Islam (A), Floyd James, Yuhan Jiang (A), Cynthia Khanlarian (S), Lyubov Kurkalova (S), Nicole McCoy, Kimberly McNeil (S), Ahmed Megri (S), Devang Mehta (S), Cephas Naanwaab (A), Dawn M. Nail, John Ng'ombe (A), Venkatesh Pandey (A), Sharon Parker (S), David Rachlin (A), William Randle, Kristen Rhinehardt (S), Sydney Richardson (A), George S. Robinson, Jr., Jacqueline Roebuck Sakho (S), J. David Schall (S), Amy Schwartzott (S), Belinda Shipps (S), Chantel Simpson (S), Vijay Singh (S), Ecaterina Stepaniuc (S), Li-Shiang Tsay (A), Christina Tupper (S), Pauline Uwakweh (S), Maylee Vazquez (A), Jeff Wolfgang (S),

(S): Senator

(A): Alternate

Call to order was done by Dr. Scott Harrison. Roll call was led by Dr. Fuller. There was a link to attendance sent out and a QR Code. The agenda was presented. Dr. Singh motioned and David Rachlin seconded for the agenda to be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Harrison mentioned discussions within the UNC System regarding budgeting. There has been some recent deficit within the system. A possible approach to resolving this may be to increase enrollment of out-of-state students to the levels permitted. Dr. Harrison also mentioned some potential curricular changes stemming from the UNC System surrounding the teaching of civics education at the university level, and a contrasting perspective for how civics education could be more robustly addressed at the high school level. Dr. Harrison described how concerns about whether disciplinary and pedagogical expertise of faculty were being given due consideration in curricular changes. Dr. Harrison also mentioned discussions and upcoming considerations surrounding academic program review and the evaluation of return on investment in terms of subsequent salaries for graduates. Another update was that the UNC system may be reinstating standardized test requirements to assist in evaluating applicants with lower GPAs.

Dr. McCoy then presented calendar updates. In general, there has been discussion with administration on a plan to return to longer final exam periods for the Fall 2024 semester. Due to a rescheduled homecoming event for Fall 2024, the administration has proposed shifting the intended fall break. Concerns were expressed about this change disrupting joint programs with UNC Greensboro (UNCG), which has a different fall break schedule (October 11-16). The Faculty Senate did not then vote to approve the proposed rescheduling of fall break.

As led by Dr. Ford, nominations and elections then proceeded for the positions for representation within the UNC System Faculty Assembly and for Faculty Senate Chair, each position being for a two-year term (Fall 2024 - Summer 2026). Dr. Rhinehardt was nominated for a two-year term as a Faculty Assembly delegate, and Dr. Zachary Denton and Dr. Phoebe Ajibade were nominated for two-year terms as Faculty Assembly alternates. Dr. Scott Harrison was nominated for the Faculty Senate Chair position. Elections were then held and voting was unanimous in support of the nominees.

Discussion with Dr. Dawn Nail then proceeded surrounding syllabi and policies on artificial intelligence (AI). With instances of students using output from AI verbatim in their assignment submissions, it is essential to have the usage of AI be addressed in syllabi. David Rachlin commented that there should be a distinction between usage of AI to generate actual writing versus the usage of AI to search for literature references. Three different policy clauses were described that could be chosen from based on the instructor's determinations surrounding usage of AI within a given course. There is a prevailing objective to uphold academic rigor and have students develop knowledge and their own ability for critical thinking.

Additional items discussed were absenteeism and course engagement following quarantine period. It was also mentioned that developments toward a faculty handbook revision be acted on further, however some discussion with the provost's office had been that it may worthwhile to await outcomes to the recent wave of mandates happening from the UNC System.

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