

North Carolina A&T State University

## **FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES**

April 26, 2011

Smith Hall – Room 2014

**Senate Members Present:** Taher-Abu-lebdeh, Obasi Akan, Shearon Brown, Linda Florence Callahan, Horlin Carter, David A. Chen, Roy Coomans, Salil Desai, Godfrey Ejimakor, Wendy Hamblet, Julius Harp, Floyd James, Ibraheem Kateeb, Thelma King, Trent Larson, Roland Leak, Patricia Lynch, Stephen McCary-Henderson, Radiah Minor, Wayne Moore, Francene Moore, Margaret Morris, Janis Oldham, Jeffrey Parker, Robert Payne, Deborah Prentice, Zhaoqiong Qin, Craig Rhodes, Michael Roberto, Messiha T. Saad, Janet Seiz, Brian Sims, Sonja Wilson. **Senate Members Absent:** Elizabeth Barber, Phil Carey, Pamella Chavis, Emmanuel Ikegwu, Khrisna Kasibhatla, Gary Lebby, Kenneth Roberts, Derick K. Smith, Hong Wang.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Linda Florence Callahan at 3:00 p.m.

Moment of Silence

### **Approval of the Minutes (February & March)**

A motion to approve the February, 2011 and the March 2011 minutes was made by senators.

### **Callahan Comments**

- Reviewed Agenda - noting presenter, committee reports and action items.
- Certificates of Appreciation presented to members of New Program and Curricula Committee, Faculty Handbook Committee, Grievance Committee, Hearing and Reconsideration Committee, members of the Faculty Assembly and Senate Officers.
- Board of Trustee – Faculty Handbook. The Faculty Handbook, except chapter 4 – Constitution, was approved by the Board of Trustees at its April, 2011. Chapter 4 will be revisited at a later date.
- Faculty Senate Retreat is scheduled for May 18, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and May 19, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Additional details will be forthcoming.

### **Guest Presenter**

**Dr. Linda T. Adams, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs**  
**“University Strategic Plan,” “Student’s Success”**

Dr. Adams introduced Mr. Ralph Mitchell and Mr. Calvin Riley from the Nehemiah Group. She stated that Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Riley are assisting the University with the development of the University Strategic Plan. Provost Adams extended to them a note of thanks.

Dr. Adams provided an overview of the Chancellor's Faculty Forum Strategic Planning Update entitled "A&T Preeminence 2010 – Embracing Our Past/Creating Our Future". Included in the overview was a discussion of the vision statement; core values (learning, excellence, integrity, respect, creativity, engagement and service); and goals and strategies. The goals presented are: (1) Create an intellectual climate that encourages the creative exchange of ideas and increases the quality of the professional environment/(seven accompanying strategies were discussed); (2) Commit to excellence in teaching, research, public service, and engagement/(six accompanying strategies were discussed); (3) Position the university to be a national, premier research-intensive, doctoral, science and technology-focused learning institution/(five accompanying strategies were discussed); (4) Embrace an entrepreneurial spirit that intentionally engages university and community partners to expand economic development and civic engagement/(seven accompanying strategies were discussed); (5) Foster a more diverse and inclusive campus community by promoting cultural awareness, collegiality, and cultivating respect for diverse people and cultures/(four accompanying strategies were discussed); and (6) Achieve excellence in academic and operational effectiveness and efficiency/(six accompanying strategies were discussed). Dr. Adams integrated student success in the strategic plan report. She emphasized that student opportunities need to be maximized and that best practices must be utilized in terms of teaching and learning. Dr. Adams stated that emphasis will be placed upon group learning with the new cohort of students. Dr. Adams solicited feedback in terms of how the University strategic plan process should be moved forward.

## **Committee Reports**

### **New Programs and Curricula Committee**

**Dr. Thelma King**

Dr. King presented the following and recommended approval:

- 1) Family & consumer Sciences – 3 new courses
- 2) Foreign Languages – Inclusion of French Teaching and Spanish Teaching as concentrations of the Secondary Education degree
- 3) Human Development Services – 4 new courses (Presented by Dr. Linda Hopson)
- 4) Human Development and Services – 5 new courses (Presented by Dr. Patricia Whitfield) – 20 course changes; Change in Graduation Credit Hours from 48 to 60 credit hours for Rehabilitation Counseling
- 5) Human Development Services – 5 course changes (Presented by Dr. Waldrum) – 3 new courses; Change in Graduation Credit Hours
- 6) Accounting – 13 course changes
- 7) Curriculum & Instruction (Special Education MAT) – 1 course change; 1 new course
- 8) Curriculum & Instruction (Special Education Corollary/Licensure) – 3 course changes
- 9) Psychology – 1 new course; 3 course changes; Minor in Psychology; Change in Admission Criteria for Psychology Major
- 10) Nanoengineering – 11 new courses
- 11) Sociology and Social Work – 3 course changes; Minor in Anthropology
- 12) Elementary Education – 4 course changes; 4 new courses

All curricula changes were approved and passed.

Dr. Brian Sims, New Programs and Curricula Committee member informed the Senate that Dr. Thelma King would be stepping down (after three years of leadership) as Chair of the Faculty Senate New Programs and Curricula Committee. Dr. Sims, along with New Programs and Curricula Committee members, thanked Dr. King for her services and presented to her a certificate and a token of appreciation. Dr. King thanked Dr. Sims, the Committee members and others who worked tirelessly on the New Programs and Curricula Committee to insure that the University's new programs and curricula changes were properly reviewed, approved and passed on to the Senate timely. Dr. King indicated that Dr. Brian Sims had agreed to serve as the New Program and Curricula Committee new Chairperson.

### **Nomination Committee**

**Dr. Floyd James**

Dr. Floyd James, Chair of the Nomination Committee, asked for nominations for Senate Vice President and Senate Secretary. Senators were asked to let Dr. James know of their interest in these two (2) positions.

### **Old Business - Action Items**

**General Education Student Learning Outcomes.** Dr. Scott Simkins, Director, Academy for Teaching and Learning and Dr. Mary Smith, Chairperson, Department of Biology (Co-chairs of the General Education Review Task Force) reviewed current status and timeline, noting as a follow-up to March, 2011 Faculty Senate presentation, they would entertain a motion to support the general education learning outcomes. After some discussion a motion was made and approved that the general education learning outcomes be accepted and approved. It was noted that the next step is to look at the curriculum and develop a curriculum to fit the student outcomes. A follow-up presentation will be made to the Senate in September, 2011. Dr. Floyd James cautioned the rapid pace the University is moving with this entire general education process. He noted that it should not be a repeat of the past UNST process.

Dr. Callahan thanked Dr. Simkins and Dr. Smith.

**Plus and Minus Grading System.** Dr. Floyd James presented for vote the new Plus/Minus Grading System. After some discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Michael Roberto that the Plus/Minus Grading System be adopted at the University.

In favor – 12

Opposed – 10

Abstention – 2

It was stated by Dr. Roberto that as author of the motion - he moved to rescind the motion - because there was not a clear majority. The motion carried.

Dr. Callahan stated that this item would be placed on the agenda again during the Fall semester, 2011.

**Policy on Graduate Assistantship.** After some discussion, it was noted that while the policy defines many useful rules, there are some concerns. The following were expressed: (1) the table of salary ranges appears to be incorrect. This is extremely important in recruiting and retaining good students and (2) verification/approval need to be made of actual time worked. Dr. Callahan indicated that she would pass on to Legal Counsel that more clarification is needed in some of the areas.

Dr. Rhodes recommended that the Faculty Senate Educational Policy Committee do an additional review of the Plus/Minus Grading System and the Policy on Graduate Assistantships.

Additionally, Dr. Rhodes thanked everyone for his support while serving as Vice President to the Faculty Senate. He indicated that his Senate term has expired. He noted that he will be assuming another University leadership role. He will be heading the NCAA Steering Committee, as appointed by Chancellor Martin. Dr. Callahan thanked Dr. Rhodes for his leadership and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation.

#### **Announcements**

Commencement will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2011, Greensboro Coliseum.  
Next Faculty Senate meeting, Tuesday, August 23, 2011. Location TBA

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

*Recorder: Nina R. Ingram*