

North Carolina A&T State University
FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
March 29, 2011
Merrick Hall Auditorium

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

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

Moment of Silence

Callahan Comments

- Reminder – Departments should have elected senators during March meetings. Submit names of new senators and alternates to Mrs. Nina Ingram at ingramn@ncat.edu. Faculty Senate House Phone Number (336) 285-4606.
- Senate Elections: Committee Assignments and Officers. Submit information to Dr. Floyd James at fjames@ncat.edu and Mrs. Nina Ingram at ingramn@ncat.edu.
- A proposed Faculty Senate Retreat was announced. Possible dates for the retreat, as discussed, are May 23-24, 2011. It was agreed that a poll of senators would be taken to determine other suitable dates.

Guest Presenters

**Dr. Linda T. Adams, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and
Dr. Lea Williams, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs/Institutional
Planning, Assessment and Research**

Information was shared from the Program Discontinuation and Consolidation Committee. Included in the presentation was the planned discontinuation and consolidation of 10 low productivity programs, information on a teach-out plan for upper division students, advisement of lower division students about other majors and the assessed impact on tenured and tenure-track faculty. A definition of low-productivity programs was given and a listing of discontinued programs by schools/college. It was noted that the Program Discontinuation and Consolidation Committee was charged in March 2011. It was comprised of eight members, including the College of Arts and Sciences dean as well as the deans of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences and the School of Technology. The Committee was chaired by Provost Adams. The goal of the Committee

is to insure communication with faculty, students and other constituents by March 31, 2011 and to insure that the University, UNC Board of Governors and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools policies are followed.

Provost Adams stressed the importance of faculty using collective wisdom as the University continues to develop robust programs. She asked the faculty to drop an e-mail and let her know their thoughts.

Dr. Callahan thanked Provost Adams and Dr. Williams for their presentation.

**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)**

The General Education Review Task Force Update was shared with the Senators. The update included Fall, 2010 activities, Spring 2011 activities, the current status and future timeline. General principles for general education revision: flexibility, community college transfer, SACS, focus on student learning outcomes, review of University Studies External Review Committee Report, best practices – general education and liberal learning: principles of effective practice, peer institution review, drivers of change in higher education, student learning outcomes consistent with drivers of change and the general education workshop held at UNCG were a part of the Fall, 2010 activities. Goal 1: Develop University-Level Student Learning Outcomes Based on: departmental surveys – January 2011, SLO recommendations, strategic planning resource council – subcommittee on teaching and learning, NCAT2020 strategic plan vision, values, and goals statements, AAC&U LEAP essential learning outcomes, peer institution student learning outcomes, and current university-level student learning outcomes (UNST) were a part of the Spring, 2011 activities. As well as Goal 2: New General Education Curriculum (developed around student learning outcomes) and initial draft to be developed by General Education Review Task Force in March/April, 2011.

The current status and future timeline included two goals. Goal 1: Six University-level Student Learning Outcomes (feedback/discussion at March school/college meetings; information item at March Faculty Senate Meeting, final version to be voted on at April Faculty Senate Meeting) and Goal 2: New General Education Curriculum (committee discussion in March/April, initial discussions with departments/schools/colleges in April, additional work during summer, 2011, school/college/Faculty Senate discussion in September, 2011 and Faculty Senate passage in October, 2011.)

Dr. Callahan thanked Dr. Simkins and Dr. Smith for their presentation.

Committee Reports

New Programs and Curricula – Dr. Thelma King

Dr. King presented the following and recommended approval:

- 1) Chemistry – 4 course changes; deletion of a foreign language or computer language statement from graduate curriculum; minor in Chemistry

- 2) Mathematics – 4 course changes; 2 new courses; change in graduation credit hours from 124 to 125 credit hours; minor in Applied Mathematics; Minor in Mathematics Education
- 3) Natural Resources and Environmental Design – 2 course changes; 1 new course
- 4) Computer Science – 1 new course
- 5) Graphic Communications Systems & Technological Studies – 3 course changes; 6 new courses; revision of undergraduate programs of study for technology education and trade & industrial education concentrations and the technology education MAT to include the revised teacher education professional core courses along with new and changed TECH courses.
- 6) Curriculum & Instruction (MAED Reading Education) – 2 course changes
- 7) Curriculum & Instruction (Instructional Technology – MS) – 4 new courses
- 8) Biology – 1 course change; 3 new courses
- 9) Animal Science – 1 new course

All curricula changes were approved and passed.

Faculty Handbook – Faculty Senate Vote

After some discussion, changes to the Faculty Handbook (Chapter 4 – Constitution) that were approved and passed by the Faculty Senate are as follows: A senator may be re-elected any number of times. An officer shall serve an initial two-year term and may be re-elected for an unlimited number of two-year terms. The president and the vice president shall be elected in different years. The secretary shall be elected in the same year as the vice president. The duties of the Vice President shall be to complete the term of the President if the President is unable or unwilling to complete the two year term. If the Vice President should succeed the President during a term in office, a new Vice-President shall be elected to complete the term of the Vice President.

Vote on the Faculty Handbook

No term limits. 15

Term Limits. 11

Vote on the Faculty Handbook

Remove term limits for both senators and officers

In favor. 16

Opposed. 8

Abstention. 1

Plus/Minus Grading System – Dr. Floyd James

Dr. James presented a proposal and supporting documents to add plus/minus grades at A&T. Feedback was entertained. Indications were that departments were in favor of the plus/minus grading system. It was noted that there was no proposal to change the transfer policy. The plus/minus grading system proposal will be brought back to the Senate at a later date. The proposal suggested a start date of Fall 2015, since current students need time to complete their program under the old rules.

Announcements

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 2014 Smith Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Submitted by

Nina R. Ingram, Recorder