

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

North Carolina A&T State University
Academic Classroom Building Auditorium (A101)
Tuesday, October 23, 2012
3:00 p.m.

Dr. Brian Carey Sims, President Presiding

Senate Members Present: Elizabeth Barber, Terrall Bryan, Larry Burton, LeAnder Canady, Betty Chapman, Yoko Crume, Paula Faulkner, Dwedor Ford, Samuel Garren, Tony Graham, Wendy Hamblet, Julius Harp, Gwendolyn Highsmith-Quick, Sarita Jackson, Ioney James, Floyd James, Khrisna Kasibhatla, Roland Leak, Patrick Martin, Valerie McMillan, Ademe Mekonnen, Radiah Minor, Elsie Moore, Hany Nakhla, Janis Oldham, Xiuli Qu, Michael Roberto, Jerono Rotich, Brian Sims, Lijun Wang, Hong Wang, Sheila Whitley, Kenneth Williams, Osei Yeboah.

Departments Not Represented: Chemical and Bioengineering, Civil, architectural, and Agricultural Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Computational Science and Engineering, Human Development and Services, Graphic Communication Systems and Technological Studies, Army ROTC, Air Force ROTC.

Faculty Senate President, Dr. Brian Sims, greeted senators and guests.

A moment of Silence

Approval of the Minutes (September 25, 2012)

The September Minutes were unanimously approved and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Faculty Handbook Committee Report – Dr. Tony Graham, Chair

Dr. Tony Graham reported having met with the university attorney, Charles Winthrop, to prioritize the many changes that are needed to the Faculty Handbook. In an interim phase, between now and April 2013, revisions will be prioritized and a link to the Faculty Handbook will be placed on the Faculty/Staff webpage to reveal changes in policies as they are made. Chapter Four, Faculty Governance, is under revision at the current time. The Committee is working to update the website and address the policies regarding term limits for faculty senate offices. Dr. Graham noted an urgent need to address some policies: for example, current policy requires a single term limit of two years for executive officers and three years for senators. Provost Alexander has proposed that the policy be updated to require, in the case of senate executive officers, an initial two year term, with eligibility for re-election for a second two year term; then an officer must sit out a one year term before re-serving in an executive capacity. Dr. Floyd James requested the Committee consider unlimited re-election for senators.

New Programs and Curricula Committee (NPCC), Dr. Sheila Whitley, Chair

Dr. Sheila Whitley reported that the NPCC met twice this month to consider the many course and program changes and creations proposed.

Approved and passed by the Faculty Senate were the following curricula changes:

- 1) Nanoengineering - 11 new courses
- 2) Interdisciplinary Waste Management Institute - 2 new courses
- 3) Human Performance and Leisure Studies – 13 new course

In addition, the Senate voted to approve the following existing courses for inclusion on the new General Education Curriculum, in the following student learning outcome categories:

- 1) Mathematical Logical, and Analytical Reasoning – 3 courses
- 2) Scientific Reasoning – 17 courses
- 3) Social and Behavioral Sciences – 1 course
- 4) Social and Behavioral Sciences – Global Understanding – 1 course
- 5) Humanities and Fine Arts – 5 courses
- 6) Humanities and Fine Arts – Knowledge of African American Culture and History – 1 course
- 7) Student Success – 3 courses

Dr. Hamblet asked that the Earth Sciences senator recommend updated course names, such as EASC 201 “Man’s Environment,” to remove gendered language from university matter. Dr. Roberto questioned English faculty about the popular charge that ENGL 200 and 201 are Eurocentric; Dr. Samuel Garren assured Dr. Roberto that this was not the case. Dr. Whitley reported too that the Center for Distance Learning had approached the Committee regarding assessment procedures in online courses. CDL has purchased a new assessment software, “Quality Matters,” in response to SACs requirement assessment concerns, and would appreciate faculty feedback on the grading software. Dr. Whitley also reminded faculty that all departments will need to resubmit for Faculty Senate approval all curricula, including all changes accepted by the General Education Task Force over the past year. The Task Force has listed all accepted changes on the Academic Affairs website. Dr. Highsmith-Quick requested attention to proper parliamentary procedure in Senate meeting, noting that motions should be articulated clearly and discussion of each matter be invited. She also asked for clarification about who may preside over motions, the Speaker or the senators on the Senate floor.

Graduate School Policy Update

Dr. Sanjiv Sarin reminded senators that policy redress has as its objective the clarification of policies and their alignment with other universities in the system. The Copyright policy for use of materials created by faculty for online courses was clarified, following UNC GA policy: Faculty own their intellectual properties, while the university maintains “shop use rights” to the materials, except in cases where grant monies or release time were provided to enable creative work, in which case the rights are reversed: faculty having “shop use rights” and university having ownership of produced intellectual materials. Laura Collins may be consulted for greater detail on the matter. Dr. Sarin also noted that full-time students on campus will no longer be charged additional Distance Learning fees for any online courses they take as part of their

graduate degree studies. Costs of summer courses are also being changed to align with costs of similar courses at other universities in the system.

Course Re-Numbering Policy Update

Dr. Beryl McEwen reported on the course renumbering process. Dr. Burton explained a new “Course Classification” software, created and set up in the School of Technology, to make the course numbering changes across the university consistent and easy, including automatic flagging for cross-referencing in the case of prerequisites and the like. Each department will be granted access to the new tool for reassessing and updating the numbers as appropriate to their classification strategy. Old course numbers will be left alive for a period of five years for the convenience of students whose transcripts show the old numberings. When all departments have made their changes, the tool permits a summary of the changes to be exported into Excel for easy checking. The Chairs of Departments would have the responsibility of checking and “committing” the changes. At that point, all affected departments would be notified of the accepted changes automatically. Dr. Burton stressed that *only numbers may be changed* as needed for course numbers, prerequisite numberings, and in course descriptions. Thus, all numbering changes can then be voted on in bulk by the Senate. The software is expected to be ready for use in Spring of 2013 and in place for Fall of next year. Concern was voiced that the Department Curriculum Guides be updated to reflect the new numberings. Dr. Roberto made a motion to approve the new software tool for use for the purposes it has been designed to carry out, with the understanding that departments will take responsibility for updating their Curriculum Guides accordingly. The motion was seconded and passed, with two senators opposed. Dr. Highsmith-Quick recommended a sample test be done to ensure that no other changes, besides numbering, slip by in course re-descriptions.

Faculty Compensation Review

President Sims reported that he had met with the Chancellor and Provost concerning senate’s request for a review of faculty workload and compensation across the university. The Chancellor agreed with the problems noted and the Provost promised to require departments to engage a draft policy document, giving feedback about the two matters under consideration. Chancellor Martin has agreed to initiate a review of faculty compensation. Chancellor Martin plans to establish a salary review committee which will be headed by Dr. Scott Jenkins from Institutional Research and Ms. Linda McAbee, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources. Chancellor Martin has requested that faculty serve on this committee. Dr. Sims asked Senators to provide him with a list of faculty representatives to serve on this committee on or before the November 27, 2012 Senate meeting.

Plus/Minus Grading Update

The new plus/minus grading system proposal for implementation in the spring 2013 was approved by the Deans’ Council with the following minor change: The language around C- should be omitted from proposal. After some discussion by Senate, it was agreed by the Senate that language around C- will be omitted.

Other Business

Faculty workload Assignment and Assessment Unit Policy – Academic Affairs
Dr. Sims reviewed policy and noted that it should have wide-spread distribution. Faculty comments and feedback should be brought back to the November Senate meeting.

Dr. Barber recommended that Senate hold two faculty forums – one in the fall and one in the spring.

Next Meeting: November 27, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in Academic Classroom Building (A101).

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Professor Wendy C. Hamblet
Secretary

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