



Brian Sims <briancareysims@gmail.com>

Senate Going Forward

Brian Sims <bcsims@ncat.edu>

Sun, Dec 2, 2012 at 4:17 AM

To: Ademe Mekonnen <amekonne@ncat.edu>, Alexander Kurepa <kurepa@ncat.edu>, Alfredo Romero Acuirre <aaromero@ncat.edu>, Alvernon Walker <alvernon@ncat.edu>, Anna Reaves <areaves@ncat.edu>, Barbara O'Neal <bjoneal@ncat.edu>, Bernadine Chapman <chapmanb@ncat.edu>, Betty Chapman <blchapma@ncat.edu>, Bonnie Davis <bbdavis1@ncat.edu>, Brandis Phillips <bphillip@ncat.edu>, Brian Sims <bcsims@ncat.edu>, Carolyn Mayo <cmmayo@ncat.edu>, Christopher Doss <cdoss@ncat.edu>, Comfort Okpala <cookpala@ncat.edu>, Daniel Miller <dmiller@ncat.edu>, David Chen <chend@ncat.edu>, Divi Venkateswarlu <divi@ncat.edu>, Donald Prioleau <dpriolea@ncat.edu>, Doris Fultz <fultz@ncat.edu>, Dukka KC <dbkc@ncat.edu>, Dwedor Ford <dwford1@ncat.edu>, Elizabeth Barber <ebarber@ncat.edu>, Ernest Walker <ewalker@ncat.edu>, Floyd James <fjames@ncat.edu>, Francene Moore <efmoore@ncat.edu>, Franklin King <king@ncat.edu>, "Gary L. Leby" <leby@ncat.edu>, Gary Tatterson <gbt@ncat.edu>, Guochen Yang <yangg@ncat.edu>, Gwendolyn Highsmith-Quick <highsmig@ncat.edu>, Hany Nakhla <hknakhla@ncat.edu>, Hong Wang <hwang@ncat.edu>, Horlin Carter <carterh@ncat.edu>, Ibraheem Kateeb <kateeb@ncat.edu>, Ioney James <ijames@ncat.edu>, Isaiah Ugboro <ugboroi@ncat.edu>, James Foreman <jmforema@ncat.edu>, Jane Davis <janed@ncat.edu>, "Janis M. Oldham" <oldhamj@ncat.edu>, Jenora Waterman <jdwaterm@ncat.edu>, Jerono Rotich <jprotich@ncat.edu>, John Cudar <jtcudar@ncat.edu>, John Kizito <jpkizito@ncat.edu>, Julius Harp <harpj@ncat.edu>, Kathryn Cort <ktcort@ncat.edu>, Keith Coleman <kcolema1@ncat.edu>, Kenneth Williams <williams@ncat.edu>, Khrisna Kasibhatla <kmkasibh@ncat.edu>, KR McDonald <krmcdona@ncat.edu>, Larry Burton <lwburton@ncat.edu>, Lauren Davis <ldbavis@ncat.edu>, LeAnder Canady <lcanady@ncat.edu>, Lijun Wang <lwang@ncat.edu>, Manoj Jha <mkjha@ncat.edu>, Maya Corneille <macornei@ncat.edu>, Messiha Saad <saad@ncat.edu>, Michael Joseph Roberto <robertom@ncat.edu>, Mingxiang Chen <chen@ncat.edu>, Nina Exner <ninae@ncat.edu>, Obasi Akan <ohakan@ncat.edu>, Octavious Spruill <odspruil@ncat.edu>, Osei Yeboah <oyeboah@ncat.edu>, Pamela Chavis <pjchavis@ncat.edu>, Pat Bonner <bonnerp@ncat.edu>, Patricia Hughes <hughesp@ncat.edu>, Patrick Martin <pmmartin@ncat.edu>, Paula Faulkner <pefaulkn@ncat.edu>, Radiah Minor <rcminor@ncat.edu>, Robert Cobb <rcobbjr@ncat.edu>, Roland Leak <rleak@ncat.edu>, Ronnie Bailey <phase@ncat.edu>, Rosa Purcell <Purcellr@ncat.edu>, Roy Coomans <coomansr@ncat.edu>, Samuel Danagoulian <danagous@ncat.edu>, Samuel Garren <garrens@ncat.edu>, Sandra Blackstock <slblacks@ncat.edu>, Sarita Jackson <sdjacks1@ncat.edu>, Shamsuddin Ilias <ilias@ncat.edu>, Shearon Brown <sab@ncat.edu>, Sheila Whitley <whitley@ncat.edu>, Stephen Ferguson <scfergus@ncat.edu>, Stephen McCary-Henderson <mccarrys@ncat.edu>, Terrall Bryan <tsbyran@ncat.edu>, Tony Graham <tgraham@ncat.edu>, Valerie McMillan <vmcmilla@ncat.edu>, Wayne Moore <wmoore@ncat.edu>, Wendy Hamblet <whamblet@ncat.edu>, Xiuli Qu <xqu@ncat.edu>, "Yoko S. Crume" <yscrume@ncat.edu>, Yunqui Zhang <yzhang@ncat.edu>

Cc: Nina Ingram <ingramn@ncat.edu>

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

With the close of another semester upon us, I wanted to share a few brief thoughts about the academic year going forward.

This has been an extremely productive semester for the Senate. Our goal of increasing faculty member participation is being realized, as we've seen faculty from across campus not only attending meetings but also becoming active in committee work. Thanks largely to your efforts, we were able to:

- Issue an administrative call to action on the issues of faculty salary and workload (see attached draft policy on workload)
- Make significant progress organizing much-needed revisions to the faculty handbook (see attached Handbook Committee memo)
- Make our collective voice heard as part of the UNC Strategic Directions Initiative (see attached Faculty Vision for UNC Strategic Directions)
- Approve a comprehensive initial list of courses for our new General Education curriculum (see attached:

http://www.ncat.edu/provost/general_education_resources/index.html)

There is MUCH more that needs to be done. Going forward, the Faculty Senate will adopt a new meeting model (see below) in order to maximize our energy and more effectively leverage our most important strength as a faculty body: our intellect. In order to continue to encourage full faculty participation and "buy-in", we need to clearly articulate what the Faculty Senate can do to serve faculty members and the University community at large. I believe that there are three (3) major areas where the Senate can have meaningful impact:

I. Individual lives of faculty members

The Senate can and should represent an effective means of addressing issues that affect our day-to-day lives. Faculty compensation, is of course, an obvious example. There are campus issues which need our attention as well. As examples, parking headaches and childcare challenges have stressed many faculty members for years. We are professionals here to do our jobs, but we are human beings too.

II. Professional lives of faculty members

The Senate should also serve the faculty by informing and enhancing our ability to do our jobs. Faculty development and mentoring need to be supported and perhaps driven by initiatives endorsed by the Senate. The Senate can and should work to connect faculty members with other University stakeholders - staff, students, trustees, community. Consider the fact that one of the Chancellor's stated priorities for the last two years has been increasing the intellectual climate on campus. This is literally impossible without us.

III. Participation in administrative affairs of the University

Our job is not to decide what happens based on resources. But, based on the principles of shared governance, faculty should have a say in these decisions. There is a system-wide dialogue taking place right now in the Faculty Assembly about our ability to speak to and evaluate the administration. The Senate ought to be the primary vehicle that we as faculty use to advise administrators about their administering.

Thus, our new model will involve special called meetings of the faculty (throughout each month) where careful, thoughtful deliberation and spirited discourse on issues in these three focus areas can occur. The goal of these meetings will be to generate practical resolutions which can then be voted-on at full body Senate meetings. This should streamline (read: shorten) the full body Senate meetings while enabling and encouraging non-senate faculty members to get involved with issues that are important to them.

The good news is that the Senate (on multiple levels) has already been doing these things. This "new" model is more about efficiency and effectiveness than it is about new directions. I, along with members of the Senate Executive Committee invite your practical feedback on issues that fit within this model [that we can begin addressing next semester.](#)

Also, please be reminded that **Fall Commencement will be held Saturday, December 8th at 8:30am at the Greensboro Coliseum. Faculty line-up begins at 8am.** Faculty are also advised that academic regalia is required and that all faculty members are required to participate.

Have a wonderful break.

Thanks,
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Brian Carey Sims, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate President
Chair, Institutional Review Board
Associate Professor
Department of Psychology
North Carolina A&T State University
tel. [336-285-2273](tel:336-285-2273)
e: bcsims@ncat.edu

6 attachments**FACULTY WORKLOAD ASSIGNMENT AND ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW.docx**

21K

**Faculty Workload Assignment and Assessment Unit Policy.docx**

131K

**Handbook Committee Revision Memo 11 27 12.docx**

17K

**A&T Faculty Forum on UNC Strategic Directions Initiative.docx**

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**OurUniversityOurFuture_FAC Strategic Directions Report_2012Nov25.pdf**

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**general_education_course_list_october_29_2012.pdf**

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