The North Carolina A&T State University

Faculty Four

The "Faculty Four" is a statement of principles and procedures that empower the faculty of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University to engage in its legislative and consultative functions, primarily though not exclusively through the operation of the Faculty Senate as its chief representative body. The constituent parts of the "Faculty Four" are:

I. The Principles of Faculty Governance
II. Definition of Terms
III. Legislative Powers of the Senate
IV. Consultative Powers of the Senate

I. Principles of Faculty Governance

Any and all powers of the faculty at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University are derived from the guiding principles of the "Standards of Shared Governance" adopted by representatives of the 16 campuses of the Faculty Assembly of the University of North Carolina in April 2005. As the preamble of that document states:

A strong tradition of shared governance is essential to the excellence of any institution of higher learning. This principle is embodied in Section 502D(2) of the Code of the Board of Governors, which makes it the responsibility of the chancellor of each constituent institution of The University of North Carolina to ensure that the institution's faculty has the means to give effective advice with respect to questions of academic policy and institutional governance, with particular matters of curriculum, degree requirements, instructional standards, and grading criteria, and that the appropriate means of giving such advice is through an elected faculty senate or council and an elected chair of the faculty.

Accordingly, the principle of shared governance states: "The legislative and consultative powers of the faculty must be codified in a published document approved and amenable by the faculty or their elected representatives." The "Faculty Four" is the first step to that end.
II. Definition of Terms:

**Faculty:** The "Faculty" consists of: the Chancellor of North Carolina A&T State University; all persons holding faculty appointments to the ranks of professor, associate professor, assistant professor, instructor, lecturer, or any of the formally authorized lecturer-equivalent ranks; librarians holding the ranks of librarian, associate librarian, assistant librarian, and general librarian under procedures approved by the chancellor.

**Faculty Senate:** The Faculty Senate consists of elected faculty representatives from each academic unit on campus.

**Administration:** University “administration” consists of those offices and personnel delegated authority to routinely administer resources by the Office of the Chancellor. This includes (but is not limited to): Vice Chancellors, Deans, Program Directors, and Department Chairpersons.

**Organization:** The Faculty shall delegate to the Faculty Senate all of the duties and responsibilities listed herein:

- Any member or group of members of the Faculty may present, in writing, items for Senate consideration. Such requests shall be sent at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting to the Faculty Senate President, who shall see that the items are placed on the agenda of the next meeting. This agenda shall be distributed to all faculty members at least three days before the meeting. The Faculty may at any time review the actions of the Faculty Senate on the according to the following options:
  - the Faculty, by a one-third vote of the total Faculty, may require the Senate to reconsider any Senate action.
  - the Faculty, by majority vote of the total Faculty, may overrule any Senate action.
  - the Faculty, by majority vote of the total Faculty, may act on responsibilities listed in Sections 4 and 5 of Article I [of what?]. This action shall supersede any contrary action of the Senate.

**Presiding officer:** The Chancellor is the presiding officer of the Senate. The President of the Faculty Senate is chair pro tempore of the Faculty Senate and presides in the absence of the chancellor.

**Minutes:** The secretary of the faculty keeps a record of the proceedings.

**Quorum:** A quorum is conclusively presumed at any meeting of the Senate called on at least ten days written notice.

**Bylaws:** The Faculty Senate may adopt bylaws to govern its proceedings.

**Meetings:** The Faculty Senate shall meet at least once monthly in each academic year. Special meetings may be called by the Chancellor, or, in his or her absence, by the Faculty Senate President. The Chancellor shall call a special meeting on request of ten or more percent of the Faculty.
III. Legislative Powers

The Faculty is accountable for the quality of instruction and scholarship at North Carolina A&T State University and accepts the responsibility and authority, both primary and shared, for developing, monitoring, and modifying policies affecting the academic environment, which includes but is not limited to:

(a) setting minimal general degree requirements for the University, to which the faculties of individual colleges, schools, and departments may add requirements for their graduates (the requirements in the specific areas of concentration shall be determined by the department faculties in consultation with the appropriate dean);

(b) setting minimal university admission standards (the faculties of individual colleges, schools, or departments may add standards or set higher standards than those set by the Faculty generally);

(c) establishing curricula; reviewing existing programs, including auxiliary academic programs (e.g., continuing education); deleting programs; developing and reviewing proposed new programs;

(d) establishing grading systems and grade-appeal procedures; setting academic policies concerning withdrawal, suspension, retention, repeating courses, academic classification, continuation in residence, and class attendance of students; setting examination policies;

(e) establishing policies and standards for the granting of academic credit, including credits transferred from other institutions;

(f) establishing policies for the granting of degrees, academic and honorary, and acting to award such degrees;

(g) establishing policies concerning promotion, appointment, reappointment, and tenure of faculty;

(h) establishing policies governing academic counseling of students;

(i) establishing policies regarding faculty research and the allocation of those UNCW research funds which are available to the general faculty; and

(j) establishing policies and procedures for the faculty evaluation of faculty and administrators.

IV. Consultative Powers

Administrative decisions with significant implications for faculty activities, welfare or organization must be made in consultation with the Faculty Senate President. The Senate President shall decide on a case-by-case basis whether (given time and/or other constraints) the executive committee and/or full senate body need to be consulted.

The Faculty Senate can, based on the expressed will of the Senate Executive Committee, consult with any administrator on any issue of direct relevance to faculty activities, welfare or organization. This consultation may involve requesting information, and/or public dialogue with the administrator at a designated Senate meeting.