

North Carolina A&T State University

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

August 23, 2011

Smith Hall – Room 2014

**Senate Members Present:** Elizabeth A. Barber, Diane Birch, Shearon Brown, Linda Florence Callahan, Horlin Carter, Betty Chapman, David Chen, Robert Cobb, Roy Coomans, Tony Graham, Wendy Hamblet, Julius Harp, Floyd James, Loney James, Roland Leak, Stephen Ann Mayfield-Clarke, McCary-Henderson, Radiah Minor, Francene Moore, Comfort Okpala, Janis Oldham, Robert Payne, Jr., Zhaoqiong Qin, Xiuli Qu, Anna Reaves, Michael Roberto, Jerono Rotich, Janet Seiz, Brian Sims, Derick K. Smith, Hong Wang.

**Departments Not Represented:** Foreign Languages; Sociology and Social Work; Energy Environmental Systems; Chemical and Bioengineering; Civil, Architectural, and Agricultural Engineering; Electrical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; Computational Science and Engineering ; Agribusiness, Applied Economics and Agriscience Education; Family and Consumer Sciences; Accounting; Electronics, Computer, and Information Technology; Army ROTC.

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

A Moment of Silence

**Approval of the Minutes (April)**

A motion to approve the April, 2011 minutes was made by senators.

**Callahan Comments**

- Welcome and Introductions. Callahan gave greetings and welcomed senators to the new school year. Each senator introduced him or herself. It was noted that several new faculty members joined the Senate for the 2011-2012 academic year.
- Faculty Senate Retreat. A faculty senate retreat was held for the first time this year. The retreat was very productive. Future goals and objectives were discussed. A follow-up meeting to the retreat was held in late June. The June meeting was a continuation of discussions centered on senate goals and objectives.
- Administrative Change. Dr. Winser Alexander is the current Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Meetings between the Provost and the Senate President are scheduled monthly. The importance of protocol was emphasized as related to policy making and changes. It was noted that the Senate has a major role in the implementation and approval process of new policy.
- Budget. Budget cuts have been felt across the University. Some school/colleges/departments have been impacted more than others. It is believed that the University will continue to hear more about the impact of the budget.

- Faculty Assembly. Discussions addressing issues and concerns involving all schools within the University System are ongoing. Faculty workload is a major topic of discussion among University System schools, the Board of Governors, and state legislators who are seeking a better understanding of how faculty members spend their time. They don't understand why professors do not have larger teaching loads. The implication was that 12 hours of teaching per week seemed to be a low standard. Then, a study of actual teaching, found that some teach "only" nine or six hours per semester. Thus, it appears that universities in the system including NC A&T are not being very efficient in use of faculty. The Faculty Senate started working on a workload policy last year, but it is not yet complete. It was noted that Dr. Craig Rhodes had been collecting data on A&T's faculty workload study. After some discussion, Dr. Wendy Hamblet agreed to serve on the Faculty Workload Study Committee. Dr. Diane Birch will assist with the work of the Committee.
- Goals and Challenges for the New Year. Senator's representation is needed at all meetings. During the Faculty Senate Retreat a group agreed to work on attendance concerns. A plan to improve attendance at Faculty Senate Meetings was presented by group representative Shearon Brown. Department heads have been asked to allow senators time to report at departmental meetings. Lt. Col. Robert Payne made this appeal to department heads at a recent meeting of University department chairs. The Faculty Handbook should be completed as soon as possible. Of particular concern is the posting of all associated appendices, the plus/minus grade policy and Chapter Four.
- Hearing and Reconsideration Committee; Grievance Committee. A Senate vote needs to take place on committee membership. Currently there is not a full slate of members. Notification will be forthcoming concerning Senate vote.
- Election, Vice President and Secretary. Offices are currently available for the positions of vice president and secretary.
- L. Callahan, F. James and J. Oldham - These faculty members are the University Faculty Assembly representatives. An alternate position is still open.
- Committee Assignments. All senators should serve on at least one committee.
- Responsibility of Senators. It is the senator's responsibility to go back and inform faculty about decisions that are made by the Senate and solicit their input. Dr. Wendy Hamblet was given leadership responsibility during the Senate Retreat to develop a handbook or guidelines for incoming senators.
- Officers. These are committee chairs. Committee chairs should be available, once per month, to attend executive committee meetings.

## **Elections**

(Dr. Floyd James – Nomination Committee)

Nominations were opened for the position of (1) Vice President and (2) Secretary. These positions begin a two-year term of office. After some discussion, a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Elizabeth A. Barber, as Vice President, was made by senators. After some discussion, a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Wendy Hamblet, as Secretary, was made by senators.

## **Committees**

Dr. Brian Sims noted that the New Programs and Curricula Committee currently has eight (8) members. Based on the workload of this committee, his observation was that more members are needed to serve on this committee. He distributed to senators a New Programs and Curricula Committee meeting schedule for the 2011-2012 academic year. He also stated that the meeting schedule would be placed on Blackboard.

Senators volunteered for committee assignments as follows:

New Programs and Curricula: Jerono Rotich, Derick K. Smith

Educational Policy: Diane Birch, Roy Coomans, Floyd James, Ann Mayfield-Clarke, Radiah Minor, Janis Oldham, Hong Wang

Faculty Welfare: Tony Graham, Wendy Hamblet, Roland Leak, Radiah Minor, Janis Oldham, Jerono Rotich

Constitution: Betty Chapman, Floyd James

Web Page: David Chen

## **Announcements**

Installation of UNC President Tom Ross will be held on campus on October 6, 2011. The next Faculty Senate Meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2011.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

*Recorder: Nina R. Ingram*