

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
North Carolina A&T State University
Academic Classroom Building Auditorium (A101)
Tuesday, February 26, 2013
3:00-5:00 p.m.

Brian Carey Sims, President Presiding

Senate Members Present: Elizabeth Barber, Terrall Bryan, David Chen, Robert Cobb, Roy Coomans, Yoko Crume, Paula Faulkner, Dwedor Ford, Samuel Garren, Tony Graham, Wendy Hamblet, Julius Harp, Gwendolyn Highsmith-Quick, Sarita Jackson, Floyd James, Dukka KC, Roland Leak, Stephen McCary-Henderson, Valerie McMillan, Ademe Mekonnen, Radiah Minor, Elsie Moore, Janis Oldham, Mahour Parast, Xiuli Qu, Michael Roberto, Jerono Rotich, Messiha Saad, Brian Sims, Hong Wang, Patricia Whitfield, Sheila Whitley, Kenneth Williams.

Departments Not Represented: Visual and Performing Arts; Chemical Engineering; Civil, Architectural, and Agricultural Engineering; Electrical Engineering; Natural Resources and Environmental Design; Business Education; Electronics, Computer and Information Technology; Army ROTC; Air Force ROTC.

The Senate meeting was called to order by President Sims.

Silent Meditation

Approval of Minutes

January 22, 2013 Senate minutes were approved unanimously.

Summer School Plan & Calendar

Dr. Sanjiv Sarin

Dr. Sanjiv Sarin shared the new Summer School strategies for rendering A&T Summer School more attractive to faculty and students. Where A&T currently offers summer school courses according to faculty choices, the Dean of each school will take over this task, planning fewer sections that are designed to act as a critical part of the school program. Tuition rates for summer will be increased in order to allow faculty to be compensated at their usual rates of pay. Dr. Sarin noted that a faculty member may increase her income by one third of her annual salary during the summer months; that is, up to 12 credit hours. For those faculty receiving research grant monies, the limits apply collectively to both types of income (that is, a maximum of one third of the annual salary). The proposed new calendar for summer studies beginning in 2014 is as follows:

Maymester- May 15-29 (2 weeks)

Summer I- June 2-27 (4 weeks)

Summer II- July 2-30 (4 weeks)

Full Summer- June 2-July 30 (8 weeks)

Dr. Roy Coomans objected that 4 week courses are too long for courses that include a lab component. Dr. Michael Roberto noted that the new schedule seems to be driven by accountancy concerns over other considerations, and may not prove suitable for all disciplines. President Sims noted that more discussion time would need to be reserved for this matter.

Urban Education Institute

Dr. William Harvey

Dr. Bill Harvey invited all senators to attend the STEM-focused institute March 7-9, 2013, with the incentive that their fee would be waived. The gathering will include high profile scholars in the STEM disciplines, and high achieving high school students from the area.

Administrative Accountability Update

Dr. Brian Sims

Dr. Brian Sims explained his recent experience, shadowing Florida A&M University's Faculty Senate; he noted that the issues that FAMU's senate was addressing paralleled our own concerns—shared governance, faculty salary equity, workload, relationship with administrators, and respectful treatment by Chairs. Dr. Sims noted that FAMU is at an advanced stage of success by comparison with A&T, since their Senate has a member on their Board of Trustees and regularly contributes to discussions at Board meetings, whereas A&T faculty enjoy no such place or input, though our students do have a seat at the table and partake in the discussions. Indeed, faculty input is often ignored altogether, such as in the issue of our feedback to the new Strategic Plan, which went without mention in the deliberations. Dr. Sims also announced the results of the forum of February 12, 2013, which considered how faculty might exercise their right to advise in the oversight of Deans and Chairs. The senators at the meeting identified discrepancies between university policies and procedures and the policies and procedures recommended in the Shared Governance guidelines document. The group drafted a resolution to seek a stronger participatory role in administrator oversight, recommending that senior faculty represent the opinions of junior faculty in reporting about administrative performance issues, so as to shield the untenured faculty from reprisal. Dr. Roberta asked whether the committee's resolution might also include the resolution to seek faculty inclusion at the Board of Trustee meetings. Dr. Sims called upon Dr. Charles Waldrup, the university attorney, to clarify this matter. Dr. Waldrup explained that this is a matter of state statute; the statute includes student representation at Board of Trustee meetings, but not faculty participation. Including faculty in Board meetings would require a change of the state statute. Dr. Waldrup confirmed the Senate's advisory role to the Chancellor on matters pertaining specifically to faculty and curricula, and explained that the Senate could draft a document outlining more specifically the share in governance that faculty might play at A&T, and if the Chancellor chose to accept the document, it would remain in force for the duration of that tenure of that Chancellor only. He suggested that an Appendix document that could be appended to the Faculty Handbook might be a better approach for the Senate to take in clarifying Senate participatory roles in shared governance. Dr. Patricia Whitfield asked for information about the practices of other university campuses across the country with regard to faculty representation at Board of Trustee meetings. Dr. Sam Garren

reminded senators that the Shared Governance document was not made binding to campuses; it was approved by President Ross of the General Assembly and recommended to individual chancellors but not made mandatory. Dr. Waldrup reminded senators that historically faculty input on specific matters has been taken seriously by GA; the policy on grading changes is one example. Dr. Roberto asked the attorney if faculty had legal recourse when an untenured chair refused promotion or tenure to faculty; Dr. Waldrup answered in the negative.

Faculty Salary Equity Study Update:

Dr. Michael Roberto

Dr. Michael Roberto reported on two committee meetings among a broad spectrum of representatives from the various programs and schools, and shared the statement of purpose outlining the committee's charge. Dr. Janis Oldham recommended that the committee look at Louisiana State University's salary equity work, which she felt would be a helpful guide to the committee. Dr. Roberto again invited senators to join the committee.

New Programs and Curricula Committee Report

Dr. Sheila Whitley

Dr. Sheila Whitley brought to the floor the packages discussed in their committee meeting of February 12, 2013. All proposals were approved unanimously. The proposals are as follows:

- 1) Marketing, Transportation and Supply Management – 5 course changes; 3 curriculum patterns with general education requirements
- 2) Business Education – combining 3 concentrations into 1 concentration; 2 curriculum patterns with general education requirements
- 3) Applied Engineering Technology – 1 curriculum pattern with general education requirements
- 4) Built Environment – Geomatics – 6 course changes; 1 curriculum pattern with general education requirements
- 5) Built Environment – Construction Management – 5 course changes; 1 new course; 1 curriculum pattern with general education requirements
- 6) Human Development & Services – 19 new courses; proposed curriculum guide (Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Counseling and Rehabilitation Counselor Education)
- 7) Psychology – 12 course changes; 1 curriculum pattern with general education requirements, and revised minor

Handbook Committee Report

Dr. Tony Graham

Dr. Tony Graham reported on the February 20 committee meeting. Chapter 4 term limits modifications are posted online, comparing old policies (2011) with new proposed policies. Their committee has divided among committee members the various sections of the Handbook for study. He noted that the web version of the Handbook is missing the Appendices outlining the RPT process, and he asked Dr. Sims to explore three matters with administrators in his next meeting: 1. incomplete Appendix B; 2. removal of the posted Faculty Handbook, which contains some unapproved new policies, and its replacement by the old PDF version of the Handbook;

and 3. a request to place a Faculty Handbook link on the Faculty/Staff Gateway page of the A&T website.

Educational Policy Committee Report

Dr. Radiah Minor

Dr. Radiah Minor explained that the committee had not met but that she had met privately with the Dean of Nursing, Dr. Tuck, who explained the twelve policy changes that had been sent to the senate for review. Dr. Coomans asked that the policy statement highlight more prominently their policy that program enrollees are not guaranteed a place in the nursing program, but only a limited number of places will be filled, despite the students meeting enrollment criteria. Dr. Highsmith-Quick noted that the committee did not meet to recommend or vote on these policy changes, but Dr. Tuck spoke to the issue of rushing these policies through, explaining the urgency of updating their policies in order to meet accreditation requirements, including raising admissions standards.

General Education Council

Dr. Brian Sims

Dr. Sims reminded senators that the Provost had dismantled the General Education task force and asked that a new faculty committee be formed to oversee operational maintenance of the work, to ensure that curriculum remain a faculty-driven process. The new committee will remain under the purview of Dr. Scott Simkins and membership from all the schools is being sought. Dr. Janis Oldham asked whether the previous Educational Policy Committee had been dismissed; we learned that it was not. She also stressed that those schools who have the brunt of the General Educational teaching duties claim permanent representation on the new committee. Dr. Sims confirmed the need to ensure faculty control over committee membership, and that course changes pass through the New Programs and Curricula Committee.

Faculty Assembly Report

Dr. Floyd James

Dr. Floyd James reported that President Ross passed the new Strategic Plan with minor modifications. Implementation questions are still to be decided. GA is asking for faculty volunteers to serve on several committees. They are especially concerned to achieve a uniform transfer policy from community colleges to universities in the UNC system. Dr. James asked that comments and faculty volunteers for Faculty Assembly committees be brought to his attention.

Old Business -_Dr. Brian Sims reported:

- a. Graduation Credit Hour Surcharge: No update.
- b. Low Producing Programs Update from UNC-GA: Still waiting for news.

Other Business/ Announcements - Dr. Sims reported:

- a. Textbook/Bookstore Policy Update: The 2006 old policy, the “2 year rule,” and other such policies were implemented by Deans without ever having been approved by

faculty; the policies are newly in question. The bookstore may soon be outsourced to another provider. Please look over policies for discussion.

b. UNC Policy Manual Update- No news.

c. Senate Open House – Soon to be held. Watch for announcement.

d. Founders' Day Program-March 21st, 2013. Dr. James asked who decided to take this holiday, noting that faculty were not given input.

-Next Senate Meeting: March 26th, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. in Academic Classroom Building (A101)

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Professor Wendy C. Hamblet
Secretary