

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
North Carolina A&T State University
Academic Classroom Building Auditorium (A101)
Tuesday, January 22, 2013
3:00-5:00 p.m.

Dr. Brian Carey Sims, President Presiding

Senate Members Present: Elizabeth Barber, Terrall Bryan, David Chen, Robert Cobb, Yoko Crume, Dwedor Ford, Samuel Garren, Tony Graham, Wendy Hamblet, Julius Harp, Gwendolyn Highsmith-Quick, Sarita Jackson, Floyd James, Thelma King, Roland Leak, Patrick Martin, Valerie McMillan, Radiah Minor, Janis Oldham, Xiuli Qu, Michael Roberto, Brian Sims, Hong Wang, Lijun Wang, Jenora Waterman, Patricia Whitfield, Sheila Whitley, Kenneth Williams.

Departments Not Represented: Visual and Performing Arts, Energy Environmental Systems; Chemical and Bioengineering; Civil, Architectural, and Agricultural Engineering; Electrical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; Comp. Sci & Engr; Agribusiness, Applied Economics and Agriscience Education; Curriculum and Instruction; Electronics, Computer, and Information Technology; Applied Engineering Technology; Library Services; Army ROTC; Air Force ROTC.

The Senate meeting was called to order by President Sims.

Silent Meditation

The November, 2012 Senate minutes were approved with no changes.

Senate Going Forward

Dr. Brian Sims

Dr. Sims drew senators' attention to a document circulated by email, titled "Senate Going Forward," which outlines the new model for Senate focus. The model has a 3-pronged approach, addressing matters affecting: 1. faculty lives; 2. faculty professional lives; and 3. Senate impact in the administrative affairs of the university. Dr. Sims highlighted his hope that this model will encourage "spirited discourse" on these critical matters, while reserving detailed analysis of the matters for committee investigations. Dr. Radiah Minor recommended that the "Senate Going Forward" document replace the language of "childcare" with the more general "lifeworld issues" in sensitivity to the range of familial obligations (elder care, etc.). The third aspect of the "Senate Going Forward" model was questioned by Dr. Roberto, who asked for a review of the governance documents that permit Senate input into administrative matters, including Chair and Dean periodic review by faculty. President Sims drew attention to "Administrative Accountability" in the AAUP document on Shared Governance, and to the "Standards of Shared Governance" specific to the UNC system (2005). However, Dr. Sims noted that President Ross affirmed the latter document and encouraged—but did not compel—

Chancellors to follow its dictates. Dr. Sims announced a full discussion meeting on this matter to be held in Fort IRC Room 410 on February 12, 2013, 3-4:00 p.m.

Faculty Salary Equity Study

Dr. Michael Roberto

Dr. Michael Roberto spoke to this weighty issue and encouraged only tenured faculty to join the committee, with sensitivity to the risks involved in questioning faculty salary and workload equity matters. He highlighted the multiple levels of research that will be required to investigate well the inequities, since glaring gaps in salary exist within departments; between departments; and between schools. The Salary Equity Committee was formed, Dr. Roberto recalled, after Dr. Sims brought these inequities to the attention of the Chancellor and Provost last fall. The Provost recommended that the Senate undertake a study of the matter. Dr. Roberto outlined a two-fold mission: gather information; and hold administration accountable for responding to the findings of the Senate committee report. He underscored the importance that the committee include membership from across the many schools of the university. The committee currently includes: Dr. Sarita Jackson of Political Science; Dr. Yoko Crume of Sociology and Social Work; Dr. Patrick Martin of Biology; Dr. Jerono Rotich of Human Performance & Leisure Studies; and Dr. Michael Roberto of the History Department. Patricia Whitfield of Human Development and Services and Wendy Hamblet of Liberal Studies agreed to join the committee. Non-senators may join and vote in Senate committees, but not in Senate meetings, affirmed Dr. Sims.

New Programs and Curricula Committee Report

Dr. Sheila Whitley

The committee meeting of January 10, 2013, brought the following results, which were approved with the minor change to the 4th matter, "New Programs and Curricula Committee Forms" that any changes made along the path of approval of new curricula and programs be reported back to the Graduate School, as needed, perhaps by the addition of a further check-box at the base of the approval form:

- 1) Agribusiness, Applied and Agriscience Education – 14 course changes; 3 new courses
- 2) Economics – 4 curriculum patterns with general education requirements
- 3) Computer Science – Ph.D. program with 26 new courses
- 4) Form Changes – 2 (Signature for Approval Form and Proposed Course Change Form)

Handbook Committee Report

Dr. Tony Graham

Dr. Tony Graham passed around a schedule of Handbook Committee meetings and duties. He confirmed that the university lawyer would be working with the committee at every stage of their work to ensure correct use of language on each matter. Meetings will be once monthly. Dr. Graham asked that senators check the wording of the Senate officers and senators term limits and report to him any concerns.

Faculty Assembly Report

Dr. Radiah Minor

Dr. Sims reported on the Faculty Assembly meeting of January 18, which discussed the response to “Strategic Directions 2013-2018” which came out January 16, leaving little time to fully review the 104 page document. The Faculty Advisory Committee met on the 17th, with Drs. James, Minor, and Sims present, to develop a faculty response to the plan. Dr. Sims alerted the faculty to be aware: that faculty input to the plan was largely ignored; that little time was being permitted for debate or formulating official responses to the plan; that student government has offered a sound critical response to the plan; and that the Chancellor has asked faculty to respond to the plan. The general concerns about the plan, reported by Dr. Sims, include: its failure to account for the diverse missions of the individual universities in the system; its utter lack of address of matters of gender and racial equity across the state; and its lack of response to the matter of the changing demographics of North Carolina, including the state’s burgeoning Hispanic population. The plan will go to the legislature in February. Dr. Sims asked senators to send the plan to their faculty and invite responses to be put into a succinct statement and reported back to him as soon as possible. Dr. Roberto noted the need for our campus response to address the larger conceptual issue that the plans for education in the state are composed largely to serve corporate and business interests. Dr. James noted many inconsistencies in the document. Dr. Barber encouraged us to use the power of the Senate to create our own reality.

Other Business

Dr. Brian Sims

Graduation Credit Hour Surcharge

Dr. Sims announced that after 140 hours, students will be surcharged for their courses at the rate of 150%. The Provost is looking into this matter and we may expect a new recommendation by the next Senate meeting.

Low Producing Programs Update from UNC-GA

Low-producing programs have been identified by GA and A&T Chairs and Deans have met to consider these and make recommendations. They now await GA response.

Old Business/Announcements

Dr. Oldham noted that advisors were misplacing non-major students in Math courses designed for STEM majors. She asked senators to inform their faculty about the problem.

Dr. Minor asked for clarification about the launching of the Plus/Minus grading system; Fall 2013 was confirmed.

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

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Professor Wendy C. Hamblet
Secretary

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