

## **FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

North Carolina A&T State University  
Academic Classroom Building Auditorium (A101)  
Tuesday, August 28, 2012  
3:00 p.m.

### **Dr. Brian Carey Sims, President Presiding**

**Senate Members Present:** Alfredo Aquirre, Ronnie Bailey, Elizabeth Barber, LeAnder Canady, David Chen, Robert Cobb, Yoko Crume, KC Dukka, Paula Faulkner, Samuel Garren, Tony Graham, Wendy Hamblet, Julius Harp, Gwendolyn Highsmith-Quick, Sarita Jackson, Floyd James, Loney James, Roland Leak, Stephen McCary-Henderson, Ademe Mekonnen, Radiah Minor, EF Moore, Comfort Okpala, Janis Oldham, Xiuli Qu, Michael Roberto, Messiha Saad, Brian Sims, Lijun Wang, Hong Wang, Sheila Whitley, Kenneth Williams, Osei Yeboah.

**Departments Not Represented:** Biology, Chemical and Bioengineering, Electrical Engineering, Family and Consumer Sciences, Business Education, Human Performance and Leisure Studies, Nursing, Electronics, Computer and Information Technology, Manufacturing Systems, Army ROTC, Air Force ROTC.

The new Faculty Senate President, Dr. Brian Sims, greeted the Senators for the opening session of the 2012-2013 school year.

### **A moment of Silence**

### **Approval of the Minutes (April 24, 2012)**

The Minutes were approved and seconded following a comment from Dr. Samuel Garren that there was no established date for the Plus/Minus grading system to be instituted.

**Senate Welcome & Orientation:** Dr. Brian Carey Sims launched the Faculty Senate by giving a comprehensive overview of the capacities and responsibilities of the Senate, which illuminated the fundamentally advisory nature of the body to the Chancellor. Dr. Sims highlighted the fact that the Senate's influence is positively affected by full faculty participation in discussions of pertinent matters and urged senators to keep faithful communications about important matters with their departmental faculty. Dr. Sims further noted that the Curriculum Committee thus far has primarily rubber-stamped departmental proposals for curriculum changes, but he suggested that this body might use its curriculum oversight potential for guiding and shaping curriculum policy and supervising and influencing departmental rationale for changes they propose. Dr. Sims also reminded senators of the urgency of addressing such important matters as Faculty Workload and salary disparities among schools and programs at A&T. Samuel Garren noted the rumor that a faculty member had been dismissed despite having tenure, and asked whether the definitions of tenure had been altered or were being applied in some new way. No one could answer these questions so Dr. Garren called for clarification of personnel status definitions, criteria for dismissal, etc. It was noted that Faculty Senate was not asked to advise

or vote in the new academic policies introduced this fall. Dr. Janis Oldham noted that if Senate wanted input on such matters, it may need to improve its timeliness.

**Graduate School Policy Update:** Dr. Sanjiv Sarin, Dean, Graduate Studies, introduced himself and his committee, the Graduate Council. He explained that very specific standards regulate graduate studies. Dr. Sarin discussed his intention to have the Graduate Council come under the purview of the Senate, as had been the case some years ago, when it acted as a sub-committee of the Senate. Dr. Sarin urged senators to watch for a statement of policies, which would be posted online on the A&T legal affairs section of the website. He asked for the senators to support these policies and provide feedback, which were in any case already in place. He assured the senators that nothing new or controversial in nature was being added to the statement but it merely clarified ambiguous and unclear policies, striving to increase A&T's competitiveness, demonstrate adherence to SACs requirements, and formally codify existing policies. Dr. Sarin asked for collegial trust in accepting those policies as written. Faculty are asked to peruse the document and bring any feedback to the senators or Graduate Council. The policies will also be emailed to senators as proposed by Dr. Sarin.

**NCAA Compliance Review:** Mr. Earl Hilton, Director of Athletics, and his staff, reviewed NCAA compliance issues for the senators. He urged timely response from departments when student information was requested and apprised the senators that student athletes observe much stricter academic policies than other students, highlighting the importance of expert advisors. The revised student athlete travel policy states that a student can miss no more than 6 individual classes in any one course, and an athlete may miss class only for competitions, not for practice.

**Faculty Compensation Review:** Dr. Brian Carey Sims. Faculty salary studies by ranks and school show glaring discrepancies. Senators called for studies of these figures, considering many criteria—race, gender, discipline, and others. Errors on the Charlotte Observer website reports of our faculty salary show the need for more accurate reporting. Dr. Michael Roberto noted that the College of Arts and Sciences bears the burden of General Education for the whole university and yet CAS salaries are decidedly lower than those of other schools at every rank. Following discussion, it was the general consensus of the senate that a memorandum be drafted to Administration highlighting the need of an across-the-board salary equity study. Dr. Sims agreed to draft the memorandum with input from senators.

**Faculty Assembly Report:** Dr. Janis Oldham. The University has four new delegates and one alternate. The delegates are Dr. Karen Hornsby (History), Dr. Radiah Minor (Animal Science), Dr. Floyd James (Physics), and Dr. Brian Sims, Senate President (Psychology). The alternate is Dr. Elizabeth Barber (Leadership Studies). It was proposed that University Faculty Assembly reports be placed on the Senate webpage for review and information. The first Faculty Assembly meeting for the new academic year is scheduled for Friday, September 21, 2012 in Chapel Hill, NC.

**General Education Curriculum Update:** This update will be placed on the September, 2012 Faculty Senate agenda.

**Senate Committees:** (1) New Programs & Curricula – New Chair is Dr. Sheila Whitley. The Committee is scheduled to meet on September 11, 2012 to review, discuss and approve curricula changes submitted by departments. (2) Faculty Handbook – New Chair is Dr. Tony Graham. Dr. Graham noted that Chapter 4 of the Handbook is pending final approval for publication. This item will be addressed by the September 2012 Senate meeting.

Other Senate committee composition and procedures are under review . Follow-up reports will be made at a later date.

**Old Business:** (1) The Plus/Minus Grading System will be placed on the September 2012 Senate agenda and (2) Faculty Workload language should be finalized by December, 2012.

**Next Meeting:** September 25, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in Academic Classroom Building (A101).

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

*Professor Wendy C. Hamblet*  
*Secretary*

**Contact:** *Nina R. Ingram, 201 Nocho Street, (336) 285-4604; [ingramn@ncat.edu](mailto:ingramn@ncat.edu)*