

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
North Carolina A&T State University
Academic Classroom Building (101)
Tuesday, February 27, 2018
3:00 p.m.

Dr. Julius Harp, Chair Presiding

Senate Members Present: Phoebe Ajibade, Geleana Alston, Sungjin Cho, Angel Dowden, Sherrie Drye, Galen Foresman, Andrea Gentry, Julius Harp, Emily Harris, Luba Kurkalova, Anna Lee, Daniel Limbrick, Mary Lind, Ahmed Megri, Devang Mehta, Mahour Mellat-Parast, Elizabeth Newcomb, Andrea Ofori-Boadu, Elimelda Onger, Thomas Redd, Ruthie Rogers, Katherine Silt, Paul Stanfield, George Stone, David Tidwell, Li-Shiang Tsay, Bryon Turman, Cindy Waters, Dwana Waugh, Danielle Winchester, Jinsheng Xu.

Departments Not Represented: Agribusiness, Applied Economics and Agriscience Education; Natural Resources and Environmental Design; Chemical, Biological and Bioengineering; Computational Science and Engineering; Administration and Instructional Services; Educator Preparation; Social Work and Sociology; Energy and Environmental Systems; Physics.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Julius Harp at 3:05 pm.

Roll Call

Approval of the January Faculty Senate Minutes

- It was moved and properly seconded to approve the January minutes.
- Senators unanimously approved the minutes with no corrections or additions.

New Programs and Curricula Committee

- Dr. Foresman presented the committee report.
- The committee met on February 13, 2018 and reviewed changes for Family and Consumer Sciences; Chemical, Biological, and Bioengineering; and Animal Sciences. Changes were shared with Senate prior to this meeting.
- Senators unanimously approved the curricula changes presented.

Faculty Handbook Committee

- Dr. Alston presented the committee update. She publicly thanked Drs. Leaks and Graham as past chairs of the Handbook Committee.
- Dr. Alston shared that faculty across departments have provided many comments for the draft chapters of the Handbook previously shared. These comments were reconciled in the draft presented to the Senate. Only Chapters 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10 were presented for a vote. Results of the voting for each chapter:

- Chapter 1 (Introduction) – unanimous approval
- Chapter 2 (Background Information) - unanimous approval
- Chapter 3 (Administrative Organization of the Faculty) – unanimous approval
- Chapter 7 (Conditions of Employment and Guidelines for Professional Conduct) – unanimous approval
- Chapter 8 (Benefits) – unanimous approval
- Chapter 9 (University Regulations) – unanimous approval
- Chapter 10 (University Services and Auxiliaries) – unanimous approval
- Some faculty comments from the draft review were not addressed in the revision because they were considered outside of the purview of the Handbook Committee.
- Chapters 4, 5 and 6 and the appendices previously shared in draft form will be presented at the March Senate meeting.
 - Dr. Tidwell voiced concern regarding the term limits for senators. Currently, senators are limited to two consecutive terms, of two years each. This restriction in number of consecutive terms does not allow Senate leaders to become acclimated to processes and procedures before taking leadership roles.
 - Dr. Alston asked Dr. Tidwell to add this concern to the Chapter 4 draft in SharePoint, along with a recommendation for his proposed changes.
 - Dr. Alston invited faculty to continue to offer comments for Chapters 4, 5 and 6 to her or Dr. Faulkner (her committee co-chair) directly. In addition, interested faculty can attend the committee meeting to be held over the next two days (Wednesday 10AM-2PM and Thursday 1PM-5PM in Dowdy).

Nominating Committee

- Dr. Harp presented the report. The committee met last week.
- At the committee meeting, there was discussion about the recent frequent changes in Faculty Senate Chairs. As a result, terms are out of line right now. Dr. Harp will call an executive committee meeting after Spring Break to get the terms in order and to establish voting cycles for the next Chair and Vice-Chair terms. Elections will be held before the end of the academic year to fill positions as needed.
- Dr. Harp also distributed ballots for electing a temporary Vice-Chair to fill the vacancy created when he moved to the Chair position to replace Dr. Cobb.
 - Dr. Foresman has been nominated and there is opportunity for write-ins.
 - After voting, Dr. Foresman was confirmed as Vice-Chair, with 29 votes and 3 abstentions.

Faculty Assembly Update

- Dr. Tidwell provided the report. The Assembly met February 23, 2018.
- Assembly delegates for the upcoming year must be shared with the Faculty Assembly by April 10, 2018. To meet this deadline, it is important that senators for each department are identified now.

- A representative focused on Digital Learning will be visiting all UNC campuses, to evaluate current capabilities and to assess faculty needs for distance learning. The date for the visit to NC A&T will be shared at a later date.
- Delegates were told about the establishment of a University Funding Model Taskforce
 - This group was established by the Board of Governors to draft funding models for universities. They have proposed funding models for the system that could do harm to university operations.
 - For NC A&T, state appropriations are currently 65% and tuition provides 35% of our funding. The Taskforce has proposed a change to this funding model, wherein only 80% of the state appropriations will be automatically allocated, with the other 20% being allocated by performance or some other measures.
 - This could mean that universities will not have sufficient funds for operation.
 - There is no faculty representation on the taskforce, which is a concern.
- There was some discussion about drafting a resolution to state the Faculty Assembly's position on guns in the classroom – the overwhelming majority of delegates do not want guns in the classroom. The Assembly ultimately decided not to create a resolution.
- The Assembly passed a resolution to include faculty representation on the Board of Governors. The lack of faculty representation on the board is a serious problem that the Assembly would like to see remedied.

Other Business

- Dr. Charles Waldrup, Legal Counsel, discussed the Free Speech issue on this campus.
 - The Board of Governors has created a Free Speech policy that aims to balance free speech and expression and academic opinion. Dr. Waldrup reiterated several key points of the policy:
 - Universities cannot shield from speech protected by the first amendment, which means that campuses cannot protect students and employees from speech that may be considered offensive.
 - Universities can restrict freedom of speech to reasonable time, place, and manner.
 - Policy violations could result in sanctions; a violation requires material and substantial disruption.
 - The policy applies to anyone on campus (students, faculty, staff, or invited guests).
 - NC A&T must determine how the policy will be implemented on this campus, and Dr. Waldrup will oversee the implementation.
 - Currently NC A&T does not have a Free Speech policy, but once one is developed, there will be significant training.
 - Senators asked how faculty could be involved in the implementation of the policy at NC A&T. Dr. Waldrup replied that senators could follow the minutes of the Board of Governor's meetings for more information.
- Dr. Harp will prepare a summary report of the Faculty Administrative Forum held on February 7, 2018, to be shared at a later date.

- Multiple senators posed questions about campus safety in light of the recent school shootings. The conversation centered around two points:
 - Is there an emergency plan that is clearly accessible online?
 - The plan can be found on the Police Department's website under *Incident Management Actions*. All faculty need to be aware of the plan, and its location on the website.
 - General protocol for emergency situations recommends that faculty lock their classrooms and shelter in place. However, AggieAlerts will be sent with alternate instructions as needed.
 - What can the Faculty Senate do to improve campus safety?
 - Several senators identified building vulnerabilities including the fact that many classrooms cannot be locked from the inside; faculty can potentially miss an alert if in class; and some students and faculty have a false sense of security that has led to theft.
 - Ultimately, senators suggested that faculty undergo regular emergency training; that building managers disseminate emergency procedures to faculty and staff; and that the emergency plan be advertised blatantly on the university website and in the Faculty Handbook.
 - Dr. Childress and Dr. Harp will bring these safety concerns to the Provost in upcoming meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.

Dr. Elizabeth Newcomb
Secretary