

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
North Carolina A&T State University
Academic Classroom Building (A101)
Tuesday, September 26, 2017
3:00 p.m.

Dr. Robert Cobb, Jr., Chair Presiding

Senate Members Present: Phoebe Ajibade, Geleana Alston, Sungjin Cho, Robert Cobb, Jr., Angel Dowden, Sherrie Drye, Yewande Fasina, Galen Foresman, Tony Graham, Julius Harp, Abebe Kebede, Joshua Kirven, Luba Kurkalova, Anna Lee, Robert Li, Ademe Mekonnen, Mahour Mellat-Parast, Elizabeth Newcomb, Elimelda Onger, Bill Randle, Thomas Redd, Katherine Sifton, Derick Smith, George Stone, David Tidwell, Li-Shiang Tsay, Dwana Waugh, Danielle Winchester, Jinsheng Xu.

Departments Not Represented: Agribusiness, Applied Economics and Agriscience Education; Management; Chemical, Biological and Bioengineering; Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering; Computational Science and Engineering; Industrial and Systems Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; Administration and Instructional Services; Educator Preparation; Nursing; History; Journalism and Mass Communication; English.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robert Cobb, Jr.

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

It was properly moved and seconded to approve the August 22, 2017 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes.

Senate Welcome and Opening Statements

Dr. Robert Cobb, Jr.

Dr. Cobb greeted senators. He provided an overview of the agenda and welcomed guest speakers (1) Dr. Beryl McEwen – Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; (2) Mr. Tom Jackson, Vice Chancellor for Information Technology; and (3) Ms. Yvette Holmes from Human Resources' Center for Leadership and Organizational Excellence (CLOE.)

Dr. Cobb announced the following administrative change: Dr. Beryl McEwen is the current Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dr. Beryl McEwen, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Compliments were extended to faculty for their involvement in the work of the University and the Faculty Senate. Dr. McEwen stated that she had lunch with some senators during the

previous week. The lunch experience provided good dialogue. The Provost noted that she looks forward to future opportunities to sit and listen to faculty comments and concerns. Emails are welcome. Provost McEwen introduced ACE Fellow Coray Davis. As an ACE Fellow, Mr. Davis will be engaged and exposed to the University's administration and programs.

Information Technology Update

Vice Chancellor Tom Jackson.

- CIO Tom Jackson provided an overview of recent and planned technology upgrades on campus. He shared a PowerPoint presentation summarizing a new *Classroom and Computer Lab Strategy* that was initiated in a Fall 2016 review of 393 campus spaces. The strategy will enhance campus classroom and lab spaces to a standard operating level over a 5-year period, and provide for discipline-appropriate technology where needed. It also prescribes an equipment rotation cycle that will not be funded through academic departments.
- Future goals for IT include improvements in the help desk and technical support, expanded computer lab hours, and a reorganization of IT to support uniformity across all colleges.
- He also took questions from senators:
 - There was a question about university capabilities to back up student and faculty work. Mr. Jackson indicated that backup is possible depending on the size of the data.
 - A senator expressed concern about frequent network outages in Carver Hall. Mr. Jackson encouraged senators to contact him in the event of disabling outages that are not quickly resolved.
 - There was a question about whether Banner 9 might be able to communicate with Blackboard. Mr. Jackson said that it is too early to tell if there will be compatibility between the two systems.
- Mr. Jackson ended his presentation by encouraging senators to contact him via email in the event of IT issues; he will direct the email to the right person.

Human Resources Program Information

Ms. Yvette Holmes

Ms. Holmes addressed the Senate regarding AggiesLEAD, an innovative digital badge credentialing system designed to achieve 'faculty and staff of the future' competencies. Badges range from bronze to gold. Enrollment into AggiesLEAD classes is underway. The program needs additional presenters. Questions may be directed to Ms. Yvette Holmes or Ms. Ericka Gonzalez Smith of the CLOE office. The Division of Human Resources is launching this effort.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nomination Committee

- The Senate filled an open Senate Vice-Chair Position.
 - The position was vacated when Dr. Ford left her position as Chair of the Senate and Dr. Cobb moved into the Chair's position for the 2017-2018 year.

- The new Vice-Chair will serve out the remainder of the 2017-2018 year. In Spring 2018, the Senate will hold an election to find a new Chair and Dr. Cobb will go back to his position as Vice-Chair.
- Dr. Harp, Chair of the Nomination Committee, issued a ballot for voting. The only nominee was Dr. Harp, and no other nominations were received from the floor. Twenty-two members were present, which constituted a quorum.
- After votes were tabulated, Dr. Julius Harp was elected as Senate Vice-Chair.
- Nominees for the Faculty Hearing and Reconsideration Committee and Grievance Committee were presented from each college.
 - The Senate approved the membership of both committees through proper parliamentary procedure.
- The Faculty Assembly Delegation, revised September 26, 2017, was presented:
 - Dr. Robert Cobb
 - Dr. Gregory Meyerson
 - Mr. David Tidwell
 - Dr. Bonnie Fields
 - Alternate – Dr. Galen Foresman
 - Dr. Foresman encouraged all delegates to attend the Faculty Assembly regularly so that committee service is ensured.

Faculty Handbook Committee

- Dr. Cobb provided details about a Handbook stipulation that he believes may contribute to lower involvement by some faculty senators (such as poor meeting attendance and low committee engagement).
 - Section 4.4.3 of the Handbook specifies that senators and alternates should be elected in March and their names forwarded to the Senate Chair and Secretary in April. Terms begin the following academic year.
 - The potential issue is that elections for senators are happening after course schedules have been finalized for the Fall semester. It is possible that a faculty member is elected senator, but may already be scheduled for class during normal Senate meeting times. This might have a negative impact on faculty availability and involvement.
 - Dr. Cobb proposed that the Senate consider altering the election calendar; he suggested elections in January and notification to Senate Chair and Secretary in February. He would like to present this idea at the Chair's forum on September 29, 2017 before bringing it through the proper channels to formally change the Handbook.

Faculty Senate Committee Membership

- Membership for 2017-2018 for each of the standing committees was presented. All committees were encouraged to have a co-chair.
- Non-senators can serve on committees as well, so senators should ask their departments if anyone else is interested in committee service.

NEW BUSINESS

Faculty Senate Roster

- Nina will distribute the 2017-2018 Senate roster and post it online.

Training Expectations

- Multiple senators expressed concern about the university's 3.5 hours of mandatory training per semester. The source of these requirements should be better explained, as well as any penalties for not completing the training. Senators are encouraged to follow up in departments to obtain feedback.

Commencement

- Several questions were posed from senators: (1) Who determines the graduation speaker? (2) Will there be separate undergraduate and graduate ceremonies in December? Neither question could be answered.

Schedule

- A senator asked if the "extra" week that has been included in the last several Spring semesters has been removed from the 2018 calendar. This question requires follow-up.

New Programs and Curricula Committee

- Programs now need to use the new forms to submit curriculum changes. These forms were distributed to the colleges, but Dr. Foresman, co-Chair of the New Programs and Curricula Committee can assist as needed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: November 28, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in Academic Classroom Building (107)

Dr. Elizabeth A. Newcomb
Secretary