Meeting Minutes, Faculty Senate, full meeting, April 23, 2024

In attendance:

Phoebe Ajibade (A), Faisal Alkaabneh (S), Jeffrey Alston (S), Uchenna Anele (S), Ayanna Armstrong (S), Mohammad Azad (S), Jennifer Beasley (S), Stephen Bollinger (S), Trevor Brothers (A), Kelvin Bryant (S), Subrata Chakrabarty (A), Mike Cundall (S), Zachary Denton (S), Sherrie Drye (A), Robert Ferguson (S), Yvonne Ford (S), Galen Foresman (A), Tiffany Fuller (S), Scott Harrison (S), AKM Kamrul Islam (A), Floyd James, Yuhan Jiang (A), Joy Kennedy (A), Cynthia Khanlarian (S), Lyubov Kurkalova (S), Mahmoud Mahmoud (A), Nicole McCoy, Kimberly McNeil (S), Ahmed Megri (S), Devang Mehta (S), Cephas Naanwaab (A), Dawn Nail, John Ng'ombe (A), Sharon Parker (S), David Rachlin (A), Craig Rhodes, Sydney Richardson (A), Jacqueline Roebuck Sakho (S), Amy Schwartzott (S), Vijay Singh (S), Tonya Smith-Jackson, Ecaterina Stepaniuc (S), Li-Shiang Tsay (A), Christina Tupper (S), Pauline Uwakweh (S), John Paul Ward, Jeff Wolfgang (S), Xueying Zhang (A)

(S): Senator
(A): Alternate

Call to order was done by Dr. Scott Harrison. Roll call was led by Dr. Fuller. The agenda was presented. A motion was made by Dr. Ford and seconded by Dr. Mehta to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Provost Smith-Jackson was welcomed to the floor. Dr. Smith-Jackson presented updates on policy work relating to developments from the UNC System. Various types of reviews are to be periodically done across programs, and this will importantly include return on investment evaluations across different programs. It was noted that there could be different expectations for success in a discipline such as theatre arts versus nursing regarding lifetime earnings. An objective is to be considerate in the reporting within the institution and the UNC System. The Provost described upcoming policy work to be done on teaching effectiveness and post-tenure review. The university was seeking to establish summer committees involving faculty who would be receiving some stipend support to deliberate and provide recommendations concerning policy development. Dr. Harrison thanked the Provost for engagement and lucid descriptions of these policy topics.

Dr. Yvonne Ford provided an update on elections. Voting was unanimous in support of the nominees from the March meeting: Dr. Scott Harrison was re-elected as chair, Dr. Kristen Rhinehardt was elected as a UNC System Faculty Assembly delegate, and Dr. Phoebe Ajibade and Dr. Zachary Denton were re-elected as UNC System Faculty Assembly alternates.

Associate Vice Provost Rhodes mentioned an upcoming Celebration of Faculty Excellence being scheduled for in early May, and encouraged those interested to attend to RSVP. In addition, there was an upcoming AI workshop with a special guest from Oak Ridge National Laboratories and with presentations from five or six of our university faculty. Associate Vice Provost Rhodes

spoke about identifying faculty to be AI fellows to help support and provide insightful guidance on this topic in general at the university. Associate Vice Provost Rhodes spoke about an objective for working with groups of faculty on various policies related to academic affairs including teaching evaluation and post-tenure review. Dr. Harrison thanked Associate Vice Provost Rhodes for his presentation.

Senior Vice Provost Valerie Giddings presented on interfolio as a newer tool to collect faculty information concerning evaluations for reappointment, promotion and tenure, along with post-tenure review. This will further be useful for collecting information on faculty activities and faculty success relating to annual reviews. This tool will help to better collect materials compared to the more manual use of shared drives and will reduce the more repetitive uploading of materials by faculty across multiple periods of reappointment. The tool will integrate better with other university data systems such as Banner. Feedback so far has been positive from various academic unit administrators. Faculty asked about the timeline concerning Interfolio and how that related to summer deadlines. Senior Vice Provost Giddings replied that the time of full implementation was still being determined, and described an overall objective to make the transition as seamless as possible. Other faculty asked about how robust it would be in comparison to some other technology transitions that had happened with, for instance, data management of research awards. Senior Vice Provost Giddings replied that other institutions using Interfolio had been consulted and that there was a focus on pilot testing the tool and working closely with the company and faculty to ensure effective performance. Another report was made by Senior Vice Provost Giddings of how collaborative meeting spaces for faculty were developing within the library with an overall architecture to support different meeting formats.

Dr. Harrison described updates surrounding syllabi policy language for the ethical use of AI in the classroom, with different policy options provided to instructors if relevant to their course. He thanked Dr. Dawn Nail and Dr. Tonya Amankwatia for their incredible work and engagement with the education policy committee on the policy language. A discussion with faculty ensued. Dr. James suggested that large language models be referred to in a more general manner and not by limited by mention of any single product. With these and other edits, a motion was made and seconded to approve the edited policy. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Harrison described the two-step process by which policies and then regulations materialize within the UNC System. Dr. Harrison described the response from the UNC System Faculty Assembly to the Foundations of American Democracy requirement. Dr. Harrison further described an upcoming potential change to Section 300.8.5 of the UNC Policy Manual on diversity and inclusion within the University of North Carolina. Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Cooper described student learning outcomes relating to the Foundations of American Democracy requirement and those courses that relate to this requirement.

Other items then mentioned in the meeting were about how the new policy on minors eliminates double counting of courses for a minor if they are required for the major. As a result of this change, it makes it difficult to achieve academic minors. It was inquired whether there

had been or could be further discussion on this change with the Faculty Senate. The meeting then adjourned.