

Meeting Minutes, Faculty Senate, full meeting, January 28, 2025

In attendance:

Phoebe Ajibade (A); Jeffrey Alston (S); Geleana Alston; Ayanna Armstrong (S); Jennifer Beasley (S); Stephen Bollinger (S); Trevor Brothers (S); Dewayne Brown (S); Roymieco Carter (A); Subrata Chakrabarty (A); Eunho Cho (S); Daphne Cooper; Yvonne R. Ford (S); Tiffany Fuller (S); Etta Gravely (A); Corey Graves (S); Scott H. Harrison (S); AKM Kamrul Islam (A); Yuhan Jiang (S); Stephanie Kelly (S); Joy Kennedy (S); Roland Leak (S); Blessing Masasi (A); Adam L. McClain (S); Nicole Renee McCoy; Ahmed C. Megri (S); Ademe Mekonnen (S); Hyosoo Moon (A); Cephas Naanwab (A); Letycia Nunez-Argote (S); Bill Randle (S); Zaira Estrada Reyes (S); Kristen Rhinehardt (S); Sydney Richardson; Derrick Robinson (S); Mashooq Salehin (S); James David Schall (S); Nichole Smith; Kate Stepaniuc (S); Li-Shiang Tsay (A); Christina Tupper (S); Pauline Ada Uwakweh (S); John Paul Ward (S); Tammy T. Webb (A)

(S): Senator

(A): Alternate

Call to order was done by Dr. Scott Harrison at 3:00 pm. Roll call was led by Dr. Fuller. There was a link to attendance sent out and a QR Code. The agenda was presented.

A motion was made Dr. Armstrong and seconded by Dr. Gravely for the agenda to be approved. The motion passed unanimously. Minutes were presented for the September and October 2024 meetings. A motion was made by Dr. Randle and seconded by Dr. Kelly for the minutes to be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Ford then presented on upcoming nominations and elections. Specifically, nominations and elections would be needed for the Faculty Grievance committee and Hearing and Reconsideration committee. The process and need for Faculty Senate elections was also described along with terms associated with some of the Faculty Senate officer and Faculty Assembly delegate positions.

Updates from the Faculty Assembly were then provided. Cybersecurity continues to be a rising concern across the nation and for our own universities in North Carolina. Academic freedom has been a topic of some ongoing consideration lately with the Faculty Assembly. The work of the Faculty Assembly has been impactful regarding communications and outcomes surrounding UNC System policies, including for academic program review. Microcredentialing has begun to occur in tandem with academic offerings at some major universities, and there is strong interest in the UNC System in advancing microcredentialing as a way to further prepare college graduates.

Dr. Yin and Dr. Geleana Alston presented on Interfolio. They spoke about a goal for a smooth transition toward the usage of Interfolio and ultimately reduce administrative burden for faculty by having one place at which faculty activities and RPT/PTR could be kept. Efforts are

underway as well to have this upcoming usage of Interfolio integrate with usage of ORCID. New information can be added, but everyone should otherwise be awaiting migration of information from the older system in mid-March. Upcoming interfolio training on this system was mentioned. It was asked whether the system would support custom-defined, formatted downloads of entered information (to report on more than just teaching but also, for instance, research activities). Some comments were made about challenges with adjusting to the use of the system in a recent review of professional track (NTTF) faculty.

There was then some discussion about the proposed Simple Syllabus technology and whether it would help accelerate setting up a course, or whether it would be prohibitive and not allow faculty to effectively manage their course.

Discussion then followed about the handbook revision, and the dissemination of the proposed handbook revision and a faculty survey to faculty across the university. Presently, for full-time faculty, there are about 70% of faculty who are tenure-stream and tenured, and 30% who are teaching faculty (NTTF).

Elements of the handbook revision draft include a proposed standing committee for teaching faculty with representation from each college. This had been based in part on examining various approaches around the country at other academic institutions. Regarding college-level representation overall, there was some discussion on colleges that provide for enhanced academic programming (Graduate College and Honors College). The Honors College does not have a standing roster of many affiliated faculty so it is an open question currently surrounding its representation within the Faculty Senate.

It was then commented that the university has not been sustaining the historical level of university-level discussion within the context of a present-day ad hoc university level curriculum committee. This ad hoc committee has helped to, in some ways, focus on a technological implementation of curriculum degree monitoring and updates with respect to curricula, and there's been a lot of technical work achieved and synchronization in that regard. Something else being planned for with the handbook revision is that a university-level curriculum committee is to be reinstated with the faculty senate. This is for achieving national excellence with how curriculum review happens at the university level, and for being consistent with what is called for within the UNC system code as well as accepted literature with respect to shared governance at an academic institution. Further developments on strategic planning with academic units and considerations surrounding Faculty Senate service are being put forward in the handbook revision draft. There is usage of EHRA and SHRA instead of very dated EPA, SPA designations. A Sabbatical Committee and Reassigned Time Policy committee are designated. There are updated descriptions and links to other policies and, in proposed revisions for Appendix C-2, there are many detailed changes to teaching and research evaluation.

The Provost joined the meeting and then for discussion on potential updates to the RPT policy. Discussed items were to: 1) Revisit the URPT composition such that the colleges/schools with

tenure-track faculty have one rep only, which brings the URPT to 9 members; 2) remove the department chair from the department RPT committee; department chair will receive the report and provide further review and recommendation in writing to the dean; 3) each college must establish written procedures for the nomination, election and operations of department committee and college committee members; 4) College committees will elect only a chair, not a vice chair or secretary; and 5) standards/guidelines for RPT must be provided to faculty members within 30 days of employment.

For new business, a student wellness day initiative was described as being an item to present for next time. There was additional discussion on disseminating more information from Faculty Senate meetings to everyone in support of Faculty Senators giving monthly reports to their academic units. Substantial concern was put forward concerning the parking situation on campus. It was mentioned that there are instructors who have considerable experience and involvement in industry. If they can be considered as professors of practice, such as at other universities, that would help these instructors receive better recognition, financial compensation and opportunities for promotion. This may be timely with respect to what is happening in the handbook revision. Another concern was to do more to advance dialogue between faculty and the university's research division, and revisit prior effort surrounding a set of faculty who had been previously identified as facilitating this dialogue. The meeting concluded with a motion to adjourn that was then seconded. The motion passed unanimously.