

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
November 3, 2016; 3:15 pm
Red Oak Conference Room

Senate Members: B. Butler, C. Bell, D. Clarke, S. Patch, J. Beck, K. Boyle, M. Cameron, L. Han, P. Haschke,
Members: L. Hewitt, S. Judson, M. Neelon, J. Perkins, N. Ruppert, A. Wray, J. Urgo.
Excused: A. Boakye-Boaten, K. Garbe, L. Holland
Visitors: L. Dohse, A. Dowdy, B. Haggard, L. Horgan, E. Katz, J. Konz, K. Krumpke, P. McClellan,
S. Millett, J. Pierce, A. Shope, D. Traywick, Charles White.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes:

[September 29, 2016 3:15 p.m.](#)

Passed without dissent.

III. Executive Committee Report:

Dr. Brian Butler

Tuition and Fees Update:

Vice Chancellor John Pierce

Vice Chancellor John Pierce introduced himself and said that he has been at UNC Asheville for 8 years. He, along with SGA President Charles White, is Co-Chair of the Tuition and Fees Committee. In the past, we have had two separate committees - a tuition committee and a fees committee. This year, there is one committee since the university has less latitude in what it is able to charge for tuition and fees. VC Pierce has come to Senate to talk about this new development.

A few days ago, this new committee had their first meeting. The other committee members are Dr. Til Dohse, Humanities Dean Wiebke Strehl, Chief Information Officer Jeff Brown, Director of International Student Services Robert Straub, and three students: Maggie Clerkin, Tim Hussey, and Alexandra Schneider. They have just finished the [first student forums](#) which showed how the fees and additional proceeds on tuition were used.

This past June the General Assembly enacted stringent tuition restrictions for the next year. Those tuition restrictions include:

- For incoming Freshman and transfers, tuition is “flat” (the intention is the student pays the same tuition each year)
- Fees are capped at 3%
- Reduced tuition to \$500 a semester at Elizabeth City State, Western Carolina and UNC Pembroke universities.

The instructions from the General Administration on the interpretation of this new rate is that UNC Asheville could charge a maximum of two percent increase in tuition next year. For next year’s incoming resident freshmen and transfers, right now our tuition is

\$4,041.00 and then it would go flat after the two percent raise of around \$81.00 over each of the student's four years. The legislation was silent about continuing students. The interpretation and instructions from the General Administration for continuing undergraduate resident students is zero increase.

Basically, the state is moving towards a very different "turf" in terms of what universities are able to charge students for tuition. At this point and time, the flip side is what we don't know – what is this going to mean for state funding.

The dynamic that has been happening in higher education is due to many factors including the flattening of medium family incomes to ½ percent each year (for four years that is two percent – this is derived from a five-year history of the Consumer Price Index for North Carolina). Also, the state appropriations per student have been going down while tuition and fees per student have been going up. Generally all across the nation, universities have been offsetting declines in state appropriations with increases in tuition and fees. Consider in North Carolina, there is the state mandate that higher education would be as free as practicable to residents of North Carolina.

Where we are in the process right now is we only know half of the equation - the limit on tuition and fees for residential and transfer students. We do not know is what will happen in terms of the state, whether the state will come in with additional funding to help supplement what the universities are not getting from tuition.

Getting into the intricacies of this, in the past when budget cuts have come to the schools across the UNC System, some schools like UNC Asheville have been "held harmless" since across the board cuts to all schools tends to hurt the smaller schools due to the economy of scale. At this point in time, this dynamic is not included so our flexibility is lesser than years past.

Next steps for determining the tuition and fees for next year:

- Recommendations will be given at a forum on November 10
- Tuition and Fees Committee will meet again on November 14
- Senior Staff will then review recommendations
- A presentation will be made to the General Administration on December 2 as a preliminary where their board will look at our tuition and fees
- The Board of Governors will look at these in their January and February meetings

Hopefully, the state is going to come through and there will be appropriate help to offset the tuition. John Pierce welcomes the faculty's thoughts, feedback or questions.

Questions from Faculty Senate:

David Clarke asked if the results of the November election could change anything. John Pierce said it could and higher education is very important to our country for it is clear that a higher education is necessary in the job market. Of the 11.6 million jobs created since the 2006 recession, 11.5 million of those jobs, almost 99%, went to workers who

had a two or a four year degree. Of those workers, 72% were workers with a four year degree. The jobs are going to the workers with a higher education.

Dr. Marietta Cameron asked that the pertinent legislation be included in the minutes for the faculty at large to see. NC Legislation regarding UNC System tuition and fees:

- [First version \(version 0\) of Senate Bill 873](#) (filed May 10, 2016)
- [Passed version \(version 4\) of Senate Bill 873](#) (adopted May 25, 2016)
- [House Bill 1030](#) (special instructions related to S.B. 873 tuition and fees)

Student Government:

President Charles White

President Charles White highlighted the following SGA activities:

- Austin Dowdy, SGA Executive in Special Topics-Academics, has been having a great time serving on the Task Force to Revise Student Feedback on Instruction and President White is excited that students have been included on this task force.
- As of today, the Board of Elections reports that 2,819 students, faculty, staff and other community members voted on our campus.
- Austin Dowdy and Michael Davis (SGA Executive of Diversity & Inclusion) are working to bring together later this semester a panel of students to talk about their experiences in the classroom as it relates to diversity and inclusion. SGA will send out an invitation to the faculty when they have these plans finalized.
- President White asked the Faculty Senate when hiring new faculty members whether students are included in the process – a majority of the Faculty Senate answered in the affirmative.
- [SGA September 2016 Newsletter](#)

Faculty Assembly:

Dr. Lothar Dohse

Dr. Lothar said Faculty Assembly met October 1st and changed their agenda. The Board of the Governors of the UNC System is really working through the various pipelines regarding the [new strategic plan](#) in record speed and the Faculty Assembly wants to make sure faculty have their input included for consideration in the process. The assembly broke up into groups to work on the five major areas of focus (access, equity and affordability, student success, economic impact and community engagement, and excellent and diverse institutions). Faculty Assembly worked on each of these categories in smaller groups and turned in comments to be included in the process. The Board of Governors have already done the definitions and are now working on the metrics to measure these goals which Faculty Assembly seeks to offer input.

[UNC System Strategic Planning](#) (*scroll down on this website past the large quote to get to the information*)

IV. Academic Policies Committee Report:

Dr. Chris Bell

***First Reading:**

- [APC 3](#) Revise the curriculum for the Dance minor
- [APC 4](#) Elimination of the Honors LA 178 Requirement for Honors Students;
Revise the Criteria to Remain in Good Standing in the Honors Program
- [APC 5](#) Add new courses in International Studies and Asian Studies: INTS/ASIA
305, Close Encounters of the Third Kind: East Asian Cultures through Film;
INTS/ASIA 310, East Asian Literature in Translation
- [APC 6](#) Exclude ATMS 381-3, 490 and 499 from the minor in Atmospheric Sciences

All of the first reading documents have passed unanimously. However, since its approval, questions have been raised regarding APC 3 so Dr. Bell imagines that he will be asked to separate APC 3 from the bundle so a discussion may be held by the Faculty Senate on it [see **Item a** under the section labeled “Academic Policies Committee Duties” in the [Faculty Senate Standing Rules and Rules of Order](#) for explanation of the procedure].

**If you have questions or issues to be addressed regarding these first reading documents, please contact Chris Bell, APC Chair, at bell@unca.edu*

Second Reading:

APC 1 passed without dissent.

- [APC 1](#) Proposed Academic Calendars:
2017-2018: Final draft; 2018-2019: Preliminary draft
(Lynne Horgan)

Motion made and seconded. A friendly amendment was accepted (passed without dissent) to change the Undergraduate Research Symposium from a Monday to a Tuesday ([SD0216F](#) is the final Senate-approved version reflecting the accepted changes).

Dr. Cameron wanted the record to reflect her concern that graduate families are being inconvenienced by moving winter commencement from a Saturday to a Friday. Provost Urgo said the Commencement Committee discussed this at length and the prevailing view was to have commencement on a Friday in order to preserve Saturdays for the numerous holiday activities.

APC 2 passed without dissent.

- [APC 2](#) Dissolving the Policy Regarding Excusing Seniors from
Final Exams During the Last Semester of Their Program
(Chris Bell)

V. Faculty Welfare and Development Committee Report:

Dr. Steve Patch

***First Reading:**

- [FWDC 3](#) Faculty Mentoring and Evaluation (Faculty Handbook Section 3.5.4.1,
4.1.7, and 14.2)

**If you have questions or issues to be addressed regarding these first reading documents, please contact Steve Patch, FWDC Chair, at patch@unca.edu*

Second Reading:

FWDC 1 passed without dissent.

[FWDC 1](#) Clarify Membership of the Teaching Awards Committee to Include Only Full-Time Faculty Members

FWDC 2 passed without dissent.

[FWDC 2](#) Revisions to the Institutional Effectiveness Committee

VI. Institutional Development Committee / UPC Reports: Dr. David Clarke

IDC does not have documents to present yet, but they have had discussions on two documents:

- Establish an Arts Management & Entrepreneurship major concentration and minor within Interdisciplinary Studies
(Melodie Galloway, Laura Bond, Micheal Stratton, Leisa Rundquist)
- Add a Minor in American Indian and Indigenous Studies located in Interdisciplinary Studies
(Trey Adcock)

Also, Melissa Burchard is working on a proposal about how we teach Ethics across the curriculum. This is at the idea / concept stage of development and she asked for IDC's counsel and feedback.

Update on Institutional Research, Effectiveness & Planning's Student Achievement Website:

Michael Gass has been tasked with coming up with metrics for student success to satisfy federal requirements. Some faculty are raising their eyebrows because some of the targets are aspirational at the expense of teaching loads. Dr. Clarke has consulted with many people where he notices two reactions – one is do not worry about it for it is just a federal requirement to be attained and the other is if it is written down then this means something to us – Dr. Clarke is not sure which viewpoint to hold. IDC will begin to have earnest discussions internally about these metrics and then proceed from there.

VII. Administration/Academic Affairs: Provost Joseph Urgo

Meeting with Board of Governors members. The Provost and a few Senators attended a Board of Governors strategic planning meeting on campus recently, which included two Board of Governors members and about 30 faculty, staff, students, and Board of Trustee members. . The format allowed for campus feedback on the BoG strategic plan. The Provost thought these were engaging discussions on tough questions. On the way out of the meeting, the two Board of Governors members said of all the sessions they have had that this one was the most like a dialogue which spoke well of our community. The topics discussed covered student success, recognize our school's distinct missions within the UNC system, and academic rigor. These topics are not window dressing but are critical to the Board of Governors and the legislature's understanding that leads to our funding.

Early Alerts. APC has been talking about early alerts. The Provost is in favor of them for anything we can do to make the point to students that someone is concerned about their progress is important. .

Also, seeing the university through the students' eyes is important in order to help them to be successful and the Provost encourages the faculty to attend SGA's panel discussion on the classroom experiences of our students.

Questions/Discussion:

Dr. Nancy Ruppert and Dr. Brian Butler shared how amazing it is to share stories/information and get our voice heard downstate at Faculty Assembly. Dr. Ruppert said that we need to work at sharing more of the good things about our campus to the Board of Governors and Faculty Assembly. Dr. Butler would like to encourage faculty and staff to complete the UNC system survey regarding the strategic plan for downstate as they are showing they are listening. An example is the five areas of focus that Faculty Assembly told President Spellings we need to focus on so she is showing support of faculty – so faculty need to be proactive. The next Faculty Assembly meeting will be the follow-up to the strategic plan.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

Dr. Marietta Cameron announced that the Computer Science Department is hosting the 30th Annual Consortium of Computing Sciences in Colleges Southeastern Regional Conference this Friday and Saturday. The entire campus community is invited to the keynote session which will be at 1:00 p.m. in the Humanities Lecture Hall. Dr. Cameron said that what makes this topic so wonderful is how interdisciplinary computer science is. UNC Asheville has 4 programming teams. Two teams are representing us in the programming competition sponsored by this conference and two teams are representing us at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Programming Competition. We are pretty excited for these four teams.

Dr. Cameron has also sent an email concerning her undergraduate research group where they are evaluating three dimensional head models. She encourages faculty to participate in the survey.

X. Adjourn

Brian adjourned the meeting at 4:11 p.m.