

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

August 31, 2017; 3:15 pm

Red Oak Conference Room

Members Present: M. Stratton, M. Cameron, B. Butler, J. Beck, A. Boakye-Boaten, L. Bond, K. Boyle, R. Criser, L. Holland, M. McClure, M. Richmond, A. Rote, N. Ruppert, M. Smith, S. Traboulsi, A. Wray, J. Urgo.

Members

Excused: P. Haschke, L. Hewitt.

Visitors: M. Grant, J. Cavanaugh, L. Dohse, B. Haggard, L. Horgan, T. Hussey, J. Konz, D. Luke, P. McClellan, R. Maynard, A. Shope, W. Strehl, D. Traywick, C. Williams.

I. Call to Order

A moment of silence was observed in memory of colleague Seamus McNerney. The impact he had, especially within the Humanities Program, was felt across our campus.

II. Welcome from Chancellor Grant

Chancellor Grant said it is always a great opportunity to sit with the Senate at the start of a new academic year. She thanks the officers and Senators for the great work this body does. Since she has been here, she is so impressed with how you lead and engage.

Chancellor Grant reflected on the beginning of this academic year and thanks all faculty and staff for how we got the school year up and running:

- 1,067 new students entered UNC Asheville this fall, many are transfer students
- Thousands of boxes were carried into the residence halls for students
- A smoothly-ran convocation brought students and families together
- Over a thousand people celebrated Eclipse day on the Quad

Chancellor Grant appreciates being with faculty who will have important conversations like making sure UNC Asheville is a safe and inclusive space. These times challenge us and campuses across this country.

Chancellor Grant hopes everyone received a copy of the events planner. On September 12, we will be celebrating our 90th anniversary of our founding (September 12, 1927). On Founders Day, David Brooks will be with us and that event has already sold out.

This fall we will be looking at master planning on campus. We have finished our strategic planning and now it is time to look at resources (fiscal and other assets) to move the strategic plan forward.

Chancellor Grant would love for us to get the designation as “Millennial University.” This designation is important for the future growth of our university.

This summer, the Board of Trustees had a two-day retreat, and the Chancellor was so appreciative of the faculty presence (Micheal Stratton, Marietta Cameron, Brian Butler, Dan Pierce, and Darin Waters). They had a really important conversation about academic freedom and free speech, which she thanks Brian, Dan and Darin for their prepared participation. The conversation was about our current meaning of academic freedom and free speech and how do we navigate these very choppy waters. They also had a conversation about the upcoming symposium “Zebulon Vance Revisited” where we discussed how to have uncomfortable, important conversations in these challenging times.

Recent changes / proposals from downstate:

- Reduction of the size of the Board of Governors – a smaller board may mean opportunities for coalition formations
- Formation of a Free Speech Board where 11 members of the 25-member Board of Governors are to be appointed to serve
- Funding Formula Task Force – The Chair of our Board of Trustees, Kennon Briggs, will serve on this task force, which is excellent for us

When UNC Asheville hosted the Board of Governors this summer, the board was enthusiastic about who we are, what we do, and how we do it. With many good and challenging things to keep our eye on in the coming year, it is so important to keep doing our work well.

Thank you for all the good work you are doing. The work is only made possible because of all of you around this table and your colleagues, staff and faculty. It takes everyone on this campus to do the things we are doing. Chancellor Grant truly appreciates the work that everyone is doing. She has told both the Board of Trustees and our Board of Governors representatives that our faculty at UNCA have the heaviest teaching load in the system. In addition to the courses you teach, the scholarship you do you return that back to the students.

As the Faculty Senate Chair for the past two years, Dr. Brian Butler added that he has seen Chancellor Grant bring faculty into rooms where they weren’t before. Dr. Butler wanted to thank Chancellor Grant for that.

Dr. Stratton thanked Chancellor Grant for her welcome and looks forward to working with her this academic year.

III. Election to fill a Senate seat vacancy from among the alternates

Dr. Stratton began by officially entering into the minutes the results of the summer elections that Faculty Senate had to fill a vacancy. Dr. Stratton thanked Lisa for her extra work this summer to facilitate this. Kathie Garbe who had to go on leave resigned this summer, which created two vacancies. Laura Bond was elected from among the alternates to the vacant IDC seat, and Brian Butler was elected to be the IDC Chair for 2017-18.

We now have an additional vacancy for Sarah Judson is on leave this fall. We have two alternates remaining: Kevin Moorhead and Melissa Smith. Kevin has indicated that he is unable to attend Senate meetings this fall save one due to his teaching schedule. In light of the

circumstances, Dr. Marietta Cameron made a motion that Faculty Senate seat Dr. Melissa Smith by acclimation to complete Dr. Judson's term. The motion was seconded.

The motion passed without dissent.

IV. Approval of the Minutes and the Standing Rules and Rules of Order for 2017-2018:

[May 4, 2017 3:15 p.m. - Last meeting of 2016-2017 Faculty Senate](#)

[May 4, 2017 5:25 p.m. - First meeting of the 2017-2018 Faculty Senate](#)

A motion was made to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded.

The minutes were approved without dissent.

[The Standing Rules and Rules of Order – 2017-2018](#)

Nancy Ruppert made a motion to accept the Standing Rules and Rules of Order for 2017-18. The motion was seconded.

Dr. Stratton asked Dr. Marietta Cameron, APC Chair, to explain the proposed highlighted changes made by APC.

Under the requirement for two readings on all matters of policy, a decision summary will be attached to proposals as well as any statements of dissent. There were concern from Dr. Cameron and the FWDC Chair Dr. Lyndi Hewitt about not having context on discussions. Dr. Cameron had an additional concern that for historical purposes there is a lack of content from the subcommittees about their decisions. In order to have this information available, each subcommittee's decision will have this summary so faculty understand that the decisions made by the subcommittees and Faculty Senate are intentional and thoughtfully considered.

Under the APC Policy Duties, since the LAC and the LACC have been created and implemented, APC adjusted the wording in the Standing Rules to reflect the current duty of review by APC.

Questions:

Dr. Samer Traboulsi asked about the suggestion that was made at the last Senate meeting for Senate to discuss proposals at first reading. Dr. Cameron said that Dr. Hewitt made that suggestion. Dr. Cameron had concerns with removing an established rule. Also, Dr. Cameron felt Senate is not ready to discuss proposals that they have only received the week before so she believes the two reading rule is a good rule to allow each Senator the opportunity to read the proposals and form their own viewpoint before Senate has a discussion.

Dr. Traboulsi suggested having three readings: the first reading with no comment, the second reading with discussion and the vote takes place at the third reading. Dr. Stratton said that was a good question to ask though he has concerns that the business of Senate would be substantially delayed impacting academic policy matters that need timely processing. He is not sure how the Comer Rule would work in that situation also.

Dr. Lora Holland wondered if the solution is to have an electronic discussion up to Second Reading.

Dr. Laura Bond said subcommittee chairs have always encouraged questions to be sent to them so the subcommittee can address them before second reading. Also, Moodle

boards have been set up for larger issues like when we were developing the LAC. When the proposal is large, documents have been tabled to the next meeting to allow further discussion. Dr. Bond said her point is that it doesn't necessarily have to be in the standing rules, but there are means within our current process to handle these issues.

Dr. Stratton added that Senate controls the order of business. If anyone feels documents require more time, each senator has a right to make the case by making a motion to table as well as reach out to subcommittee chairs and faculty to gain clarification.

Dr. Cameron recommends each subcommittee chair appoints who is the scribe for each decision summary.

Dr. Stratton acknowledged Dr. Hewitt and Dr. Cameron for their creativity in resolving this.

Dr. Lora Holland made a suggestion to add "to First Reading" after the word "attached" to make it clear when the decision summary is due. Dr. Stratton accepted the friendly amendment.

The Standing Rules and Rules of Order for 2017-18 passed without dissent.

V. Executive Committee Report:

Dr. Micheal Stratton

Dr. Stratton welcomed everyone to a new academic year. In talking with peers in other institutions about our Faculty Senate, these colleagues relayed what a privilege we have to meet and have conversations that affect policy. Dr. Stratton is excited to work with everyone this year.

Dr. Stratton gave an overview of the variety of issues that the Executive Committee (which is made up of the Senate Chair, Senate subcommittee chairs and the Provost, ex-officio) will be prioritizing for 2017-18:

- Academic Rigor and Student Success
- Faculty voice in Budget and Financial matters
- Organizational Structure of Academic Affairs
- Student Rating of Instruction (an instrument is in the pilot phase)
- Summer Teaching and Courses

[Resolution coming before the Board of Governors in September](#)

[Chapel Hill's Resolution and consideration of supporting resolution](#)

The Sense of the Senate is asking to support Chapel Hill's resolution urging the Board of Governors members to vote no to barring UNC Centers and Institutes from Engaging in Legal Actions. The Chair of the Faculty Assembly asked the 17 institutions to indicate by today whether they support Chapel Hill's resolution. The UNC Asheville Executive Committee is unanimous in support and now the Faculty Senate has the opportunity to voice any concerns.

Dr. Holland made the motion to approve the Sense of the Senate which was seconded. The Sense of the Senate ([SSR0117F](#)) passed without dissent.

Dr. Stratton will notify the Faculty Assembly Chair that UNC Asheville supports Chapel Hill's resolution.

Student Government:

President Tim Hussey

SGA President Tim Hussey thanks faculty for the work they do on behalf of students. SGA's first meeting for the academic year was last night where they approved internal work like the executive appointments and the budget.

SGA is also in the middle of freshman elections.

As part of Constitution Week, SGA will be hosting a city council forum on September 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Highsmith Grotto. SGA is also launching a new program series called the Student Experience Series. Last year, SGA had a panel for faculty and staff hear the experiences of students of color in the classroom. President Hussey is expanding on this by reaching out to more groups on campus – athletes, multicultural students, and transfer students to create a space for them to talk about their experience being a part of those groups on campus, experiences both inside and outside the classroom.

President Hussey has created a General Assembly to SGA, which is a group of students he will rely on for programming and quick student responses to issues. He realized that students who do not win elections still want an outlet to be involved in Student Government. This assembly is also for students who do not wish to run for office, but they wish to be more involved in student governance. Currently on a trial basis, if successful, there are hopes to set this up permanently.

President Hussey has a class during Faculty Senate meetings this semester so Austin Dowdy, Executive of Academic Affairs, will be the SGA representative giving reports to Faculty Senate this fall.

Dr. Stratton told President Hussey if there is anything that Faculty Senate can do to help work with SGA just let us know.

Staff Council:

Chair Josh Cavanaugh

Staff Council has not met yet this semester. Their first meeting is planned for the middle of September.

In April, Staff Council sponsored a Staff Forum to gather data on many staff issues. They received great feedback from staff regarding what they love about working at UNCA as well as staff issues. Staff Council will use this dataset to plan projects.

The Chancellor has charged the Staff Council with brainstorming initiatives to resolve email communication issues and starting a mentorship program for staff.

Since we all are employees of the university, it is important that Staff Council and Faculty Senate collaborate on initiatives that concern the entire employee base.

Faculty Assembly:

Dr. Lothar Dohse

The Faculty Assembly's first meeting is in two weeks.

VI. Academic Policies Committee Report:

Dr. Marietta Cameron

[APC](#) met on August 24 to work on their annual [memorandum regarding procedures and guidelines](#), which they hope to distribute soon.

VII. Faculty Welfare and Development Committee Report: Senior Lecturer Judith Beck

Judith Beck filled in for FWDC Chair Lyndi Hewitt. FWDC met last Thursday to set the agenda of which proposals to consider during the Fall 2017 semester:

- Give support to the new Ombuds Team
- Childcare needs (not a promise to provide childcare on campus)
- Procedure to select a Diversity Intensive Coordinator and Committee

Professor Beck invites faculty to let any [FWDC member know](#) about concerns they would like FWDC to address.

VIII. Institutional Development Committee / UPC Reports: Dr. Brian Butler

IDC has not met yet, but will meet in September. Perceived IDC tasks for the year are the following:

- Organizational Structure of Academic Affairs
- Evaluations for Supervisors, Program Directors and Deans
- Master Plan

As has been said, if there are concerns that you wish IDC to address, contact Brian or an [IDC member](#).

IX. Administration/Academic Affairs: Provost Joseph Urgo

Items that are on the Academic Affairs list currently:

- Master planning where one of the primary challenges will be the plans for the 525 Broadway property
- Dean Keith Krumpe will be stepping down at the end of the fall semester and will be working out of Facilities Management for the next year and a half before returning to a faculty position – he will be managing all the space projects we have like those in Owen and Carmicheal – Keith is very talented in this area
- Clarification of the state-funded EHRA and Faculty Raise Pool this year – the university will receive \$1,000.00 for each faculty and EHRA position that will go into a salary pool to be administered on a merit basis – without the pool, we might not have been able to give merit raises this year

Items that are on the Provost's mind currently:

- The significant role that transfer students play in the life of this university where as much as half of the graduating class are transfer students – there are many curriculum matters we need to attend to and understand about their situation in order to make attending UNC Asheville less prohibitive for transfer students

- A University Studies major that allow students to graduate without a major while not watering down academic standards – the purpose is to improve student success for those who lack a couple of credits to graduate
- When planning campus events, we need to be cognizant of other concurrent events on the same day as well as having an awareness of the scrutiny from the outside world regarding our events
- When a department sponsors an event on campus, it is very important for that department to be involved in that event with department members attending the event

The Provost encourages faculty to attend the new faculty lecture series where three or four new faculty members are given 15 minutes each to share their research and creative activities. The first session is on September 8 at 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Stratton asked Provost Urgo to explain Pat McClellan's new role in Academic Affairs. Provost Urgo said that Pat McClellan, the Assistant Provost for Academic Administration, has been charged with figuring out the cost of delivering our curriculum including the amount of credit hours generated per department and how many faculty members it takes to deliver the curriculum. This will help us understand whether adjunct faculty use is appropriate or in excess. They are looking for places where departments are offering more electives than they need to deliver the curriculum. These are complex questions where you have to consider both the course content and the number of registered students.

X. Old Business

XI. New Business

Dr. Agya Boakye-Boaten brought up the issue regarding campus parking and the aggressive ticketing that is currently happening. Vice Chancellor Haggard said that it has been a difficult time trying to balance this situation. As challenging as parking is for faculty and staff, commuter students have the most challenges in finding parking on campus. The most aggressive ticketing at the first of the semester is ticketing students for parking in faculty/staff lots. Vice Chancellor Haggard said he is willing to look into this for Faculty Senate.

XII. Adjourn

Dr. Stratton adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.