

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

October 5, 2017; 3:15 pm

Red Oak Conference Room

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

Members Excused: A. Boakye-Boaten.

Visitors: J. Cavanaugh, L. Dohse, A. Dowdy, M. Galloway, M. Gass, B. Haggard, C. Han, L. Horgan, J. Konz, D. Luke, P. McClellan, J. Pierce, A. Shope, W. Strehl, D. Traywick, C. Williams.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes:

August 31, 2017 3:15 p.m.

The minutes were passed without dissent.

III. Executive Committee Report:

Dr. Micheal Stratton

A moment of silence was held for the Las Vegas shooting victims as well as for the victims of the recent, numerous natural disasters.

Dr. Stratton provided an update from the Executive Committee:

1. From a variety of discussions between the Executive Committee and the Administration regarding faculty participation in the budget process, the University Planning Committee (UPC), which includes the members of the Senate's Institutional Development Committee (IDC), will now have a role in the University Budget Process. The officers of the Executive Committee and the members of IDC favor not just transparency in having budget information shared, but actually, faculty members have the opportunity to ask questions as well as identify and communicate priorities from the faculty's perspective.
2. Dr. Stratton went to Chapel Hill to meet with other faculty senators. There is a wealth of experience there that Dr. Stratton feels comfortable reaching out to seek advice. Here are the items of business Dr. Stratton wanted to share with faculty:
 - a. The funding model for the UNC system schools is being evaluated, and we do not know yet what the result from this will be and its impact to the system schools.
 - b. The Board of Governors is engaging in a review of the General Administration (this is the UNC System President's branch of the UNC system governance). There are indications of potential restructuring and reorganization of the General Administration. Faculty Assembly wants all faculty in the UNC system to be aware of this due to the potential repercussions this could have on our institutions.

- c. One of the most interesting things Dr. Stratton learned is the many forms that shared governance has taken in the UNC system schools. Schools have implemented shared governance in a variety of different ways especially in the roles of Faculty Senate Chairs, the terms of service, and the role of Staff Assembly (if it exists). Some institutions have the Senate Chair and the Student Government Association representatives on their Board of Trustees as ex-officio members. It is fascinating how each institution is different, and to learn about these models would be quite beneficial to us as a helpful resource.
3. The Faculty Senate and the Student Government have an opportunity to gather and engage on November 9 in the noon hour. Dr. Stratton met with SGA President Tim Hussey and Executive Officer Austin Dowdy. This is an opportunity to learn how their body works and to hear their interests and agendas. It would be great to work with our students on matters where our interests and agendas align. There may be a similar gathering with the Staff Assembly leadership.
4. [EC Resolution 2](#): Sense of the Senate Supporting Faculty Assembly's DACA Resolution

Dr. Stratton is not sure how many institutions have approved this resolution, but he felt this was an excellent opportunity to go on record in support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. A motion was made to approve, which was seconded.

Passed without dissent and is SSR0217F.

Student Government:

Austin Dowdy

Austin Dowdy is the Executive of Academic Affairs for SGA.

Current SGA Initiatives:

1. On the American Sign Language Initiative, SGA is working in collaboration with the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures as well as with the Office of Academic Accessibility. They hope to pass a bill through SGA regarding making American Sign Language a second language option. Once passed, they will then bring the bill to Faculty Senate.
2. The next First Student Experience Panel will be on Thursday, October 12 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Highsmith 104. The Student Experience Series has been panels of students from different populations sharing their experiences. The October 12th panel will be student athletes sharing their experiences.
3. SGA has been working with Dr. Urgo regarding the Student Decree on Diversity and Inclusion. This initiative is being led by President Tim Hussey and the Executive of Diversity Initiatives Michael Davis. The main initiative of focus is the retention of faculty of color. Dr. Cameron suggested that SGA include faculty of color in this initiative.
4. BRAVE is a collaboration between SGA and the Diversity Cultural Center. From October 16-20, there will be programming events that support Helpmate, an agency that provides services to victims of domestic violence in Buncombe County. Contact SGA if you are interested in donating.
5. The Faculty Senate/SGA mixer will be held on November 9 from noon to 1:00 p.m. More details are forthcoming on the location and the agenda.

Staff Council:

Chair Josh Cavanaugh

Staff Council had their first meeting on September 13. Their first meeting focused on where we are, establishing committees and approving the bylaws.

On the first week of November (Tuesday, November 7), Staff Council will be partnering with Human Resources to co-sponsor a campus-wide photograph. The event will occur on the Quad. Staff Council would like this to become an annual event for the university so when we turn 100 we will have 9 practice runs before taking that significant picture. They hope to gather at least 1,000 staff, students and faculty for this picture.

On November 8, they will host a table to write letters to soldiers to go in the care packages that Staff Council are making.

The third initiative for the first week of November is Rocky's Community Challenge, which is a food drive for the hurricane natural disaster victims.

On the second week of November, Staff Council will be holding the Second Annual Staff Forum that they would like to invite faculty to attend as well. This forum is held in an open town hall style meeting where information is shared.

Staff Council looks forward to partnering with Faculty Senate in the coming year.

Faculty Assembly:

Dr. Lothar Dohse

Dr. Dohse went over the items of business from Faculty Assembly's last meeting:

1. DACA Resolution, which was previously mentioned.
2. Concern for the restructuring of the GA. What does this mean? They do not know except it implies fewer people. Cutting positions means cutting services. The General Administration does do a lot for the UNC system schools in terms of lobbying on our behalf in the legislature as well as provide leadership and outreach in many areas.
3. The Board of Governors is thinking about moving GA to Raleigh.
4. There was a discussion on the new UNC system funding model. From Dr. Dohse's point of view, the new model looks similar to the old model where the number of new students dictates how many positions. These numbers may be different due to the major and the type of degree the student is seeking. An example, Dr. Dohse noticed that a mathematics B.S. degree requires 700 hours per new position. Implementing a policy like this would mean we would have to expand all our math courses to have 30 students in each class to sustain such a system. Thus, Dr. Dohse is not comfortable with this new model.
5. The Board of Governors President's focus this year on accountability and assessment is worrisome as well as another BOG members' comments regarding research. These topics have raised eyebrows among the faculty of the larger universities.
6. Dr. Dohse is serving again on the Faculty Assembly Executive Committee.

IV. Academic Policies Committee Report: Dr. Marietta Cameron

APC has met once since the last Senate meeting. Dr. Cameron reminded everyone that APC proposals are due October 16 to Alicia Shope. The reason APC has only met once is they have not had documents to consider.

At the meeting, APC discussed the writing competency with invited guests: Dee James, Patrick Bahls, Jessica Pisano, Deaver Traywick, and Amanda Werts. The discussion centered on how the writing competency is being implemented within the departments. APC also wants to have a similar discussion regarding the information literacy competency as well.

These discussions arose from concern that the past two APC chairs - Marietta Cameron and Chris Bell - have expressed over where the writing and information literacy competencies fits within our university. Are they institutional or departmental competencies? Clarification is needed regarding the Writing Program Administrator's role as well as the roles of the Writing and Information Literacy Competency Coordinators. What is the nature of the departmental responsibility for instruction and assessment? If this is an institutional value, we need to clarify these concerns for our students as well as for the departments. If this isn't an institutional value, then we need to remove these out of the catalog and let the departments decide at their will what they are going to do in terms of writing competency and information literacy.

V. Faculty Welfare and Development Committee Report: Dr. Lyndi Hewitt

***First Reading**

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|------------------------|--|
| FWDC 1 | Selection of Curriculum Coordinators |
| FWDC 2 | Creating a Diversity Intensive Committee |

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

The two documents up for first reading are hold overs from last spring. One codifies the process for selecting the Diversity Intensive (DI) Coordinator and the First-Year Colloquium Coordinator. The current coordinators will fill out their existing terms before this process is used for selecting new coordinators. As it turns out, within the year the Diversity Intensive Coordinator position will need to be filled to begin service at the beginning of the new academic year 2018-19. A call will go out for nominations soon.

The other document creates a Diversity Intensive Standing Committee. This is not creating a new committee for this committee does exist as an ad hoc committee. This document makes sure this committee is adequately staffed and has appropriate representation from the three divisions.

The big issues before FWDC currently are:

1. Continuity in Senate in particular the term of the Senate Chair.
2. Specifying the terms under which the Senators may return to the Senate after a leave.

To implement approved resolutions of these issues will require a constitutional amendment to go out to the faculty-at-large for approval.

The last work before them is promoting transparency and good communication between faculty and the IT Department. Dr. Hewitt is asking faculty to share with her their

specific concerns regarding administration of IT privileges. Dr. Stratton suggested that FWDC consult with AAUP on this work.

They are also working on clarifying Faculty Evaluation language and responding to concerns regarding the Faculty Conciliator Role and the membership of the Academic Appeals Board.

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

IDC has met once, twice counting the meeting with UPC.

IDC is in the data gathering phase on all of their work:

1. MLAS proposal for a dual degree program involves discussion of the larger topic of Master Programs on our campus
2. Joint Health Program with UNC Chapel Hill involving the larger discussion concerning joint programs at UNC Asheville
3. Online courses policies
4. Academic Affairs and University Structure
5. From downstate, the recognition that faculty and upper administration are evaluated constantly. However, mid-level administration does not get evaluated much at all. This is a UNC system problem experienced by many institutions.

UPC met once regarding how to assess the strategic plan which will become the master plan. Dr. Butler likes the idea that the strategic plan is our plan rather than not just “Mary’s plan,” therefore justifying the creation of the master plan from the strategic plan. The master plan work will continue at this time and be an 18-month process, which will be a way to transition between administrations and create some continuity.

Dr. Butler also relayed that transparency is happening and there was a report on the budget at the UPC meeting with a willingness for this to continue. Vice Chancellor Pierce anticipates going forward that UPC can be a forum for discussion and sharing of ideas. This past meeting was just a first step where he presented in a brief period of time the revenues and spending.

VII. Administration/Academic Affairs: Provost Joseph Urgo

Provost Urgo informed Faculty Senate that Associate Provost Ed Katz will be out for the remainder of the semester. The Associate Provost’s on-campus reporting structures have been distributed to the other deans so that business is continued.

Regarding the Chancellor Search, Provost Urgo relayed that it is wise that the Board of Trustees will include as part of the information that candidates receive the UNCA strategic plan so potential candidates are aware of who we are and the direction we have set for the institution. The new chancellor will have an opportunity to influence the master plan. We have a much stronger sense of direction now than we had three years ago.

Provost Urgo wanted to congratulate Dr. Brian Butler on the achievement of the annual [ReVIEWING Black Mountain College International Conference](#).

Our retention has taken a slight dip in freshmen to sophomore enrollment from 77% to 75% which is around a 20 student difference. Although the numbers are small, we are looking at analytics to figure out how that happened for this is not the direction we wish to go.

There is a lot of work going into parking on this campus, and Provost Urgo thanked Vice Chancellor Haggard for responding immediately to Senate’s concerns shared at the last

meeting. He wanted to assure us that Chief Boyce and VC Haggard are working to maximize the spaces available for faculty as well as commuter students who face the most challenges on campus in regards to parking during this time of multiple campus construction projects.

This is the first semester that Academic Alerts are required for 100 level courses. Given the retention we just talked about, there is even more reason for this program. Mr. Traywick said he hopes this system alerts us to the struggles students are facing sooner. Dr. Holland asked Mr. Traywick if the purpose is for faculty to make first contact or for his office to make first contact. Mr. Traywick said the first step is students fill out a Google form and then they contact the students. However, we are talking about 6,600 alerts for all 100 level classes which is a considerable workload.

In this system, we have placed more responsibility on the student to respond. His office only intervenes when students do not take the initiative. If advisors want to communicate with students, that is all the better. Dr. Holland has concerns that putting all this work into the alerts does not help if there is not follow through. There is follow through, and right now, students who do not respond will have their account and registration put on hold until they respond. Academic progress correspondence only goes to those with negative progress. The student's OneStop advisor and instructor receive the student's response. Dr. Holland, Dr. Hewitt, and Dr. Cameron expressed concern that the academic advisor is not included when students have multiple alerts. They feel that academic advisors need to be included for students receiving multiple alerts.

Another concern is the removal of signatures from withdrawal forms. Many faculty wished they had an opportunity to speak with students before they drop the course. The Registrar's Office will look into accepting electronic signatures and putting the instructor, who knows the students current status in the course, back on the withdrawal form to afford faculty this opportunity. Dr. Stratton suggested that APC handles this before it returns to Senate for consideration.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

X. Dr. Stratton adjourned at 3:55 p.m. for five minutes and then reconvened the Faculty Senate for the Special Session.