

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE  
**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**  
March 27, 2020; 1:00pm - 3:00pm  
Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present: M. Cameron, S. DiPalma, P. Bahls, A. Rote, J. Brock, J. Butera, S. Clark, D. Clarke, R. Criser, V. Frank, C. Kennedy, T. King, M. McClure, A. Moraguez, C. Oakley, J. Pisano, T. Ruffin, A. Wray; G. Campbell.

Visitors: N. Cable, C. Anderson, C. Augustyniak, L. Bond, S. Broberg, C. Burrell, B. Butler, A. Cosette, J. Cutspec, D. Diefenbach, A. Dunn, D. Eggers, S. Earle, I. Green, B. Haggard, B. Hart, G. Heard, M. Himelein, L. Horgan, S. Kaplan, J. Konz, L. Linton, B. McNamee, A. Maxwell, S. O'Brien, J. Perry, B. Petitfils, S. Plever, S. Purdy, J. Rhode Ward, A.M. Roberts, N. Ruppert, A. Shope, M. Sidelnick, S. Smith, E. Spence, W. Strehl, V. Tezzon, D. Traywick, L. Ward, A. Wolfe.

I. Call to Order/Explanation of Virtual Meeting Logistic

Marietta Cameron opened the meeting at 1:03 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing.

II. Chancellor Nancy Cable / Provost Garikai Campbell

Chancellor Nancy Cable began by thanking Marietta and the Executive Committee for what must be an historic meeting here virtually and she gave thanks for the extra effort to pull us together at this important time to address these key issues with our shared governance commitment. She also thanked the all faculty for all the work done within the last two weeks. It has been like making the railroad cars as we are going down the track, but she is proud of the work that has been done. This is clearly a new paradigm for our work that our hope is to take the best ideas and continue, but as soon as possible, get back to in class instruction although the timing is uncertain for our return to "normal," but with predictions that this may take between 4 and 20 weeks, it is the uncertainty that we have to live with at this point. City leaders are hoping that we will be through the worst toward the end of April, but no one knows for sure, and so she is grateful for the faculty's patience. There are lots of conversations about the effects this crisis will have on higher education - both short term and long term on our curriculum and pedagogy. After getting through this adjustment period of the "new normal" behind us,,she looks forward to having some of those conversations. Obviously, this is a very serious financial crisis for all colleges and universities, but also for us. As you know, the federal government has passed a very large omnibus bill in support of students, faculty and staff in all forms of higher education. We will certainly get some portion of that. She also wanted to commend Provost Kai Campbell. From very early in the morning to way through the night, Provost Campbell has been working very hard to lead us through academic issues in the best interests of our faculty and students. Again, she is grateful for everyone's hard work.

Marietta Cameron thanked Chancellor Cable for her video message that went out this morning that she hopes everyone will have an opportunity to view because she found it very uplifting and reflective of the type of community and campus we are.

Provost Kai Campbell echoed his appreciation for the work that committees are doing on top of all their teaching responsibilities. This is such a new mode of operation, and he is very appreciative of everyone's willingness to step up and do this work. He knows how hard everyone, faculty and staff, is working to do what is necessary to make this work for our students and for each other.

Marietta Cameron thanked Chancellor Cable and Provost Cable for their comments. She expressed her appreciation for both of them because she sees the emails sent before five o'clock as well as in the late evenings. I also want to thank Lisa Sellers and my colleagues on the Executive Committee for in addition to getting our remote instruction online they also come to Zoom meetings that go very late and she thanks all Senators for putting in the efforts to review these temporary policies.

III. Executive Committee:

Senate Chair Marietta Cameron  
Senate 1st Vice Chair Sonya DiPalma  
Senate 2nd Vice Chair Patrick Bahls  
Senate 3rd Vice Chair Aubri Rote

A. Updates from EC

- [Provost Campbell's email to Chairs](#)
- [Course Withdrawal and Grade Replacement Policy from UNC System](#)
- [Sense of the Senate](#)

Marietta Cameron opened the discussion by emphasizing these are temporary policies relayed in email from Provost Campbell's email to the Chairs. She also highlighted that while the email came from our provost, and was signed by our provost, where he says he has worked with and has received feedback from multiple sources. The Provost has consulted in many, many different areas on the campus and many different constituencies on the campus and received feedback, which many ideas were incorporated. The Senate Chair proposed that the discussion is conducted taking questions by each of the sections in order they appear.

FERPA and Boundaries. Marietta Cameron made several calls for questions from Senators, faculty and others in attendance for questions and discussion. No questions were asked and no discussion points offered.

Student Alerts. Marietta Cameron pointed out the two new alert codes that have come into the system and relayed the criteria for using those alerts in the email. No questions were asked and no discussion points offered.

Withdrawals and Attrition. Jake Butera asked a quick question about the last paragraph of the withdrawal section, which is talking about students that may be considering withdrawing. There is a bit that says, "we hope that if you encounter students who look to be withdrawing *from the institution* and have information about the reasons they are leaving, you will share with us those reasons using the [Faculty Feedback: Advising, 2020](#) Google Form." Jake Butera asked if that is at all in violation of any FERPA rules if they are sharing that information and any background towards their decision to withdraw and perhaps we should not necessarily be sharing openly or publicly.

Provost Kai Campbell relayed that faculty are permitted to share that information with administrators for whom it is important to know that so there are no FERPA violations although faculty should not share that with faculty colleagues.

Marietta Cameron relayed that faculty have been asked in the past to share with our administrative colleagues concerning students that are intending to withdraw to gather data concerning retention. She does not see that this is anything new in terms of that particular line about getting that type of feedback.

Grades. Marietta Cameron asked faculty to note that students will have the option of either accepting a W or S\* for satisfaction in place of the letter grade. Faculty will submit grades as usual by May 8, and students will have the option of withdrawing or accepting the grade of W or replacing the letter grade with S\*. Students will have until May 22 to make their decisions through the Registrar's Office. Notice that although it is not being factored into the GPA, the grade of S\* will count towards the credit hours in terms of the curricular major, minor and graduation requirements.

Tiece Ruffin asked whether we addressed the issue for students that must earn a C or better in a class? Her EDUC 346 students must earn a C or better and some faculty had questions of how the W and S\* grade applied to those grades for that could help or hurt the students.

Provost Campbell replied that as it stands right now for all others other than third party licensure that this S grade be allowed to stand. In the case of instances where we really do feel there is a third party issue, we have to counsel students that they simply should not take that designation and they will need to take the C or better since that S designation will not count for that particular opportunity. I was thinking that we want to basically say they have this deadline of May 22 to turn a grade into a S designation, but we have to leave open the opportunity for students to unhide the S and turn it back into a grade later for this possible reason. As an example, a student at this moment may take the S designation and then two years later may want to get their teacher licensure. They earned a C or B in the course but had it hidden. Now they need it in order to get that licensure. The ability to unhide the grade and reveal the grade will be important and that is done on a case by case instance though those would be small numbers he believes. Aside from those third party licensure issues that we cannot control, I would ask that we have this designation stand for all our recommendations and all our requirements.

One of Provost Campbell's concerns is telling the difference between a student who winds up earning a D and whether they would have been able to pull out a C under normal circumstances. We do know that students may be at greater risk of being on this cusp or having difficulty transitioning. They may be in an environment where it is very difficult to concentrate for many distractions and they do not have a place to isolate themselves to work or online learning may not be the optimal way for that student. There are many possible issues for students that he worries whether a student given a D could have gotten that C. We are trying to accommodate and be humane about this very difficult situation. He would like to ask that this grade of S be allowed to stand for D or better and that the S be allowed to stand in for all requirements. We looked at some data around this in regards to one class in particular: LANG 120. The number of students who are in the D range turned out to be between 2% and 5% over the last five years so we are talking about a very small number of students if the same distribution were to occur. We think that we can shift to an advising intensive mode of

engaging those students and counsel them about the implications and impact for them moving forward if they really do feel that they have not been successful enough in that course. As far as seniors, we are simply accommodating that in large part going back to the argument of not really being able to know the difference between the person who earns a D now who could have earned a C under normal circumstances.

Sonya DiPalma added that APC yesterday reviewed this and was supportive. We see this as being the best given the circumstances. We have so many individual cases of students who may have spotty Internet connections. She knows personally a student who does not have an internet connection, and they meet by telephone, which has been a good compromise for now. In regards to the Provost talking about revealing the grade later, she thinks that is probably a good idea. She asked if other APC committee members would like to weigh in on what Provost Campbell proposed since we did not drill down to that level on the reveal of grades. We were trying to be broad in scope because we have so many case by case decisions to make with regards to this.

Laura Bond asked whether the grade choices made by students be kept confidential between the students and the Registrar's office. She believes there are many faculty that are uncomfortable with this transition to online teaching. This happened so suddenly and everyone is doing the best they can. She understands we are putting a lot of focus on compassion for our students and our staff situations that she just wanted to make sure that we are also addressing compassion for our faculty, and making sure that as we address concerns for our students, we are addressing concerns in protecting our faculty to just to make sure that any kind of data collection due to these decisions reflect poorly in any way on faculty because historically we have had data collection. After a semester is over, there has been a reporting out on grades and the numbers of A's, B's and C's in different divisions and departments, and she would not want to see that kind of reporting coming out with these kinds of decisions in this time and in this kind of climate. Perhaps an agreement of keeping student's choice confidential in some way within the Registrar's Office might also be a vote of confidence too to help faculty feel more comfortable with this situation as well.

Marietta Cameron brought up that advisors can see transcripts and may be able to see the grade if a student received a grade of D for a C-wall class. According to the policy, S\* grade allows them to process on but this could cause complications when the advisor sees the transcript.

Lynne Horgan relayed that the transcript will not display the original grade. In the Registrar's Office, we will have it on Banner in the student records that we could pull out for any major who might want to know. We are going to give that to you whether you ask for it or not for anybody who did not make that C-wall so that you know who those students are and can support them in progressing onward. On the transcript, that grade would not appear so as an advisor, faculty would not be able to see what the S equaled.

Mark McClure relayed he thinks that Laura Bond's point is that the \*decision\* should be confidential so that does not impact the instructor's grade assignment. It might not matter if faculty can see the grade on the transcript later. He understood Laura to be saying that the decision should be confidential, so that it would not impact the instructor's decision on making the grade. He understood your point, Marietta Cameron, but he feels like it might be mute. Perhaps you can see the student's transcript later, but by that point, faculty have already made their decision. In his opinion, Laura Bond's suggestion was good.

Lynne Horgan asked to make one point about the concept of shared data. She wanted to be transparent that there is one data poll that the System Office does to our system. They have a direct connection to our system. They take a post grade snapshot that happens at the end of June that happens independently of us. The system office has a connection to every single campus' Banner system. They pull what they want at that time. She wanted that to be known.

Amanda Maxwell had some questions about grade replacements for students going to graduate school. Would a student be able to do a "grade replacement" for an S\* in the future? Would they have to accept the letter grade first (either now or in the future and therefore visible on their transcript) and then do the grade replacement? Would they only be able to do the grade replacement if the letter grade fits with our previous standard?

Provost Kai Campbell replied that if a student wants an S on their transcript, they have two weeks to decide that. That is the window to decide that. He is only proposing that if they ever find a need to uncover the actual grade that we have a process by which they can essentially petition to do that and there has to be some reason we do not have to. In this email, he does not think we have to outline all the possible reasons, but a group can decide when the grade can be uncovered. Teacher licensure and perhaps a medical school may want that grade uncovered. For reasons that are explained and valid to us, we should allow that.

Volker Frank shared that at the APC meeting yesterday Dean Herman Holt brought up a really good point. His point was that regardless of how grades are determined now that due to all these complications and obstacles in the fall there could be a gap in terms of how well we were able this semester to deliver the curriculum. It is quite possible that in the fall semester we will discover our students' struggles. Herman Holt's point about being sensitive to what we did or could not do in the spring semester so to understand that will also affect the fall semester. Therefore, we may want to look at the early warning signals and so forth and be sensitive that there will be homework for us to do in the fall semester as a result of what is happening now.

Lynne Horgan added to address Amanda Maxwell's questions that this does need to be addressed by the Registrar's Office to get out details regarding repeated situations. They plan to have a frequently asked questions page for students that they will obviously share with all advisors and faculty. They need to work out some of it since there are complications since S has no GPA. She will get those details worked out as soon as she can.

George Heard asked whether it is possible that W grades for this semester not count towards the maximum number of withdrawal hours permitted.

Marietta Cameron replied that by directive of the UNC system, these Ws will not count against the limit.

Scholarship and Other Work. No questions were asked and no discussion points offered.

Reappointment, Tenure and Promotion. Ashley Moraguez appreciates the time to delay by a year. She thinks it is very proactive and very much appreciated. She did have a question for those who might choose not to pursue the extra year because as currently framed in the email, she believes you have to opt out of the extra year as opposed to opting in. She was wondering if this was written to be a suggestion that people should take an extra year and are any implications for those who want to go up on time in the scrutiny they may face for doing so or anything along those lines that should be thought through before faculty make their decisions.

Provost Campbell replied there is a little bit of flipping the coin and they chose the way

that made the most sense. Originally, they discussed this and thought that maybe only the faculty who are going up next year should have even this option and may have been what was articulated in the very first draft of this that went to the chairs and the program directors on Monday. After some discussion and follow ups among the chair in division meetings, there was some feeling that if this continues through the summer that could be a disruption with travel cancellations for upcoming research opportunities for those going up two years from now as well. Therefore, they migrated to a broader application of this. In the CAOs call this morning, there seems to be fairly consistent support for those coming up next year. It is very varied when applied across other years and most are going with an opt in. He would be happy to change it back to opt in for there is not anything implied in the option.

Ashley Moraguez replied that she just wanted to make sure there was not a suggestion embedded in that otherwise she is okay with the wording.

Marietta Cameron asked to verify whether Provost Campbell was changing the opt out to opt in or leaving the language as it currently is. Since there will be a vote at the end of the meeting on this as a Sense of the Senate, the Senate Chair wants to make sure she has the needed edits.

Provost Campbell replied he is happy to hear from this body the way you feel makes the most sense. From the CAOs meeting, he learned one of the reasons for an opt in was that they had processes for asking for an extension under extenuating circumstances. Their consideration of the opt out is they do consider this to be an extenuating circumstance essentially giving notification that all those who apply will get the extension. He is fine either way. The reason for the opt out for him was to make it clear that there will be no judgment on whether or not faculty get it, it is yours to take. As long as we say that in some way, he is fine with either option. He wants to avoid someone later questioning whether a faculty member has this option and not allowing them that option that we granted at this moment.

Ann Dunn asked whether this applied to lecturers whose contract is up next year.

Provost Campbell said this was a great question. They have not evaluated that yet, but he is happy to take that on and see what makes sense in that context.

Jessica Pisano also added that the process be thought through for lecturers who are working for a senior lecturer position next year. There are a number of faculty who are in that situation..

Provost Campbell replied that he will take that and come back with a proposal at a later date.

Post Tenure Review. Tiece Ruffin asked if the timeline is the same for post tenure review. Her understanding from previous emails is the timeline is the same.

Provost Campbell said the idea there would essentially be the ability to postpone the process to start in January so that is not a full year, but at least one semester. Therefore, there is an opportunity to extend the due date of the materials on September 20. Faculty would have the opportunity to extend the date to submit their materials until January 21 and the process would continue as usual the next year. The hope is that for most faculty the stakes are not the same as those going up for tenure for the first time.

SFIs. Laura Bond appreciates the opportunity to have feedback from the students going directly to the faculty and not being shared with department chairs and program directors, etc. However, she does see there is a note that says that the data would be collected by IREP and then sent to the administration. Her question is whether the summary data that is prepared by

IREP to the Provost promise to have individual faculty names taken off so that it also remains private between the students and the faculty keeping in the spirit of that promise area as well.

Provost Kai Campbell replied that was the intent of that last line, "IREP will aggregate and provide summary data to the Provost expressly for the purposes of helping the institution as a whole learn and grow from this moment. At no point will IREP share course level or instructor level data." That does include names. The hope is for IREP to give aggregate data. I would be happy for a faculty committee or a subset of a committee (perhaps FWDC) to look at that aggregate data before it is forwarded to him from IREP. He welcomes that. He does not want to lose the ability to understand about this moment at an institutional level. He believes that is important.

Susan Clark wondered if there is a potential opt in option for the SFIs similar to the timeline on faculty's promotion and tenure decisions. Ideally, all of us are intrinsically motivated, but with emphasis on extrinsic factors like SFIs and so forth. Is it possible to submit that as one's record, even if that information is only going to the faculty

Provost Campbell believes that they could do this for faculty who really feel like they knocked it out of the park and had a great year where their SFIs are so wonderful that they want them included in their record. He would turn it back over to the SFI Implementation Committee to act as a balance to his thinking about this. There would not be a way to opt out of doing the feedback at all.

Aubri Rote sat on the SFI committee meeting and as well they talked about this at FWDC. Seconding what the Provost said, FWDC had a long discussion about wanting to protect folks who do not want their information viewed during this strange time while not inadvertently hindering or penalizing anyone who might have had a great year or done very well. They can certainly talk about this in the SFI implementation group.

Melissa Himelein added that the SFI Implementation Committee will be meeting on Tuesday and that is certainly an item we can talk about.

Amanda Wolfe asked about upper levels who have only one section. There are many classes that only have one section. This is the same as any survey that is completed on campus where even if the name is blanked out, their identity is still known. How are single section courses included in aggregate data?

Melissa Himelein said her understanding is that it would be very broad and would not even be by department. She does not foresee an issue because she spoke with Amanda Bell this morning and she was clear that IREP would strip all names and identifying information from SFI data.

Tiece Ruffin wanted to be clear that we are only collecting data on online remote instruction.

Provost Kai Campbell they did consider trying to do a normal SFI for the first part and something different for the second half but the issue is that logistically it is very tough to pull that off. Also there was a strong mix of anxieties about doing a complicated SFI in this moment so we opted for trying to simplify things more. It was not about discounting the prior work, but rather trying to simplify and focus on what is happening now. This moment seems to call for something simple. He is open to an open-ended question about prior work. He opened the floor for comments from the other SFI Implementation Committee. They were trying to manage anxieties and challenges across the board as well as strike the right balance while not discounting the work.

Aubri Rote replied that SFI will ask for both

Melissa Himelein said that we are drafting a list of possible questions and some of these are being informed by what other campuses are choosing to do. We are then going to do a really quick poll midweek next week asking faculty to choose their favorite five and let democracy rule. Due to the late date, there will not be an option to add in specific questions. Of course, faculty are always encouraged to collect that kind of data themselves through a Google form where I know that many of you are doing reflection questions on a weekly basis. Everyone will have a chance to see (and vote on) possible questions next week!

Jessica Pisano added that she worries that students' recollections about what happened pre-COVID might still be influenced by what happened post-COVID.

Tiece Ruffin explained that she has paper copies of midterm feedback from my students and is grieving the loss to complete a pre and post comparison of the data from her midterm feedback form. It all changed and now she will only get feedback on my remote learning skills, but she understands.

Provost Campbell relayed to Tiece Ruffin that he believes they could find a way to incorporate her pre-midterm as well. However, he would say that he is not sure we can say, "let democracy rule." He would say let the votes strongly inform. There may be a question that we really think ought to ask even if it does not receive a majority vote.

Melissa Himelein said she is fine with that. There should be at least one and maybe multiple of these questions be qualitative. She believes a broadly worded qualitative question can get a lot of the feedback faculty are looking to receive.

Annual Reviews. Ashley Moraguez had a quick question about the logistics of how this would work. She knows we are thinking about trying the new online review, which I think sounds like a great opportunity. However, in terms of reporting service, scholarship or teaching, plans that we had in the works kind of fell through at the last minute.

Provost Campbell replied that how the questions are framed assumes normalcy and assumes that you actually had time to complete goals. FWDC has done a great amount of work looking at that form. Perhaps they could go back and see how it might be adapted for this moment.

Summer. Mark McClure asked if there is any thought to expanding the online pilot program.

Aubri Rote answered that it would be nice, but CTL is so slammed right now that she would hesitate to ask this of Laurie Miles and Anne Ogg. She would love CTL to be involved in some way though. They do have 3 faculty fellows, Melissa Himelein and herself to help. Perhaps they can make some summer workshops focused on this.

Provost Campbell said that they are really unsure what the summer is going to look like. Ideally, we can hold open the possibility of having face to face options as long as we possibly can. Currently, we do not have any mandate from the system that says we cannot have students back on campus. We are going to be guided by what is the primary benefit health and safety wise so we will want to play it by ear. His thinking is there should be online only options as well so that is a category of courses that he would say we are going to do. We are going to have some online only options. We knew that we were going to have some through the pilot this summer, but he is thinking more expansively than that so we have some online courses in case we do get a directive that we cannot do any in person courses. If it were possible to do face to face, we would do them face to face, and we would try to hold that option open as long



as we could until we had enough information about how things are panning out health and safety wise. He just worries about having a majority of courses be face to face without an online option leaving a number of students needing to figure something out at the last minute. He would like to avoid that, if possible.

Provost Campbell relayed this was definitely a topic in the system CAOs meeting this morning. One of the things that they were saying is we are doing this work of transitioning to online courses now not in the idyllic way. Due to the online pilot project, there was a structure to work from. However, for faculty to think deeply about pedagogical choices, the course design and all of that - that is what we would like in an ideal situation. All the CAOs on all the campuses agreed that the ideal situation takes resources to scale things to the appropriate size. We made that clear to the system office, and they heard it. Whether or not they have the ability to to expand the resources for this particular item is not yet clear to the provost. They have heard it unanimously from all of the campuses

Mark McClure asked what will be the mechanism for identifying the courses and kind of categories of the courses.

Provost Kai Campbell answered that to a large extent right now this is driven in a large part by the faculty's willingness to teach a course in one of those modes and have the willingness to convert modes if need be. He understands that the middle category of in person, if possible, with an online version backup is not an easy order. We do not have all the answers to how it is all going to work out and this is a big thing that we have to have to work through.

Sonya DiPalma brought up concerns from veterans about only online courses since veteran benefits cover only courses that are face to face.

Provost Kai Campbell said his understanding is that some of those rules were being relaxed, but he will investigate that.

Lynne Horgan said that they are going to continue the veterans benefits for this semester even though it went online. Regarding summer, the last she heard is they are still discussing and figuring out how to set forth the regulation for summer. Lynne will contact Amanda Deweese to get a more definitive answer for summer.

Marietta Cameron called attention that Patrick Bahls has provided [the link on continuance of GI Bill benefits for online courses](#)

Ashley Moraguez had a question about summer courses and advising. Currently, she is on the schedule to teach a maymeister and she has been handling a lot of questions from students asking if we are going online or not. It is a version of a class she currently teaches that she believes she could convert to an online course. If she would like to go online regardless of the situation, can she communicate that with students. They are asking about requesting financial aid and housing information as well as whether she could do it asynchronously. She is wondering if there are going to be any guidelines on that for summer courses.

Provost Kai Campbell replied to the first question. If willing to go online fully and just do a straight conversion, he would absolutely welcome that. Contact Lynne Horgan and go for it. Whether is is asynchronous that is up to the faculty member since there are course design and pedagogical decisions to make that are up to the faculty member as long we are careful and make sure that we are adhering to all of the guidelines such as SACS accreditation and the Department of Education..

Aubri Rote reemphasized the CTL is willing to help those who want to start thinking about how to structure classes in any way.

Caroline Kennedy asked about students who are seniors planning on taking summer courses that we typically offer. Given that we do not know which courses will be available nor whether we will have in person courses, she wondered if there has been some discussion about allowing students to possibly take online courses from other universities if we do not offer them here and waiving that rule of having to take the last three hours at UNCA.

Provost Kai Campbell believes that is worth our consideration. He asked to give them time to see what the offerings look like before making a decision.

#### Contingency Plans.

Marietta Cameron brought up what contingency plans look like if faculty cannot fulfill their work obligations. How does this work for faculty who have temporary situations where they have to care for a family member during this time and may not be able to fulfill their duties.

Provost Campbell responded that these situations are attributed to Human Resources-designated administrative leave that is associated with the type of situation. He believes that this question is best answered by Heather Parlier, Vice Chancellor of Human Resources. Every one of us here and every faculty member on the campus should absolutely feel the freedom to focus on these situations. The challenge is how to manage the coursework that is left behind. We need to think this through for he does not have all the answers. He does want to be proactive and implement prior to an event so we are not trying to plan while experiencing the situation for the first time when it happens.

Marietta Cameron wanted to add not only to think about the work that has to be continued but to think about ways that are compassionate to colleagues and students.

Academic Calendar and Commencement. Provost Campbell relayed the two things that students seem to be asking the most about are grades and commencement. For graduating seniors, some feel robbed of their opportunity to have their final moment at UNC Asheville. The administration is trying to figure out how to have a meaningful commencement that is at a moment that makes sense. A lot of different opinions were shared at the SGA meeting Tuesday night. In respect to commencement, there are feelings that if scheduled too late and too far away from the final moments of this semester, there is something anticlimactic about it and many may not be able to attend due to work or graduate school. One suggestion under consideration is to have commencement the week before the fall semester is due to start. Saturday, August 8 has been suggested. The thinking behind this is that the week before the semester is due to start would encourage faculty to be in attendance. They are trying to give a gift back to the students who lost this moment at the time that they would have preferred.

Amanda Wolfe worries that graduating seniors who continue their education may be in graduate school in August and unable to attend. The end of July is the latest that graduate school students are going to be able to attend.

Amanda Wray and Linnea Linton heard several students suggest Homecoming Weekend for Commencement. Lynne Horgan suggested Family Weekend in October. Christopher Oakley suggested to hold Commencement online.

Provost Campbell said they have heard the suggestion of Homecoming weekend. Homecoming weekend is currently in February and many felt that to be too far away for a number of students. Some have suggested combining May and December Commencement. They have heard from a significant portion of the population for all of these dates, which means there is not going to be a perfect date and the date we pick is going to work for some and not

work for others. Another idea has been to offer multiple opportunities where some can participate in August, others in December and Homecoming. Of all of these ideas, August 8 might be the best option. They have heard October suggested but the problem with October is prices skyrocket due to tourism. The expense to bring people back in October is thought to be significantly more than at other times. A virtual option as well has been suggested and has been universally ranked the lowest desired option. Students did not advocate so much about whether to hold the ceremony outside or inside. They really focused on being together.

Ann Dunn asked whether any attention has been given to the possibility of having convocation and graduation at the same time. The excitement of the university would show through between people coming in and the people going out exchanging experiences.

Provost Campbell replied when the idea came up in a steering committee meeting that there were noted complications with that suggestion. There is a lot that goes into welcoming freshmen to the campus as well as planning a commencement that makes it logistically infeasible.

Marietta Cameron invited SGA President Isaiah Green to speak.

Isaiah Green said what was most important for students was actually having the graduation. He is not sure people are concerned about where it is held. The most important aspect he has heard is being able to have that moment of closure. The best option that students felt addressed that priority seemed to be August and December. Those choices seemed to be equally favored by graduates.

Marietta Cameron, Amanda Wray, Jessica Pisano, and other senators thanked Isaiah Green for being here.

Chancellor Cable believes that we should poll the graduating class and have a more formal way of gathering thoughts and ideas for this important occasion. As most of you know, our commencement speaker is a very prominent person, Dr. Patrice Harris, who is the president of the American Medical Association (AMA). We also had planned to have three honorary degree recipients. All of these will need to be invited and are in conversation with all four of those individuals. They all want to be part of the ceremony to celebrate this class. We will be working together to find the date.

#### Other Questions.

Jordan Perry asked if there will be classes on April 21, Undergraduate Research Symposium Day.

Provost Campbell replied that the academic calendar has not changed. He believes that Mark Harvey has a proposal that is being shared that speaks to a way of doing the Undergrad Research Day in this new mode. They are still working on that and will have to get back to people on that.

Marietta Cameron suggested making a strong statement not to schedule classes on that day. Normally we do not hold classes, but someone could see it as a day that they could schedule some makeup session.

Regine Criser has heard from some students that some faculty are scheduling take home exams to be taken at a specific time that now interfere with their scheduled classes. She also has heard that some students have not heard from their instructors at all so she thinks more precise language is needed as to how to handle this particular moment. She wanted to point out that for some colleagues and students the clear communication that we have been shooting for, has not materialized yet.

Provost Campbell said he will reemphasize that it is imperative that we stick to our own scheduled class times when talking about synchronous work.

Jake Butera relayed the problem is not only regarding synchronous but also asynchronous work with time limits and timeframes that conflict with synchronous classes. Jake Butera has had two separate students say that they had a four hour block to take an exam scheduled over times when they have other synchronous classes.

Provost Campbell said he would issue a statement today, if he can, about that.

Jessica Pisano added that she checked in with her students today and many complain that there is more work now than there was pre COVID in some of their classes. They are feeling overwhelmed. Amanda Wray has heard the same from her students, and as of yesterday, she has seven students who have not heard from any of their faculty at all thus far.

Provost Campbell relayed that they heard some of these complaints at the SGA meeting. Although it is tough to address anecdotal instances broadly, he will do his best to speak to that issue.

Marietta Cameron asked for a motion to accept the Sense of the Senate to support Provost Campbell's temporary policies to guide us through this Coronavirus Outbreak.

A motion was made to accept the Sense of the Senate as amended, which was seconded. The Sense of the Senate passed with unanimous support as amended. Marietta Cameron said the Executive Committee will get the Sense of the Senate out and look to the email that will go out to all faculty.

#### IV. Adjourn

Marietta Cameron adjourned the special session at 3:03 p.m.