

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY
Office of the Faculty Senate
Academic Policy Committee

SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 MINUTES

Attendance: RaJade Berry-James (co-chair), Paul Williams (co-chair), Lisa Bass Freeman, Kerry Havner, KL Murty

(Excused): Russel Flinchum, Fikret Isik, Richard Kotek, Min Liu

The Academic Policy Committee (APC) of the Faculty Senate discussed the following items:

I. Committee Charge

We reviewed the Academic Policy Committee (APC) charge and meeting dates for the Academic Year 2019-20:

The NC State Academic Policy Committee of the Faculty Senate shall be responsible for reviewing, modifying and initiating policies related to: undergraduate and graduate academic policy, regulations and reform, for both on and off-campus teaching and learning environments; faculty instructional development; faculty evaluation and assessment, teaching and advising; research; and the academic calendar.

APC Meeting Dates:

- September 3, 2019
- September 17, 2019
- October 1, 2019
- October 15, 2019
- October 29, 2019
- November 12, 2019
- November 26, 2019
- January 14, 2020
- January 28, 2020
- February 11, 2020
- February 25, 2020
- March 10, 2020
- March 24, 2020
- April 7, 2020

II. Brief Introduction of Committee Members (in attendance) with a discussion and description of years of service to NC State University. Dr. Paul Williams has served 35 years; Dr. Kerry Havner has served 51 years and is Emeritus; Dr. KL Murty has served 38 years; Dr. RaJade Berry-James has served 9 years, and Dr. Lisa Bass Freeman has served 7 years.

III. **New Business**

We discussed the role between the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate and the Academic Policy Committee, noting that issues of concern are shared with APC following Executive Committee meetings.

IV. **Issues of Concerns**

- **Resource Allocation & General Education Plan (GEP) Review:** APC discussed two issues of concern which involve the (1) “trend for the administration to grow in both numbers and remuneration at the expense of faculty” and “budget for Athletics” and (2) “faculty report that the new GEP advising program is onerous to use and adds little new information.” Co-chair Paul Williams will follow-up with the faculty member who submitted the issue on resource allocation, addressing faculty concerns regarding trends and athletic fees. Co-chair Jade Berry James will follow-up with the CHASS Dean’s Office to seek process and outcome information about the GEP program. [Issue of Concern 10C1909b (Resource Allocation); 10C1909c (GEP Review)]
- **PhD Spring Admissions:** We reviewed an issue of concern regarding constraints on faculty who receive grants but may be unable to admit students during the Spring semester. APC recommends that the faculty member discuss this issue with the program faculty and Director of Graduate Programs (DGP) of their academic department since the DGP recommends admission decisions to Graduate School.
- **Self-selected Gender Identity and Gender Pronouns:** We reviewed a request from Charles Clift, University Registrar, to “discuss a project that would allow students to self-select preferred gender identity and pronouns in MyPack portal and subsequently display preferred pronouns to faculty, advisors, and administrators through the class roster and advising center in MyPack.” We discussed the white paper on preferred student pronouns and recommend that the Faculty Senate, by way of a resolution, discuss whether to support the implementation of this Registration and Records project.
- **Programs that Involve the Participation of Minors (REG 01.25.18):** We reviewed the policy revision from Stacy Fair in Risk Management planned for implementation in 2020. “The new policy will include all faculty activities in labs with minors or in the field or in any NC State space. All of these activities must be registered with Risk Management. Faculty must be background checked every two years and they must complete a required training which is in development.” APC recommends that the issue of concern be referred to the Personnel Policy Committee to review the requirements and procedures of the proposed personnel policy and its impact on faculty. [Issue of Concern 10C1909a]
- **Updates on Deans of the Graduate School and the College of Sciences:** We discussed the following issue of concern: “These hirings, to my knowledge with[out] any faculty input, seem like a direct challenge by the provost to the accepted practice of strong faculty involvement in the selection of academic administrators. Whatever his reason for doing this, I think it merits a serious faculty response, starting with some probing questioning of the provost and possibly chancellor.

This seems like a potentially precedent-setting moment that marginalizes the faculty in shared governance.” APC recommends that the issue of concern be referred to the Governance, Communications, and Recruitment Committee for review and consideration.

- **Centennial Campus Traffic/Speed Limit:** We discussed the issue of traffic and speed on Centennial Campus, specifically in the area of the Middle School, Main Campus Drive Trailwood Dr., Achievement Dr., Campus Shore and Varsity Dr., whereby a member of the faculty notes, “The 25mph speed limit is rarely kept and the route is used by parents that drop the children in school, students, joggers, bikers, and people that work in Centennial like me.” APC recommends that the issue be referred to the Resources and Environment Committee to consider the costs and benefits of adding speed bumps along the route [Issue of Concern 10c1909d]
- **Graduate Student Fees:** We discussed the issue of concern “raised by some faculty colleagues in the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology regarding the 3D Memo distributed on July 22, 2019, disallowing the use of funds from federal sources to pay certain graduate student activity fees.” APC recommends that this issue of concern be referred to the Personnel Policy Committee since there is not a uniform policy or consistent practice to cover students employed under contracts and grants.
- **Mentored TA Fellowships and TA Assignment:** We discussed the issue of concern from a senator in the College of Engineering. At issue is the assignment of a supplemental award for the mentor TA fellowship which may or may not provide the awardee with a TA position. APC recommends that the senator discuss this issue with the dean’s office at the College.

V. **Old Business**

None discussed.

VI. **Adjournment**

Academic Policy Committee adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jade Berry James
Co-chair Academic Policy Committee