

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

September 8, 2020 Minutes

Attendance: Lisa Bass-Freeman (co-chair), Paul Williams (co-chair), Russell Flinchum, Robert Riehn, Michael Reisdkind, Intae Yoon, Ken Zagacki.

Excused: Fikret Isik

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

I. Issues of Concern

Most of the meeting was devoted to discussion of Chair-elect Berry-James suggestion of a survey of faculty to capture information pertaining to faculty experiences post-COVID 19. The Chair-elect provided the committee with sample questionnaires from other universities as a basis for discussing the desirability of doing so at NC State. We noted that the OFD had conducted a survey of faculty in the recent past relevant to effects of covid 19; the results of that survey need reviewed before we attempt to design another survey. Discussion also focused on developing a consensus on what is it we want to learn from the survey. The suggestion is that we do a preliminary assessment of the issues of concern related to covid 19 that are foremost on faculty minds. Since this will likely vary from college to college and department to department a one size fits all survey would be premature until we get a sense of what the dimensions of covid 19 effects are on our campus. Given the IOCs we should consult with the Institute for Strategic Analysis to develop a survey of properly constructed questions to gather information from the faculty about how the pandemic has affected us. A proposed acronym for the survey is CARE. The survey would be the NC State Faculty Concerns, Actions, Responses, and Expectations (CARE) Survey.

We also discussed the issue of requests of 9-month contract faculty to perform tasks during the summer. The heart of the issue is the question of what a 9-month appointment means, that is, what may the university reasonably expect from a 9-month employee during the summer? The APC seemed to think that some latitude is necessary since there are issues that arise during the summer that pertain to the responsibilities of tenure track faculty. For example, a decision on a new faculty hire may occur during the 3-month hiatus. Isn't it necessary that the department head consult with all of her faculty to make a decision? We concluded that guidelines may be necessary, but not a policy. Non-participation should not be held against someone. A good place to start to learn about the extent of the problem is department heads.

II. Old Business

None
III. Adjournment
The Committee adjourned at 4:53 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Williams
Co-chair Academic Policy Committee