

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the Faculty Senate
January 10, 2017
3:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting No. 7 of the 63rd Session: Faculty Senate Chambers January 10, 2017

Present: Chair Moore, Parliamentarian Lubischer, Senators Ange-van Heugten, Ash, Auerbach, Banks, Barrie, Bernhard, Berry-James, Bykova, Carver, Fath, Feducia, Gunter, Havner, Hawkins, Hergeth, Huffman, Kathariou, Kuzma, Lee, Nam, Parker, Pearce, Perros, Rever, Sannes, Sederoff

Excused: Chair-Elect Bird, Associate Chair Orcutt, Senator Bullock

Absent: Senators Argyropolous, Eseryel, Hawkins, Hergeth, Kotek, Laffitte, Peretti, Silverberg, Thakur, Young

Guests: Roy Baroff, Faculty Ombuds, Marc Hoit, Vice Chancellor for Information Technology, Gwen Hazlehurst, Associate Vice Chancellor for Enterprise Applications, Natalie Boone, Administrative Assistant, ERA Project, Rick Liston, Associate Vice Chancellor ORIED, Justo Torres, Contracts and Grants, Sherrie Settle, Director of Sponsored Programs/SPARCS

1. Call to Order - *Jeannette Moore, Chair of the Faculty*

Chair Moore called the seventh meeting of the sixty-third session of the NC State Faculty Senate to order at 3:02 p.m.

2. Introductory remarks - *Jeannette Moore, Chair of the Faculty*

Chair Moore asked guests to introduce themselves.

3. Announcements - *Jeannette Moore, Chair of the Faculty*

Chair Moore referred the Senators to the committee activities and announcements on page two of the meeting agenda.

1. The committees reported on the results of their meetings in the fall semester in our November 29th meeting.
2. The university is going to require all university employees to use two step login process beginning on October 31, 2017 but you can sign up today. There will be training sessions and support available, as well as information on the web.

3. In response to a question from Senator Sederoff asking for an explanation as to why this is needed, VC Hoit summarized by explaining that this is a needed third level of protection, which will reduce hacking by 90 percent or more and is needed.
4. The Spring general faculty meeting has been set for March 21st and will be in place of the Faculty Senate meeting. Location to be announced at a later date. If you have a suggestion for a topic, please submit your suggestions. They are welcome.
5. The Pullen Road extension that will link main campus to Centennial campus is scheduled to be completed by late fall. This is great news and should help alleviate some traffic problems that we have trying to get over to Centennial campus.
6. There were two resolutions that resulted from the UNC GA Faculty Assembly meeting last Friday, which Alton Banks will speak about later in the meeting.
7. The NCSU Faculty Ombuds office has their first annual report available and there is a link provided in the agenda. Faculty Ombuds, Roy Baroff spoke briefly to encourage Senators to view the report and visit the website.

4. Approval of the Minutes, Regular Meeting No.6 of the 63rd Session, November 29, 2016
Jeannette Moore, Chair of the Faculty

With no opposition or changes to the content of the minutes, a motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

5. Provost's Remarks and Q/A
Warwick Arden, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

Provost Arden brought greetings to the Faculty Senate and guests. He stated that he is hopeful that 2017 proves to be a better year, at least better than the Fall of 2016. He continued by giving the Senators a couple of very high level topics that are on his mind as this semester begins.

He stated that beginning in July, the University will begin the last and third three-year implementation phase of our strategic plan, which, he reminded the Senators, is broken into three three-year implementation phases. He stated that our overall goals and the metrics do not change, but the implementation and who's doing what and when and how much it's going to cost does change because our resources change and we must change our priorities accordingly.

Provost Arden continued by saying that this will come under the leadership of Vice Provost Margery Overton, who has done a great job in developing the last two implementation plans. The Provost stated that his only concern is that the second was more detailed than the first and he is waiting to see what

the third will be like. He stated that the Provost's office would be engaging the Faculty Senate as they work through it. He also emphasized the importance of focusing on the overall objectives and stated that we are meeting or exceeding our goals in almost every category. He further stated that it sometimes becomes harder and harder to stay focused in applying available resources in order to move the need on. He reiterated that he will certainly be involved with the Faculty Senate in this third phase.

A second topic that the Provost wanted to speak about was money, resources, and management flexibility cuts. Provost Arden predicted that we probably won't have big management flexibility cuts going forward, but we will still have very limited resources for the next couple of years for several reasons. He continued by stating that "new resources that come to the Provost's office and other parts of the university largely come from enrollment and tuition, and there is significant downward pressure on both of those currently." The Provost stated that the University did not meet enrollment targets for the last couple of years, so instead of getting an increase in the budget in July, it will be a budget cut instead. He explained that the issue is not just a new student issue, but a continuing student issue, which is largely a result of our successes; students are getting through the pipeline much more quickly.

Provost Arden continued by telling the Senators that this system works well as long as we are meeting new enrollment and new graduate enrollment targets because we are given most money in graduate enrollment. He further stated that we are down about 10% from last year on graduate student applications, and meeting those enrollment targets continues to be a real concern.

He stated that in regard to tuition, there is significant downward pressure on tuition. He explained that the University is currently under a state budget mandate to have flat tuition for in-state undergraduate students. so all students who are currently on campus will pay the exact same undergraduate tuition and fees for the four years they are here. He continued that we are only able to increase on new incoming students that are in-state undergraduates, but there is more flexibility on both out-of-state and graduate students. He stated that there are some price demand limitations there on how quickly we can raise those. Provost Arden continued by stating that we will test the waters for the first time with the Board of Governors at a discussion on tuition and fees this Thursday and Friday at the first spring meeting. Additionally, he stated, "We were under a directive that even for incoming first time full time undergraduate resident students, we couldn't raise it more than 2%, which is what we are putting forth." He added that we do have some premium tuitions and some special fee, and that he will learn a great deal more by this weekend in this regard.

Provost Arden summarized that putting all of these factors together, it makes him very concerned about having the available resources to continue implementation of the strategic plan at the same rate we've been doing so. He assured the Faculty Senate that we will pay a lot of attention to it and work our way through it over the spring and he will be giving frequent updates to the Senate.

Provost Arden stated that the third topic of concern he wanted to bring forward is that of campus climate and culture. He acknowledged that we had a rocky fall semester for a lot of different reasons,

including a very difficult election season. He added that we also had some racial and equity incidences on campus that caused anxiety. He further stated that he predicts that in the next few years we are going to continue to see challenges to campus environments and campus culture and inclusion. Provost Arden stressed again that sometimes there's this feeling that campus climate or campus culture is this generic thing that emanates from Holladay Hall or the Dean's office or somewhere; but the reality is that 95% of what your students and faculty see, happens in your backyard, your departments and that just minor negative comments made by senior faculty can have very very significant implications. The Provost asked for the Faculty Senate's partnership in this. He concluded by stating that while our relatively new Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity, Linda McCabe Smith, who is working hard to get a handle on all of these issues, it is truly something that we as a campus have to work on together; it's everyone's responsibility.

Questions/Comments:

Senator Sederoff: We continue to be asked to do more with less. So what should we do less? We could certainly use some advice.

Provost Arden responded that he knows it is difficult. He understands the burdens placed on all of us regarding reporting and compliance for accreditation and more. So he doesn't have an answer but he does know that we are going to have to think very very critically all levels about where our highest priorities are because we cannot continue to run in every direction as fast as we can. Prioritization is probably the single most important thing we can do in this final stretch of the Strategic Plan. He cannot say that compliance and accreditation are less important; because we don't need to be smacked for that by anyone.

Senator Auerbach: The drop in enrollment from overseas is caused by competition?

Provost Arden stated that many of our international students are finding the United States to be a less welcoming and attractive place at the moment.

6. Input from Senators on the new eRA (Research Administration) system

Dr. Genevieve Garland, Director of Research Operations, Office of Research, Innovation and Economic Development

Dr. Garland presented the information regarding the eRA system and then sought input and feedback from the Faculty Senate.

To learn more, please visit the website at: <https://research.ncsu.edu/>

Throughout the discussion, Senators sought clarification and additional details regarding the eRA system project.

Input/Questions/Feedback

Senator Bykova questioned if everyone will be required to utilize this new system. Dr. Garland responded that whatever is currently going through the existing system will continue to do so. This is related to research projects only.

Senator Gunter is hoping that the ability to download a Word document with all of the comments so you can mix and match the format so that it's in the system but you get a raw version that makes it easier. Dr. Garland pointed out that this had come up in focus groups and they were taking that into consideration.

Senator Pearce wondered if the vendors can inform you about who their current customers are. Dr. Garland responded that yes and encouraged them to talk to colleagues in other institutions that may utilize the software but cautioned the Senators to make sure they are not breaking rules in doing so. Reference checks will definitely be a part of the process of choosing a vendor, however.

Senator Auerbach wondered how many vendors were in the running. ORIED staff responded that there were less than ten viable vendors at this point.

Chair Moore stated that there has been some frustration about the deadline and being required to submit everything two weeks ahead of the grant funder's deadline, which is not popular. Can you please comment on that?

Dr. Garland responded that they have spoken about this and pointed out that typically those deadlines are being established at the college level and is not something that is centrally mandated. It is mixed reviews, where some groups want those deadlines and then it's unpopular with others. From a system side, they will ask for flexibility to do those types of things like establishing deadlines or at least communicate them clearly in the system.

Senator Gunter asked about customization and the differing needs for each College.

Dr. Garland responded that the current system is highly customized but that with the new system, there will have to be some standardization so we do need to come to some agreement around this issue. There will have to be a shift in some areas.

7. Old and New Business

a. Two Faculty Assembly resolutions were passed. Any action by NC State Faculty Senate?

Alton Banks, Faculty Assembly delegate

Dr. Banks discussed the function of the Faculty Assembly as a background for Senators who are not familiar with this advisory group to the President of the UNC System. He then presented the two resolutions authored by the Faculty Assembly in their meeting on Friday, January 6, 2017; one on student success and the other on faculty compensation. He explained the background of each resolution and explained the purpose of their creation. He explained that these resolutions have been presented to President Spellings via email by the Chair of the Faculty Assembly. Dr. Banks stated that he is interested to hear from the NC State Faculty Senate as to whether they have any feelings about these resolutions or some sense of whether you think the UNC Faculty Assembly is on track and could you support these actions. He then asked for feedback and whether the Faculty Senate could and would endorse or not.

Senator Sederoff strongly endorses the resolution but questioned its scope.

Dr. Banks responded that SACS accredits institutions on an institutional level and that the accreditation of NC State is not dependent upon the accreditation of UNC Chapel Hill or any other University. He continted that what the Faculty Assembly viewed by passing this resolution was these actions are going to tend to influence SACS accreditations from all of the UNC institutions. These are individual decisions but are not at a system level.

Senator Huffman asked if there has been any Dr. Spellings.

Dr. Banks responded no, this was passed on Friday about 2:00 p.m. and Dr. Spellings received if 12 hours later via email. He stated that there will be discussions regarding this resolution at the next Board of Governor's meeting coming up soon.

Senator Kuzma stated her support, and encouraged action from the NC State Faculty Senate.

Senator Ash asked Dr. Banks is Dr. Spellings is required to respond to these resolutions.

Dr. Banks responded that yes, she is but her response may very well be, "well, I'm sorry about that."

Senator Ash asked if there was a precedent anywhere for SACS actually looking at higher governing bodies beyond local control or is this an effort to just make something public? When SACS comes to do our accreditation, do they ask about the UNC system that much?

Provost Arden responded that yes, they do. Part of the accreditation that you have to attest to is governance and part of governance is freedom from undue political interference.

Senator Barrie voiced his support for the resolutions.

Senator Berry-James pointed out that she liked the approach that we support these resolutions but she thinks it is important to share these concerns with SACS and with SACS' accrediting body. She feels this is the right strategy.

Dr. Banks responded that there are a number of folks on the Faculty Assembly who also feel SACS should be made aware and felt strongly that this was something that they needed to do.

Dr. Sederoff asked if this was a low bar.

Dr. Banks responded that he would not try to make a judgment on that but he is calling attention to these things that we think protect academic freedom, protect against legislative interference

in the policies and procedures of institutions from the University of North Carolina. That may be considered a low bar, but this is the Faculty Assembly saying “this is enough.”

Chair Moore stated that the Executive Committee will create a resolution at their next meeting and will then bring it back to the next Faculty Senate meeting. She also pointed out that the Faculty Senate could vote on the resolution at the next meeting, if today’s reading is considered as the first reading.

b. University Standing Committees

This agenda item was moved to the next meeting by vote of the Faculty Senate.

8. Issues of Concern

None

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.