

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Minutes of the Faculty Senate**

**Executive Summary**

**September 10, 2019**

**1. Call to Order**

*Hans Kellner, Chair of the Faculty*

Chair Kellner called the first meeting of the sixty-sixth session of the NC State Faculty Senate to order at 3 p.m.

**2. Announcements**

1. Chair Kellner announced that we will soon have a new Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration on campus. Charles Maimone will join us at the end of the month.
2. Chair Kellner acknowledged members and former members of the Faculty Senate.
3. Chair Kellner made the Senators aware of the Great PDF Purge and encouraged their participation in making the PDF documents on the website more accessible.
4. Chair Kellner announced that there is a new office of Strategic Brand Management, which reports to the Chief Communications and Marketing officer.
5. Chair Kellner reported that there are a handful of self-defense programs, which come from the Police Department, and have to do with women's basic self-defense.
6. Chair Kellner spoke regarding University Award Nominations.
7. Chair Kellner announced that the Fountain Dining Hall has been redone and has the largest salad bar on campus.

**3. Approval of the Minutes, Regular Meeting No. 14 of the 65<sup>th</sup> Session, April 16, 2019 and Minutes, Regular Meeting No. 1 of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session, August 27, 2019**

*Phil Sannes, Associate Chair of the Faculty*

Associate Chair Sannes called for a motion to approve the minutes for the 14th meeting of the 65th session of the NC State Faculty Senate and the 1st meeting of the 66th session of the NC State Faculty Senate. A motion and second were made and the minutes were unanimously approved, with noted grammatical corrections.

#### 4. **Chair's Remarks**

*Hans Kellner, Chair of the Faculty*

Chair Kellner brought information to the Senate regarding the lectern in the Faculty Senate Chambers that is dedicated to the memory of Gilbert G. "Gib" Smith, 1937-1999. He stated that the lectern is one of the few physical objects in the room that commemorate moments in the history of the Faculty Senate and the General Faculty.

#### 5. **Provost's Remarks and Q/A**

*Duane Larick, Chief of Staff of the Provost Office and Senior Vice Provost*

Dr. Larick provided an update on current searches at the university. The Vice Provost for the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity search is currently in progress, as is the search for the Dean of the College of Natural Resources. The search for the Vice Chancellor and Dean for the Division and Academic and Student Affairs will hopefully get underway as early as late this fall. He also reported that there have been some leadership and staff updates, notably the Vice Provost for Institutional Research and Planning, Mary Lelik. Majory Overton will serve as the interim for that position.

Dr. Larick also reported that with respect to the Strategic Plan, the 2019-2020 academic year marks the end of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan. The university is in the process now of working in the plan-to-plan stage for the new Strategic Plan. He stated that they will be asking the faculty to help them develop the actions that occurred as a result of the ideas that were formed in the leadership retreat in early September.

The impact of Hurricane Dorian on campus was minimal; however, the staff in DASA worked with registration and records and identified five students from the Bahamas whose lives have been dramatically impacted by the hurricane. He added that there will be an ongoing opportunity to help those students and their families and address some of their needs.

Regarding an update on SACS, Dr. Larick reported that he is spearheading the effort of helping to lead the university through the five-year interval review process.

#### 6. **Remarks**

*Mike Giancola, Assistant Vice Provost, Academic and Student Affairs, and Student Ombuds*

Mike Giancola provided an overview of the Ombuds program and reviewed some of the trends that he is seeing in the ombuds office. He stated that the ombuds office serves as an informal resource for the university, not to replace any formal channels but to provide other options for students to deal with concerns or issues that may arise. He reported that he spends a lot of time meeting with students on a day-to-day basis, and in addition to helping them navigate their university experience, he uses that to collect trends that he can share with leaders and deans and department heads around campus so they are aware of what the upcoming issues might be.

Mr. Giancola reviewed trends he is seeing in the ombuds office and then provided an overview of the Pack Essentials program, which is a program that addresses food, housing, and financial security. He explained that there is a food pantry on campus that is for students, faculty and staff to utilize that

began in 2012 and is completely run by students with some advisement from faculty and staff. He added that as a result of Dr. Mary Haskett's research, it was discovered that about 14% of our student body reported experiencing some form of food insecurity over the previous 30 days and about 10% has experienced some form of housing insecurity. He asked the Senators to encourage students to reach out if they're having challenges, or refer them to the office of Student Ombuds as their first point of contact.

**7. Remarks**

*David Howard, Director, Instructional Innovation Services; Academic Technology Innovation, DELTA*  
*Will Cox, Director, Copyright & Digital Scholarship Center*  
*David Tully, NCSU Libraries Fellow*

As one of the ways to try and combat the rising cost of textbooks on campuses around the country, there is the concept of open textbooks, which are free to use, free to re-mix, free to change and edit - free and open textbooks. OpenStax is a creator, provider and curator of those types of open textbooks. It is run out of Rice University and is funded in part by Gates Foundation money and by other money.

The presenters explained that about eight years ago, OpenStax started working with other institutions to help raise awareness and encourage the adoption of open textbooks. They take on about eleven partners every year, from community colleges to four-year colleges. This year, NC State is one of the institutional partners.

Mr. Howard and his colleagues encouraged the Senators to reach out to them to learn more about the concept and use of open textbooks.

**8. Issues of concern**

Faculty Issues of Concern can be submitted at any time to a Senator, the Chair of the Faculty, or to [Faculty\\_Senate@ncsu.edu](mailto:Faculty_Senate@ncsu.edu)

Chair Kellner mentioned some of the issues of concern that have been received to-date.

**9. Next Meeting**

Chair Kellner reviewed the agenda items/activities for the next meeting (September 24, 2019)

**10. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Minutes of the Faculty Senate**

**September 10, 2019**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Regular Meeting No. 2 of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Faculty Senate Chambers**

**September 10, 2019**

**Present:** Chair Kellner, Associate Chair Sannes, Parliamentarian Funkhouser, Provost Arden; Senators Aspnes, Barrie, Bernhard, Berry-James, Boyer, Carrier, Carver, Collins, Cooke, Darhower, Feducia, Havner, Jacob, Jordan, Kirby, Murty, Kotek, Kuzma, Kuznetsov, Little, Lubischer, Monek, Nelson, Rever, Thakur, Vincent, Williams

**Excused:** Senator Pinkins

**Absent:** Senators Ashwell, Fitzpatrick, Flinchum, Isik, Liu, Lunardi, McGowan, Parker

**Guests:** Duane Larick, Coleman Simpson, Student Senate President; David Howard, Director of Instructional Innovation Services, Delta; Will Cox, Director, Copyright & Digital Scholarship Center; David Tully, NCSU Libraries Fellow; Kathy Horton, Provost's Office; Mike Giancola, Assistant Vice Provost and Student Ombuds; Roy Baroff, Faculty and Staff Ombuds; Courtney Thornton, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Personnel and Policy; Marc Hoit, Vice Chancellor for OIT

**1. Call to Order**

*Hans Kellner, Chair of the Faculty*

Chair Kellner called the second meeting of the sixty-sixth session of the NC State Faculty Senate to order at 3:00 p.m. He also asked the speakers and guests to introduce themselves.

**2. Announcements**

*Hans Kellner, Chair of the Faculty*

1. Chair Kellner announced that we will soon have a new Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration on campus. Charles Maimone will join us at the end of the month.
2. Chair Kellner gave a shout out to members and former members of the Faculty Senate. One of the Outstanding Extension and Engagement Awards this year went to Senator Rajade Berry-James. Additionally, a former Senator from Textiles, Warren Jasper, was also named as a recipient of the Academy of Outstanding Extension and Engagement award.
3. Chair Kellner made the Senators aware of the Great PDF Purge and encouraged their participation in making the PDF documents on the website more accessible. Marc Hoit, Vice

Chancellor for OIT, instructed the Senators that there is a way to make the PDFs more accessible so that they can be read by the sight-impaired or those with other needs, stating, “There is a setting in PDF, when you write one, that makes it accessible. So if you want to use a PDF, at least make it accessible.” Chair Kellner stated that we will investigate this further.

4. Chair Kellner announced that there is a new office of Strategic Brand Management, which reports to the Chief Communications and Marketing officer. “This new office is being launched in coordination with the Athletic Director, in order to deal with university brand management and protection; management of logos, trademarks and licensing; and management of commercial university sponsorships with outside business partners (such as the university’s PNC Bank and recent New Belgium sponsorship agreements), among other duties. The deputy Athletic Director of External Operations has been named to head this new office.”
5. Chair Kellner reported that there are a handful of self-defense programs, which come from the Police Department, that have to do with women’s basic self-defense. September classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays occasionally from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. There is a de-resisting aggression with defense, for men, and then basic self-defense. Additionally, pepper spray training and other popular skills that they will be doing this fall.
6. Chair Kellner spoke regarding University Award Nominations. “This is something that went out to the Deans and department heads, but I think you should all know this. They should be coming to you and if they don’t then they should. The university is putting its usual annual crop of different awards, to which nominations need to be submitted; the Max Gardner Award, the Board of Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Holladay Medals for Excellence, and so forth. Just be aware that these things have submission dates. Don’t get frozen out of the process and have them all being nominated by Deans and department heads.”
7. Chair Kellner announced that the Fountain Dining Hall has been redone and has “the largest salad bar on campus.” He also noted, “Today they are doing an all-Carolina meal which will start just after today’s Senate meeting.” Chair Kellner then shared a few words about Alvin Marcus Fountain. “Alvin Marcus Fountain graduated from NC State in 1923 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He went on, in 1926, to get a master’s degree in Sociology and in 1930, he got a master’s degree from Columbia University in American Literature, and in 1938, he got a PhD in technical writing. He taught for many years here at NC State, and was co-author of things like *The Engineer’s Manual to English*. He added, “It was in 1922 that Alvin Fountain and his friend and classmate, Bonnie Frank Norris, wrote the Alma Mater. They wrote the Alma Mater when they were on ROTC duty in the summer in Camp McClellan Alabama.” He continued, “In the 1990’s, the large dining hall was dedicated to Alvin Fountain, and now an even greater honor, he’s got a big salad bar.”

**3. Approval of the Minutes, Regular Meeting No. 14 of the 65<sup>th</sup> Session, April 16, 2019 and Minutes, Regular Meeting No. 1 of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session, August 27, 2019**

*Phil Sannes, Associate Chair of the Faculty*

Associate Chair Sannes called for a motion to approve the minutes for the 14th meeting of the 65th session of the NC State Faculty Senate. A motion and second were made and the minutes were unanimously approved, with noted grammatical corrections.

Associate Chair Sannes called for a motion to approve the minutes for the 1st meeting of the 66th session of the NC State Faculty Senate. A motion and second were made and the minutes were unanimously approved, with noted grammatical corrections.

#### **4. Chair's Remarks**

*Hans Kellner, Chair of the Faculty*

Chair Kellner brought information to the Senate regarding the lectern in the Faculty Senate Chambers that is dedicated to the memory of Gilbert G. "Gib" Smith, 1937-1999. He was Chair of the Faculty Senate in 1996-1997. He was Parliamentarian of the Faculty Assembly in 1998 and 1999. Chair Kellner stated, "He was the last Chair of the Faculty Senate. After Gib Smith, no more Chairs of the Faculty Senate, as I have to point out again and again in the Administration." He added, "In the mid-1990's, it was recognized that the job of Chair of the Faculty Senate, which was a one-year term, as it had been at the beginning in 1954, just wasn't working." He continued that under the Chair-ship of Angela Lumpkin, whose Secretary at that time was Gilbert G. Smith, they did a referendum and a change to the General Faculty Bylaws, they proposed to make the Chair's position a two-year term of office, and involved election by the general faculty rather than the Faculty Senate. "The next year was the last year for a Chair of the Faculty Senate, and it was Gib Smith who was in that role." Chair Kellner added that the lectern is one of the few physical objects we have in the room that commemorates moments in the history of the Faculty Senate and the General Faculty.

#### **5. Provost's Remarks and Q/A**

*Duane Larick, Chief of Staff of the Provost Office and Senior Vice Provost; Representative for Warwick Arden, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost*

Dr. Larick brought greetings to the Faculty Senate from the Provost's Office and stated that he was speaking on behalf of and representing the Provost in the Faculty Senate meeting.

Dr. Larick provided an update on current searches at the university. "The Vice Provost for the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity search, chaired by Lisa Zapata, is in progress. They have gone through the airport interview stage and have identified two finalists to bring to campus. The interim person, Sheri Schwab, will be here on 9/23 and 9/24, and another individual from the University of Missouri will be here on 9/25 and 9/26. There will be open forums and certainly the campus community is encouraged to participate.

Dr. Larick continued, "The second search is for the Dean of the College of Natural Resources. Dean Paul Munn has agreed to chair the search committee for the College of Natural Resources. The goal is to get that search underway in early October. This search will be starting immediately. The third search, for the Vice Chancellor and Dean for the Division of Academic and Student Affairs, which you know that Mike Mullen has stepped down from that position, and the Provost's intent would be to start a search for that position as early as late this fall. The goal would be to get the search organized and get it moving so we can conduct it during spring semester while faculty, staff and students are all here on campus to make sure we get through that process in a timely manner."

Dr. Larick reported that there have been some leadership and staff updates. Those include Vice Provost for Institutional Research and Planning. "Mary Lelik stepped down, with plans to retire. Marjory Overton, who is a Vice Provost working in my office, will serve as the interim for that position. Over the coming months, it's really the Provost's office goal to review the structure currently in place for institutional research and planning and try to decide what the best structure for that position and

that office will be going forward. Marjory is going to work in an interim capacity, and many of you have worked with Marjory Overton with data of all sorts and she will do well in that role.”

He added that with respect to the Strategic Plan, the 2019-2020 academic year marks the end of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan. “We are in the process now of working in the plan-to-plan stage for the new Strategic Plan. That was kicked off on September 3<sup>rd</sup> by a Leadership Retreat.” He added that the outcome of that retreat will be buckets with ideas that will be used to go through the same process that was done in 2010-2011 to create task forces. “At that time we had 18 different task forces, representing over 200 faculty members participating in that. We will be asking the faculty to help us develop the actions that would occur under those major buckets.” He added that NC State’s first strategic goal is going to continue to be student success. “We are going to have to think how to reframe that a little bit, because our focus now really can’t be on graduation rates.” He stated that the graduation rate for the class that entered this fall is expected to be at 84%, which is pretty high. “So we are going to kind of redefine what we mean by student success in the future. In the next ten years it might not just be about first year retention and graduation rates; it might be about lifelong education and those types of things.”

Dr. Larick spoke about the impact of Hurricane Dorian on our campus. “We can be very thankful that it was minimal.” He added that our campus has a reputation of caring and service and that DASA worked with registration and records and identified five students from the Bahamas whose lives have been dramatically impacted by the hurricane. “So there will be an ongoing opportunity to help those students and their families and address some of their needs.”

Regarding an update on SACS, Dr. Larick reported that he is spearheading the effort of trying to get the university through the process. “The US Department of Education decided that SACS’ 10-year reaffirmation wasn’t continuous and ongoing so they had to put something in at five years. So now we have a set of standards that we have to demonstrate compliance with at a five-year interval period. It is not inconsequential, but we are working on that pretty hard. Units and departments from all over campus are helping with that effort.”

Lastly, Dr. Larick mentioned the Entrepreneurship Garage grand opening on Centennial Campus, the Plant Sciences ground-breaking and a lot of other great things going on on campus. He encouraged the Senators to stay posted on things going on through the Bulletin and participate when they are able to do so.

## **Questions and Discussion**

**Senator Bass Freeman:** Last week you talked about SACs and that there are not on-campus visits, only off-site. But the ones that we are having are with the College of Education. Can you speak to that?

Dr. Larick responded that during the fifth year review, they focus on off-campus sites and review those. “There are two qualifiers for that; they have to be a site where we offer 50% or more of the degree, and they have to be a site that wasn’t here in 2014. So we have three in the College of Education that would meet that criteria. So they will send a team of three individuals to come and spend one day. They do not come to campus like they do during a ten-year reaffirmation. The five-year review is actually very difficult. In the ten-year, you turn something in, it goes to an off-site committee, they respond, they send it back to you and they respond again and then it goes to an onsite committee, they respond, you address it, you send it back again and it finally goes to what they call a compliance and review committee six months later. So you have multiple opportunities to correct things. In the five year review, you submit it, it goes to a compliance committee and if they question anything, the only way they can question it is to make you write a referral report. So it’s not simple.”

**Senator Havner:** The projected 84% graduation rate for the new class. Is that a six-year basis or four?

Dr. Larick responded that it is first-time, full-time freshman six-year. He added that our four year graduation rate has gone up from 48% to 64%. This incoming class will probably be closer to 68%. He stated, "If you think about that gain, it is tremendous."

**Chair Kellner:** What is SACS' logic for visiting the off-campus sites? What is their particular interest in those?

Dr. Larick responded that SACS has had a long-term interest in distance education, whether it be technology delivered or a site-based distance education. "Their goal is to make sure that a student that might be at Wake Tech Community College, which is one of our sites, is afforded the same opportunities as a student at NC State is." He added that they want to see the facility but the university also has to submit a profile related to that site, showing how students have access to technology, and have access to the library through the electronic system. "That gives them an off-cycle opportunity to focus on something, which is distance education."

**Chair Kellner:** The Strategic Plan that we did ten years ago created a kind of a machine with which the administration would function. It had the five points, and those five points were different cogs in the machine that would advance and help define university strategic policies in a general way. It continues to work as it was originally planned, with some exceptions with regard to enrollment planning. You alluded to what's different now that we might be more interested in one aspect of student success, such as older students as opposed to dealing with this. Could you fill in a little bit more about what's different that would require the whole big machinery of the faculty to be revved up to go through it again?

Dr. Larick responded that this would also be a great question for the Chancellor when he is present. He stated, "I will give you what I understand. Number one, I would say that there will absolutely be an opportunity for faculty engagement in this process. The reason why I think the campus got revved up and we've accomplished what we did is because I think we were inclusive in the development of the Strategic Plan and we were certainly very deliberate. Every time the Provost or the Chancellor has spoken to groups, they talk about goals of the Strategic Plan and everytime the colleges were asked to create a Strategic Plan, they were asked to demonstrate how their plan fit into the university's Strategic Plan." Dr. Larick added that this would continue and has been very successful. "What we don't want is for student success to be stale. So what is the next step that we can get excited about as an institution? Where is the next place that we want to move our students to, to consider our students to be the most successful students out there for employment opportunities, for lifelong education opportunities?" He stated that we are now graduating them at a much better rate than we were ten years ago. So now what can we do with that? "Warwick has this idea that what we're going to do eventually someday as an institution is charge a student tuition and then we're going to educate them for life. Everytime they want to make a career change, they're going to come back to NC State for some other badge, some other credential, some other piece."

**Chair Kellner:** Is this a plan that's underway?

Dr. Larick responded no, but if you ask him where he sees things after he and I are retired, that would be his answer.

**Senator Berry-James:** Just in case I never get a chance to tell you what I think, after 32 years in higher education, I have two dreams for students; one is when students are admitted into the institution, I



wish that first semester they are connected to a professional association in their field. The networking and the mentoring and the development that occurs at our annual conferences is worth so much more than the \$35 annual cost. My second wish for students is that every student has a study abroad opportunity so that in their first year or by the end of their second year they are able to go beyond the borders of America. I think that is right in line with global opportunities and a global perspective to create culturally competent and culturally proficient students.

Dr. Larick responded that 23% of our students now do a study abroad experience, and for an institution like NC State, that's a respectable number. But is that enough? Those are the types of questions we're going to ask. It is not just related to student success, but to globalization, to faculty success. What are the next steps, what is the next level? That is where the plan-to-plan needs to be - what are the next levels? Those five goals are all good ideas and we are not going to throw them out; we're not going to stop talking about faculty success or student success or globalization and those kinds of things. It is really just figuring out what do we mean by that in 2030.

## 6. Remarks

*Mike Giancola, Assistant Vice Provost, Academic and Student Affairs, and Student Ombuds*

Mike Giancola provided an overview of the Ombuds program and reviewed some of the trends that he is seeing in the office. He also provided an overview of the Pack Essentials Program. He also offered to provide data if requested.

"My office works much the same way as the Faculty/Staff ombuds does. We serve as an informal resource for the university, not to replace any formal channels but to provide other options for students to deal with concerns or issues that may come up." Mr. Giancola added that with the student ombuds, there may be a concern or an idea that he is an advocate for students. He added that in this role, he is clearly charged to be impartial. "I like to say that I hope my actions will be helpful to students," but when there is conflict present, he wants to make it clear that He does not assume to take the student's side in that conflict. "It's really about presenting an opportunity for the students to explore that conflict and to come to some resolve with whoever it is they may be having that conflict. I want to make that clear distinction."

Mr. Giancola said that while his title is student ombuds, he also works with faculty and staff. "The distinction there is if you have an issue that relates to your employment or your role as a faculty/staff member, most often Roy [Baroff] is going to be the best resource. But if you have a concern or a question or just want to dialogue around something related to a student issue, it's not that Roy couldn't help you with that, but my experience is a little more aligned in that area." He added that he is doing an increasing number of consults with faculty and staff around student life issues, both in and out of the classroom. "That is an area of my practice that I just wanted you to be aware of."

Mr. Giancola stated that he spends a lot of time meeting with students on a day-to-day basis, and in addition to helping them navigate their university experience, he uses that to collect trends that he can share with leaders and deans and department heads around campus so they are aware of what the upcoming issues might be. "Often times, they already know that the issues exist, sometimes they don't, or sometimes I am providing a different angle than what they might have previously been notified or been made aware of. "

Mr. Giancola reported that the student ombuds usage is on the rise. "This office was created in 2014-2015, so this is the sixth academic year. Ombuds is still a relatively new resource to the campus. There was a 74% increase in case load last academic year over the previous year, and a big part of that increase is the Pack Essentials program." He added that there was also quite a bit of increase after

Hurricane Florence last year that led to that increase. "Last year we had about 629 cases and over 1,500 contacts within those cases."

Regarding trends, Mr. Giancola stated that grade disputes are high on the list of issues that he sees and helps students deal with. He has also seen an increase in issues that are specific to graduate students. "You might not be surprised, but mostly what's on graduate students' minds is their relationship with their adviser. Where they feel like they have a good mentoring relationship, things are good; where they feel as though that communication is broken down or they don't have the confidence to have a difficult discussion with their adviser, oftentimes I will do coaching to help students prepare for difficult conversations. Sometimes they just have anxiety about having to have a discussion."

Mr. Giancola is also seeing a rise in conflicts. "I'm seeing more conflicts in the last two years than I've seen in the previous years in this role. Some of that may not come as a surprise to you. Those conflicts are peer-to-peer, both academic conflicts and social, outside of the classroom. Those conflicts are students with faculty, with advisers, etc." He added that one role he can play in conflict is to provide a space for folks to get together and hopefully in a more productive way hear what their concerns are. "We don't have the authority to impose a particular outcome, but at least help you hear one another in those conflicts." He added, "It is important to note that no one can be forced to meet with me - it is just another option that students can use when they are dealing with conflict."

Mr. Giancola reported that another trend he is seeing is a rise in scams and fraud. "Our students are finding themselves getting caught up in a whole variety of digital and other attempts to fraud them out of money, reputation, and a variety of things." He stated that in those cases he works with existing resources such as student legal services.

Regarding the Pack Essentials program, Mr. Giancola explained this program addresses food, housing, and financial security. "This is not a unique problem to NC State; it's one that campuses all over the country are dealing with. I will say that NC State has worked very hard and in some ways, positioned ourselves as a national leader on this issue. We have had resources on the campus for a long time to help students in these situations, but it was very distributed and not well known." He explained that there is a food pantry on campus that is for students, faculty and staff to utilize that began in 2012 and is completely run by students with some advisement from faculty and Staff. He added, "Last academic year, and going back to 2017, Dr. Mary Haskett did a research study. We were seeing all the national data about food and housing and security but what does that mean for our students? So in her research, she found that about 14% of our student body reported experiencing some form of food insecurity over the previous 30 days and about 10% has experienced some form of housing insecurity." He explained that this was not necessarily homelessness but could be international students who may not have a place to stay when the residence halls close during break. He added that the university worked to address that issue last year. "It may be that a student comes out as LGBT and their parents or their family disowns them and now they have to have another place to stay. It may be a student who is dealing with a domestic violence situation and has to get into emergency housing." He added that having a better understanding of the issue on our campus, they began the Pack Essentials Program.

"This is really a campus-wide initiative. Academic and Student Affairs has been a part of this, as has Mary Haskett, Sarah Wright, Dean Braden, and previous Dean and Vice Chancellor Mullen who have really provided leadership for this initiative." He stated that they have created a suite of programs and resources, including an emergency fund for students who find themselves having an unplanned financial emergency and opportunities for meal plan scholars. He added that it is important to note that we have had significant success receiving private donations from alumni and friends to fund this

initiative. "I think close to \$350,000 over the last year has been donated to this initiative to help ensure that students have access to basic needs."

Lastly, he spoke about how individuals can help with the Pack Essentials Program. "The first way is just being aware that your students may have these challenges. For many faculty and staff, they were surprised to know that this issue existed on campus at the numbers that I shared." He also suggested that faculty can add something about the program in their syllabus that will encourage a student to reach out if they're having challenges, or refer them to the office of Student Ombuds as the first point of contact for students. He provided some business cards to the Senators that they can have available in their offices if they would like to do so.

### **Questions and Discussion**

**Chair Kellner:** Private money. Does this mean that when we give money to the university at the end of the year that there is no place to designate funds for the Pack Essentials Program? How do we give money to the Pack Essentials program?

Mr. Giancola responded that there is a mechanism. Quite a few faculty and staff support the Pack Essentials initiative. Online, you can go to the giving page and you can select Pack Essentials or the student emergency fund is more likely the term that you would see there. That is the all-purpose tool and bucket that I have in order to assist students. That is the easiest way. The other way is to donate food to the food pantry. The pantry is a community resource that only exists because the community supports it and the community needs it. He stated that our staff and students heavily rely on the pantry, so you can donate funds or your time to help take care of our own community.

**Senator Williams:** Is there any way you can connect that to the United Way State employees campus-wide campaign?

Mr. Giancola responded that there are examples where campus entities are a part of State Employees combined campaign. We support that initiative both on and off campus but the administrative overhead on that takes away from the dollars that are spent on the students. If you are truly called to donate, I would say go straight to the NC State page and do it that way.

**Senator Bass-Freeman:** How long does it take for students, once they have applied for funding?

Mr. Giancola responded that this is really what has positioned NC State to be one of the national leaders in this regard. Today I received three applications - one was a graduate student who cannot make ends meet from month to month, the other is a student who has another sibling in college and they thought they would get more financial aid than they did so he doesn't have enough money for a meal plan, and the third one I cannot speak to directly. I am contacting the student usually same day, next day. The way it works is that when the application is submitted it goes directly to financial aid and then it comes to me. So financial aid will send it to me within a couple of hours, telling me what the students' eligibility is since we cannot fund beyond what the federal government says we can do legally. Once I get that notification, I'm reaching out to the student the same day or next day. The student that reached out to me this morning did not have access to food. I sent a note over to dining and there were 30 meals on that student's meal card so she could eat lunch in the dining hall. That is a program where students donate unused guest meals so other students can eat. In many cases, we are able to get those resources to them the same day or the next day. If it is a financial thing that we are working with the student emergency fund, I'll usually approve it the same day or the next day and it typically takes two or three days for the bank to process the transfer to them.

**Senator \_\_\_\_:** Seeing the increase in caseloads over the past few years, is there any discussion about increasing the Ombuds staff?

Mr. Giancola responded that he has been able to manage the case load, and his projection is that he can do that through this academic year as well. At the end of the day he wants to make sure there is a resource for students that is timely. Right now, he has the resources to meet students' needs in a timely way. With the increase in the Pack Essentials, however, it has changed things a bit.

**Senator Murty:** How do students know about this?

Mr. Giancola responded that they talk about the Pack Essentials program through new student orientation, as well as referrals from the doctors in student health. Referrals are also received from the counseling center and academic advisers. Some faculty also add standard Pack Essentials verbiage onto their syllabus.

**Senator Lubischer** stated that there are professors in the College of Sciences who have a presentation about this issue and they would be willing to make those presentations if requested.

**Senator Cooke** added that adding the language to the syllabus is important, but mentioning it or pulling up the website on the first day of class to make sure students are aware of the program, how they can find it, and to encourage them to share it with their friends who may need to know as well. She also noted that the student leadership team for the Feed the Pack pantry is looking for volunteers and advocates within each department to be able to have a donation box outside their office so you don't have to go all the way to the pantry to do donations. If you're interested in that, I can get that information to you.

**Please view the Student Ombuds Annual report here:**

<https://faculty senate.ncsu.edu/files/2019/09/Ombuds-Annual-Report-2018-19.pdf>

## 7. Remarks

*David Howard, Director, Instructional Innovation Services; Academic Technology Innovation, DELTA*  
*Will Cox, Director, Copyright & Digital Scholarship Center*  
*David Tully, NCSU Libraries Fellow*

Mr. Howard introduced colleagues Will Cross and David Tully, who participated in this presentation regarding the OpenStax program that the University has become a member of.

Mr. Howard thanked the Faculty Senate for the time to come in and share information about the OpenStax program. "There are two specific things that we want to get out of this. If any of you are interested in this program and want to talk to us more specifically about open textbooks, we want to hear from you or get a referral if you have a colleague who might be interested. Additionally, if there are obvious questions that we need to know how to answer, it's better to hear those first. That is what we are looking for."

In regard to what has already been done, Mr. Howard stated that we can take it as a known fact that textbook prices are rising and we don't need to spend a lot of time talking about that. "But certainly you can find articles in *The Technician* about it." As one of the ways to try and combat that, he noted, there is the concept of open textbooks, which are free to use, free to re-mix, free to change and edit - free and open textbooks. "OpenStax is a creator, provider and curator of those types of open

textbooks. It is run out of Rice University and is funded in part by Gates Foundation money and by other money.”

About eight years ago, OpenStax started working with other institutions to help raise the awareness and encourage the adoption of open textbooks. They take on about eleven partners every year, from community colleges to four year colleges. This year, NC State is one of the institutional partners. We did not have to buy into it, but they did not give us any money either. What they do is they have a lot of experience, both at Rice University and with the 80 partners over the last eight years. There is access to a lot of coaching, ideas about what has worked, and warnings about things that do not work at other institutions. They encourage our faculty to at least explore the concept of using an open textbook. Although they are a provider, they are in now ways in this partnership, set on us using OpenStax textbooks; it can be any open textbooks. They just want us to get the word out.

### Questions and Discussion

**Senator Berry-James:** I have a new textbook on the market that is in its third production, called *Why Research Methods Matter*.” We designed the textbook so it would be a really short professional read on research methods, and moderately priced so that people could really afford to get this book. I do use it on campus, so if I was looking to use that textbook in the classroom how can I do that?

Mr. Howard responded yes, we are happy to help you find an open text book that would work for your class. By open, I mean free and copyright available. Then we want to do whatever we can to work with you to lower or eliminate any barriers so you feel good about adopting it.

**Senator Berry-James:** So you cannot take my book and make it an open text and that type of thing?

Mr. Howard responded if you have the rights to make your book free and open, such that someone elsewhere could take it and not just use it as is but potentially use only portions of it or switch it around or change the chapters, with attribution, but still has the ability to adopt it for free and to change it, with an attribution for you. Then yes, it would count.

Mr. Tully responded that they had a good case recently at NC State. A professor had previously published a textbook and it had reached the stage where they could take that license and make it freely available.

**Dr. Kellner:** I took a look at the OpenStax stuff and I gathered that the open textbooks you’re talking about are on the model of the freeware software that was freely available - download it, change it if you like - but that is the model. It seemed to me that that is fine but that there were limitations regarding fields. So I looked at my field and sure enough, there was almost nothing there except for an American History text. This is the model that has been placed out there for people to work with. I was interested when you said that you could alter, cut and paste, change, and deal with this. To what extent then, is the authorship of this affected by that?

Mr. Cox responded that we talk about open as a way of saving money, and it aligns with what we were talking about earlier - students are choosing courses and majors, students are dropping majors and classes, etc., because of textbook costs. But more than that, we are believers in the idea that nobody is better equipped to teach your class than you are. Maybe I could write a textbook that’s pretty good, but the way you teach that takes whatever a foundation a textbook provides that is useful and brings in your expertise and your passion and your voice; that’s what makes an open textbook really exciting. That’s why free is an important part, but the open part is really important as well. For example, if you found a textbook and said well about 80% of this is garbage but I really like that 20%? What the open

license does is you can say I'm going to take the 20% I like, I'm going to take another 30% from this over here, I'm going to create 10% of it- and we have grants available to a graduate student for licensed resources for that sort of thing - so that the relationship between the faculty and the student is front and center, as opposed to this sort of one-size fits all "this other person wrote it and I'll just regurgitate what they said I should say."

**Chair Kellner:** This implies that down the road, the purpose of all of this is to increase the availability of sources in your library.

**Immediate Past Chair Bird:** Is the end product just an e-book or a PDF document or can it be physically printed?

Mr. Cox responded that it can be any version of that. There are some people who say that "textbookiness" is really important to me; I need the structure of a textbook, I need the problem sets and the ancillaries that a textbook publisher provides. Something like OpenStax can give you that structure if that's useful. But it is whatever you can imagine in a lot of ways, as long as you're reducing costs for students and doing something that gives you, as an instructor, and your student's agency.

Mr. Howard added that he works with faculty to do some great stuff; I love working with faculty to create the things that work for them, but many folks don't have the time. The reason you adopt a textbook now is that you're happy to use McGraw Hill's history textbook, even if you think it's only an 80% great solution - because it's done. So don't feel like the only way this works is to have to write your own and create 80% of a textbook. If you can find a solution that's 80% great or even 80% good, that may be as good as the one you're using now.

Mr. Tully added that he thinks an open textbook does invite some interesting opportunities for more effective pedagogy. For example, if you incorporate multimedia into it as well, it provides a few more options. A repository like OpenStax or open textbook library, they will provide printed issues for students at a very low cost; much less than the cost of a standard textbook. It isn't free, necessarily, but it is an awful lot cheaper than a textbook. Again, for students who want to save the money, there will be an e-book version available for them.

**Senator Berry-James:** Can we create it free here for students to use and then share it with our colleagues in our field at other campuses around the country? Is that the concept? Can I share it with anyone I want or are there some licenses or is there some NC State rules around that?

Mr. Cox responded that if you made it and you have copyright, then you can share it however you want. This program is designed to reduce cost and increase access. So we work with a platform called TopHat that has a model that is explicitly like free for your students, a low fee that you get a percentage of for students across the country. That is one option. There are other options so come by and talk to us so we can help you with whatever is the best way to do it. We think we can help you in whatever way that makes sense to you.

**Senator Murty:** This is the same thing as a course pack, right?

Mr. Cox responded that they have something called student success grants which are saving students money. We have had faculty to say they just want to take a bunch of existing material and put it together in something that looks like a coursepack or a digital coursepack. So that is one way to do it. Another way is to start with the foundation of an OpenStax book or whatever works best for you.

**Senator \_\_\_\_\_:** Does the program help either find free resources or help acquire different course materials?

Mr. Cox responded yes, both of those things. Our student success grants include a library liaison to help you find resources. A lot of people say that sounds great but I don't have the time to do that and I need some help. So you are paired with somebody who can help you do some of that search. There is some money there if you're a grad student. The access code stuff is a larger conversation because we have the bookstore as part of this conversation, as they are trying to help as well. "We, as a community, are trying to find the best way to provide educational resources. Sometimes that is a physical book that I can write in the margins of and sometimes that is a digital thing, but that conversation about something like WebAssign is a big conversation that we are all wrestling with for sure."

**Senator Cooke:** I know some of us have been contacted about the All-In Program at the bookstore. To what extent are you working with them on that? I know that's a different model than this.

Mr. Howard responded that in the broad sense of "what I'd love to do is just save students money," in that way yes, I am aware of the All-In Program. We have had a group meeting for about a year, just trying to exchange information. So it's not quite this program. In terms of saving money, there are a lot of things that can be done. The All-In Program is one of the most promising ways that we have right now that has a quick and big impact. If you don't know about it, please call Chris Walsh.

Mr. Cox added that All-In is part of that access code conversation as well. It is complicated.

**Senator Murty:** Where is your office?

Mr. Cox responded that his office is on the other side of the library in the east wing. You can also contact us through the website at [ncsu.edu/openstax](http://ncsu.edu/openstax). We have started to compile a list of suggested resources in your area. We go department by department so if the resources you see listed are good or bad - let us know either way.

## 8. Issues of concern

Faculty Issues of Concern can be submitted at any time to a Senator, the Chair of the Faculty, or to [Faculty\\_Senate@ncsu.edu](mailto:Faculty_Senate@ncsu.edu)

Chair Kellner mentioned some of the issues of concern that have been received to-date:

- a. Health Insurance (regarding state laws that require people to report their health information)
- b. Hiring policies (delays in the process having a detrimental effect)
- c. Voting in Faculty Senate elections (some names omitted)
- d. TA Fellowships (getting them or not getting them)
- e. Graduate student fees
- f. Regulations regarding the participation of minors in university activities
- g. Resource allocations (regarding the growth of administration)
- h. Review of courses for the GPS (evaluation of advising program)
- i. Pedestrian safety on Centennial Campus

**9. Next Meeting**

Agenda items/activities for the next meeting (September 24, 2019)

- a. Pictures of the Senate will be taken
- b. The Athletic Director, Boo Corrigan will speak, as well as Michael Kanters, Chair of the Faculty Academic Committee for Athletics
- c. Katharine Stewart and Courtney Thornton will speak on policy and regulations

**10. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.