

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

August 26, 2020 Minutes

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

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

- I. Introductions/Getting Acquainted: Since this is the first meeting of the 2020-21 academic year we spent time getting acquainted and discussing our respective reasons for serving on the faculty senate.
- II. Issues of Concern

We have yet to receive a specific issue of concern but at the first executive - committee meeting Chair Kellner posed a hypothetical question pertaining to intellectual property. Prior to the meeting the committee reviewed the existing policies and rules that govern the sharing of property rights of faculty and the university, for properties developed by faculty acting as employees of the university. In what appeared to be a resolution of the hypothetical we discovered the issue of shared intellectual property is perhaps not as straightforward as it seems from consulting the policies. People on the committee with extensive experience with research efforts leading to patentable ideas indicated that there are issues that policy may not adequately address. The term “substantial support” is a crucial concept for the university asserting a right to intellectual property created by faculty but what constitutes “substantial support” is ambiguous at best. Related to this is the practice of requiring students working in labs to sign a waiver of any claim they might have to patentable ideas that may emerge from their work in that lab. Another issue discussed was process related. There may be a problem with the alacrity of the university acting to file preliminary patent applications. Experience at other universities where the university was quick to act was contrasted with the lack of such quickness at NC State. Though not an issue of respective claims, the efficiency with which the process of securing intellectual property rights may also be an important issue. We also learned of the practice in at least one department of royalties from a workbook written by faculty to accompany large, core course sections are captured by the department.

- III. When to meet:
Senate committees have a prescribed time to meet which is at 3:00 PM on alternative Tuesdays. However, two of our members have class conflicts at that time so we have decided to continue meeting at 2:00 PM on Wednesdays since that is a time that seems most amenable to committee members.

- IV. Old Business
None

V. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 2:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Williams

Co-chair Academic Policy Committee