

NC STATE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the General Faculty Meeting
March 22, 2022

Hybrid Meeting: Talley Student Center Ballroom, RM 3210
Virtually via Zoom

Present: Chair Berry-James; Associate Chair Collins; Immediate Past Chair Kellner; Senators Allen, Ange-van Heugten, Bass Freeman, Bernhard, Blessing, Carrier, Duggins, Edwards, Erdim, Gerard, Hakovirta, Hergeth, Kirby, Kittle, Koch, Kuzma, Kuznetsov, McGowan, Morant, Narayan, Nicholas-Walker, Riehn, Robinson, Taylor, Tourino, Vincent, Williams, Yoon, Zagacki

Absent: Parliamentarian Bird; Senators Auerbach, DePerno, Edmisten, Ghosh, Jacob, Lunardi, Reiskind, Stallman

Guests: Randy Woodson, Chancellor; Warwick Arden, Provost and Chief Executive Officer; Katharine Stewart, Senior Vice Provost for Faculty & Academic Affairs; Rob Dunn, Interim Senior Vice Provost for University Interdisciplinary Programs; Ray Levy, Executive Director of NC State's Data Science Academy; Jane Lubischer, Associate Department Head, Department of Biological Sciences

1. Call to Order and Announcements - RaJade M. Berry-James, Chair of the Faculty

Chair Berry-James called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made and seconded. The agenda for the Spring 2022 General Faculty meeting was approved.

Chair Berry-James provided the following announcements.

The American Society for Public Administration's town hall meeting on March 21, 2022 was moderated by Chancellor Woodson. She thanked both Chancellor Woodson and Provost Arden for sharing their remarks.

NC State administration, faculty, staff and students are encouraged to complete the Strategic Plan Initiative survey.

The Faculty Senate elections begin at noon on March 22, 2022. Please vote and return your ballot by the deadline of April 5, 2022.

2. Chair's Remarks - RaJade M. Berry-James, Chair of the Faculty

Chair Berry-James remarked that the Class of 2022 Spring Commencement will be held at 9am on Saturday, May 7 at PNC Arena.

3. Approval of the Minutes, Fall 2022 General Faculty Meeting, October 21, 2021 - Maria Collins, Associate Chair of the Faculty

Associate Chair Collins called for a motion to approve the minutes for the October 21, 2022 General Faculty meeting. A motion was made and seconded and the minutes were approved.

4. Remarks and Discussion - Randy Woodson, *Chancellor and Warwick Arden, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost*

Chancellor Woodson brought greetings to the General Faculty. He went on to acknowledge that NC State was named one of Forbes Magazine's Best Employers in the Country and was ranked number one for employers in the state of North Carolina. The chancellor went on to say that NC State modified two critical policies for employees: one is a policy that allows for flexible scheduling and another is a policy that allows for remote work.

Chancellor Woodson went on to share accolades and announcements. NC State received another top 10 ranking in Military Friendly Universities for universities that work with veterans returning to school. The Veteran Center on campus supports the educational progress of all veterans who are pursuing their degree. March 23, 2022 kicks off NC State's Day of Giving where organizations, foundations and colleges compete to support their passion at NC State. NC State set an all time record among all organizations for a single day of giving of \$58 million dollars.

The Plant Sciences Building will open in April and will be dedicated on April 12, 2022. The Plant Sciences Building will support plant biology and related disciplines. On May 4, 2022, the Board of Trustees will host the Celebration of Excellence where faculty are awarded many accolades and recognized for the NSF Career and Holliday Metal awards.

NC State alumnus and internationally distinguished business leader and philanthropist, Dr. Mohamed Mansour, will deliver the commencement address. Chancellor Randy Woodson will confer an honorary degree on Brian Harry, who helped build one of the first electronic mail systems for personal computers.

Provost Arden began by greeting those in attendance. He continued by making the following remarks. The university has dropped mandatory masking indoors, except or in clinical, healthcare and certain labs. COVID rates, both on campus and in the local community, are extremely low. There was a slight uptick on March 21, 2022 which may have been caused from people returning from Spring Break.

Provost Arden went on to provide an update on leadership changes. Dr. Kate Meurs was named the 5th dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine and the first woman. Dr. Meurs currently serves as the interim dean and had previously served as associate dean for research. Dr. Paola Stein has been named the dean of the College of Education effective April 1, 2022. Leslie Boney, Vice Provost for Outreach and Engagement and Director of the Institute of Emerging Issues, will retire on May 1, 2022. Sarah Langer Hall will serve as interim director of IEI; Kwesi Brookins, professor of psychology, has been appointed the interim vice provost for outreach and engagement.

The nomination committee for the dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences held its first meeting on February 25, 2022; three external and one internal stakeholder listening sessions were held to allow for great attendance and input. Three finalists have been identified in the search for the senior vice provost for international programs: Barbara Johnson from Arkansas Tech University, Marius Boboc of Cleveland State University, and Helen Chen of the University of Cincinnati.

Dr. Marjorie Overton is leading the search for the senior vice provost for interdisciplinary programs. The first round of interviews will take place in April.

5. Interdisciplinary Education

- A. **Rob R. Dunn**, Interim Senior Vice Provost for University Interdisciplinary Programs, Reynolds Professor, Department of Applied Ecology

Rob Dunn started his presentation by talking about the creation of the Office of University Interdisciplinary Programs. Organizational changes and retirements presented the opportunity to create this much needed office. The office will oversee and direct interdisciplinary work at NC State. The office is tightly aligned with the Wolfpack 2030: Powering the Extraordinary, NC State's 2021-2030 Strategic Plan, and will lead interdisciplinary programs and initiatives focused on the university's tri-fold mission of instruction, research and engagement.

He then went on to describe academies. At NC State, an academy is a strategically-focused university-level interdisciplinary unit with the potential to, and goal of, working with all 10 colleges. Academies provide a common ground for faculty, staff and students of colleges, centers, institutes and other initiatives to connect and contribute to NC State's key areas of interdisciplinary strength, providing leadership for North Carolina, the nation and the world. The work of academies will address all three pillars of the university's land-grant mission: excellent teaching, the creation and application of knowledge, and engagement with public and private partners. Each academy is overseen by an executive director reporting to the Senior Vice Provost for University Interdisciplinary Programs. The Data Science Academy opened March 2021, Genetics and Genomics Academy opened in November 2021.

B. **Ray Levy**, Executive Director of NC State's Data Science Academy

Ray Levy began her presentation on the Data Science Academy by defining the term academy. At NC State, an academy identifies a true university-wide effort involving all 10 colleges. It encompasses multiple departments, centers and institutions and addresses all three pillars of the university's land-grant mission: education, research and service to the state of North Carolina.

She went on to say that the Academy engages the entire data lifecycle. We can collect, store, and analyze increasingly large and heterogeneous data sets. This has led to fundamental changes in the kind of questions we can ask and the ways that we can answer them. Interdisciplinarity is often key to insights. Visualization may include sonification, physicalization, and visceralization. Ms. Levy then shared a few slides about research enablement and project-based courses. Seed Grants that are being provided to faculty in interdisciplinary groups are: Promoting Youth Critical Data Literacy Through Computing and Community Storytelling With Data, Machine Learning-based Mathematical Representation of Model Uncertainty for Bayesian Inverse Uncertainty Quantification, and Think and Do: A Workshop to Advance Open Climate Data Science in North Carolina.

The Data Science Academy provides consulting services in collaboration with the NC State Libraries via graduate research assistants or semester long research assistants. The graduate students are often working in pairs across disciplines to help people address their data science needs.

Ms. Levy ended by saying that the Data Science Academy courses are developed within a three-level framework. The assignments ask students to integrate data with a context and with disciplinary knowledge, plus a data science process to address an issue.

C. **Jane Lubischer**, Associate Department Head, Department of Biological Sciences
Jane Lubischer

Jane Lubischer described her titled presentation, *Wicked Problems, Wolfpack Solutions*, as an introduction to the interdisciplinary necessary for addressing

wicked problems and to the diversity of disciplinary perspectives at NC State. Wicked Problems is a fully online asynchronous course that was inspired by Lewis Blunt. It is a common course experience for all incoming students, first years and transfer students. The course provides a preview of online learning tools used at NC State; it is an invitation to students to join the Wolfpack community. It also provides a framework for their general education and ultimately, it's a massive collaborative effort involving over 60 people and multiple colleges across campus.

She then shared comments from students on self reflection. Students were also challenged to: think about their own place, where they will fit, how they will contribute, what aspect of this wicked problem they may want to address.

Ms. Lubischer ended by explaining the importance of the presentation and that it is to let faculty know about the course so that collaborations may occur to figure out how to build it, how to expand it, and how we use Wicked Problems will affect solutions.

6. Questions and Discussion

Question: Are you able to enroll an entire freshman class?

Jane Lubischer: The course was designed so that all 4,000 - 5,000 students could be enrolled. A moodle page is set up, students are added and those who engage and complete the required coursework are the ones that then earn credit. The credit is then added to their records the following semester.

Question: What are the possible structural barriers?

Rob Dunn: The major challenge is, how do we identify these barriers and how do we intervene to remove some of these barriers. There are potential solutions and some will require much longer conversations. There are people all over campus that have identified workarounds, so we will also learn from those workarounds.

Walt Robinson: A suggestion that I have, and relates to the promotion and tenure process and interdisciplinary and collaboration: we typically require that external letters cannot be from collaborators. I propose a different class of letters that would be specifically from collaborators that would evaluate the person's ability and function as a collaborator, especially across interdisciplinary boundaries. I think this could incentivize and reward serious interdisciplinary and scholar support.

7. Old and New Business - RaJade Berry-James, Chair of the Faculty

A. Candidates for Chair-Elect of the Faculty

Chair Berry-James provided the candidate for chair-elect, Herle McGowan, an opportunity to introduce herself and give a candidate statement to the General Faculty.

8. Issues of Concern (IOCs)

Chair Berry-James reminded faculty that issues are assigned to the appropriate committee and committee recommendations or resolutions are discussed with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Faculty Issues of Concern can be submitted at any time to a Faculty Senator, Chair of the Faculty via email rmberryj@ncsu.edu or the Office of the Faculty Senate via email Faculty_Senate@ncsu.edu.

9. Adjourn

A motion was made and properly seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.