

NC STATE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the Faculty Senate
August 22, 2023

Regular Meeting No. 1 of the 70th Session Faculty Senate Chambers

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Present: Chair McGowan, Associate Chair DePerno, Parliamentarian Bird; Senators Ange-van Heugten, Bell, Blank, Burke, Daley, Davi, Diaconeasa, Edmisten, Edwards, Friend, Hajbabaie, Hajibabai, Hou, Hyman, Lee, Jasper, Kedrowicz, Marchant, Morant, Mullins, Narayan, Phukan, Robinson, Roland, Taveirne, Tourino, Verhallen, and Zagacki

Absent: Senators Breen, Reiskind, and Scalise

Guests: Chancellor Woodson; Margaret Baker, Graduate Student Association; Justin Hammond, Academic and Student Affairs; Marc Hoit, Office of Information Technology; Caroline Miranda, Student Senate; Alan Porch, Staff Senate

1. Call to Order and Announcements - Herle McGowan, Chair of the Faculty

Chair McGowan called the first meeting of the 70th session of the NC State Faculty Senate to order at 3:00 p.m. and made the following announcements.

- The introduction of ChatGPT last year generated a lot of discussion and some concern about academic and research integrity. In response, the Office of Faculty Excellence has developed a website with information about use of AI in teaching and research, including best practices and some example syllabus language for acceptable and unacceptable uses of AI in courses. Additional resources will be added to the page as they become available, so faculty are encouraged to bookmark the link provided and visit often.
- University Human Resources will host a Ready To Retire workshop on Tuesday, August 29th. Attendance is recommended for those considering retiring in the next 5 to 7 years.
- Parents and Families Services are hosting several kickoff events for faculty to connect with colleagues while receiving program updates, special events and exciting news from the Parent and Families Services team. Both in-person and virtual sessions are available.

2. Approval of the Minutes, Regular Meeting No. 14 of the 69th Session, April 20, 2023 - Chris DePerno, Associate Chair of the Faculty

Associate Chair DePerno called for a motion to approve the minutes of the fourteenth meeting of the 69th session of the NC State University Faculty Senate. A motion and second were made and the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Chair's Remarks - Herle McGowan, Chair of the Faculty

In her remarks to the 1st meeting of the 70th session of the NC State Faculty Senate, Chair McGowan stated, "One of my goals for this year is to encourage richer discussions among senators about issues affecting faculty specifically and the academy in general. I was concerned last year that the meetings focused too much on information transfer; while this is important, it is not the primary purpose of the Faculty Senate. We are an advisory body, and the diverse perspectives and

experiences of the people in this room are invaluable to fulfilling that role. With a lot of policy changes occurring at the system, state, and national level, I believe we will have a lot to discuss.”

4. Chancellor's Remarks and Q&A - Randy Woodson, Chancellor

Chancellor Woodson shared updates and information of note from across campus. The university has seen its largest freshman class ever with over 5,700 students. Additionally, there were 1,500 transfer students, making a total of over 7,000 new undergraduate enrollees. Graduate student enrollment is yet to be confirmed, but initial impressions indicate robust enrollment figures.

This summer has witnessed a shift in admissions policies due to the Supreme Court decision. Chief Counsel, Alison Newhart, has been rigorously working to navigate this change, especially at the graduate level. Admissions procedures for undergraduates, being centralized, are relatively easier to manage compared to the decentralized nature of graduate admissions.

The freshman class is represented by students from 96 counties out of 100 in the state, 43 U.S. states, and 42 countries. Notably, 18% of these students are the first in their families to attend college, aligning with the university's mission of inclusion.

Changing demographics have led to declining enrollment in 11 out of the 16 universities in the UNC System. However, N.C. State is positioned well and plans to expand in specific fields like computer science and engineering.

Presently, the university has committed to projects worth \$1 billion, dedicated to new construction and renovations. Significant transformations are expected, especially in the College of Sciences with renovations planned for multiple buildings. The university's power grid is undergoing a \$70 million overhaul to modernize and prevent outages.

A resolution on the state budget is overdue. The budget under review potentially includes raises for faculty and staff. The House's proposal is at a 5% increase, the Senate's is at 3%, and the final figure might lie somewhere in between these percentages. Many employees at the university are funded from non-state appropriated funds. The university maintains a long-standing policy of treating all its employees equally, which impacts various fees, especially in areas like health sciences.

Recognizing a challenging past year, Chancellor Woodson touched upon the media's manner of reporting on topics like suicide. Emphasizing the real dangers of suicide contagion, Chancellor Woodson detailed steps the university has taken to bolster mental health support. This includes:

- Increasing full-time counselors from 31 to 50.
- Embedding counselors in every college.
- Distributing counselors across the campus for easier student access.
- Noting a concerning fact: most students who took their own lives had not sought counseling and were not known to be at risk.
- The institution has a Behavioral Assessment Team among other resources.
- There is a drive to provide group counseling, telemedicine, and 24/7 academic care access for students.

Chancellor Woodson concluded his update by opening the floor to questions.

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

Provost Arden provided campus and leadership updates. 5,700 first-time, full-time freshmen arrived on campus; 1,500 transfer students; 291 Spring Connect students set to join in January; over 2,700 new graduate students, with potential for this number to increase, and over 4,000 international students, highlighting a robust international student body.

A total of 186 new faculty members have been welcomed to campus, which is a record number. Distribution by department:

- Agricultural and Life Sciences: 17
- Design: 4
- Education: 8
- Engineering: 38
- Humanities and Social Sciences: 48
- Natural Resources: 13
- Sciences: 28
- Veterinary Medicine: 14
- Poole College of Management: 7
- Textiles: 2
- University College (DASA): 2
- Libraries: 5

NC State also welcomed new leaders for three of its colleges: Jim Pfaendtner is the new Dean of the College of Engineering; Garey Fox is now the Dean of the College of Agricultural Life Sciences; Lewis Zou is the new Dean of the College of Sciences. All three began their positions at the start of the month.

Amy Conger, the current director of the University of Michigan Center for Global Health Equity, has been named as the new Vice Provost for Global Engagement and will be joining at the end of October.

There's construction underway for the new Integrative Sciences building. This building will stand five stories tall with 150,000 usable square feet. It promises to be a significant hub of activity for that part of the campus. Other nearby buildings, including Dabney Hall, Mann, and Broughton, are undergoing extensive renovations. There will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the Integrative Sciences Building. It will be held in the brickyard from 2 pm to 3 pm on Friday, September 8th.

Two Standing Committees, specifically the bookstores and dining committees, have been disbanded. The decision was made based on the recommendation from the Committee on Committees, and the Chancellor has endorsed this move. These two committees had not been particularly active for some time. They will be replaced by administrative advisory committees that will report to Rich Bowland, the Associate Vice Chancellor for F&A. The shift to advisory committees will allow more flexibility and hopes to have broader representation.

Provost Arden concluded his update by opening the floor to questions.

6. Introduction of New Governance Leaders

Alan Porch, Staff Senate Chair

Alan Porch addressed the audience, shedding light on the role and contributions of the Staff Senate and emphasizing the importance of community collaboration. The Staff Senate serves as an advisory body, representing staff interests to the Chancellor. Their function is somewhat similar to the Faculty Senate. Their tasks involve making recommendations related to staff concerns, reviewing policies, assisting with communication of issues, and promoting staff involvement within the university community.

While the Staff Senate directly represents the staff, they are an integral part of the entire NC State community, which includes students and faculty. The mission and vision of the Staff Senate revolve around building a more cohesive and supportive community at NC State.

The Staff Senate has been successful in establishing an emergency loan program. Over the past year, they facilitated 98 emergency loans for staff, faculty, and students. Seven such loans have been processed this year alone. They've initiated the second annual backpack drive, collecting school supplies for children in need; there is a computer loan program targeted at employees earning below \$45,000 annually; they are involved in a digital access initiative aiming to hire a digital navigator to support employees not familiar with computer usage.

The Staff Senate organizes the Toys for Tots drive during holidays and also runs a warm winter clothing drive. A potential partnership with Pack Essentials is in the pipeline to utilize the space of the Feed the Pack food pantry.

Alan Porch emphasized the importance of collaboration among all segments of the university, including extension agents across the state. He underscored the importance of including student government in their initiatives, considering they, along with staff and faculty, constitute the three main pillars of the NC State community.

Margaret Baker, Graduate Student Association President

Margaret Baker introduced herself as the new president of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) and discussed the role and objectives of the GSA. She is a fourth-year doctoral candidate in communication, rhetoric, and digital media (CRDM). This program is a collaboration between communication and English departments and is situated within the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is an advocacy body exclusively for graduate students at the university. Given that graduate students form a substantial portion of the campus population, the GSA ensures their needs and well-being are catered to and that their voices are heard across all levels of the institution. At the departmental level, there are GSA chapters. These chapters are then represented within the broader GSA council. The council collaborates with the graduate school and upper administration to ensure that graduate students' requirements are addressed.

Ms. Baker went on to say that graduate students often juggle multiple roles. They might be international or out-of-state students, parents or caregivers, researchers, teaching assistants, and students all at once. The GSA's mission is to support graduate students holistically, addressing their emotional, physical, financial, and mental needs.

She stressed the significance of the faculty in a graduate student's journey at the institution. One of GSA's primary objectives for the year is to enhance the relationship between graduate students and faculty. The goal is to foster better communication and collaboration between graduate students and their faculty advisors.

Ms. Baker concluded by expressing her eagerness to engage in discussions with members of the Faculty Senate and offered to answer any queries they might have.

Caroline Miranda, Student Senate President Pro Tempore

Caroline Miranda, who serves as the Student Senate President Pro Tempore, addressed the Faculty Senate Chambers. As a liaison between the Student Senate and Faculty Senate, they emphasized the need for better collaboration between the two entities to drive positive change on campus. Mental health is one of the primary areas of focus, and the importance of resource accessibility is emphasized. The recent Wolfpack Wellness presentation is appreciated, and the need for incoming students, especially first-year students, to easily access mental health resources was highlighted. Caroline offers an invitation to "Respect the Pack," an event at Tally Lobby, where Chancellor Woodson will be speaking. The event aims to celebrate diversity and inclusiveness, allowing students from different backgrounds to connect.

A new department, Engagement Outreach, will be launched, focusing on connecting with alumni and former student government members to tap into their wisdom and experience. The upcoming appropriation cycle is crucial for funding student experiences outside the classroom. Faculty advisors are encouraged to remind their students to apply for these funds.

Caroline highlights the importance of working together and suggests connecting Faculty Senate members with chairs of various Student Senate committees, especially those focusing on student affairs. Caroline concluded by opening the floor for questions about their role or the future directions of student government.

7. Updates

R1: 2022-2023: Call for an Official NC State University Land Acknowledgement Statement

Chair McGowan provided an update on the land acknowledgement statement. Last year, a resolution was passed to have an official NC State Land Acknowledgement statement. Similar resolutions were passed by both the student and staff senates, demonstrating widespread campus support for a unified statement. OEID and university communication are in the process of creating a website that will feature this formal land acknowledgement statement. Presently, different units within the university have diverse statements. The intention is to have a single, unified statement for the entire university. The website will also provide education on how to use the statement and offer a history of its development and land acknowledgment statements in general.

Overview of Updated Wolfpack Wellness Website - Justin Hammond, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Strategic Marketing and Communications

Mr. Hammond provided an overview and background on the new wellness website. The idea was to create a centralized "one-stop-shop" website for student mental health and wellness resources

stemming from the recommendations of the Student Mental Health Task Force. The process began earlier in the year, with a phased approach to its development. Over 400 resources gathered from various campus units in November and December of the prior year served as the foundation for the website content.

The site aims to address the issue of information being dispersed and fragmented across various sections of the campus. Several departments and colleges had their wellness resources, but this website will ensure a consistent source of information for all students. Collaboration between the Division of Academic and Student Affairs and University Communications was crucial for the site's development.

The first phase was launched in the spring and focused on categorizing resources, making them easily accessible for students. The second phase, which witnessed major updates, was launched on August 7th. Previously, the Wellness website was more committee-focused. Now, it's primarily student-facing.

The homepage highlights three primary areas: Virtual Counseling (including Academic LiveCare), CARES reporting, and Pack Essentials for student basic needs. Other sections include 'Find Help Now', 'Wellness News', and a dedicated 'Health and Wellness' tag on the university calendar. The 'Find Help Now' feature is particularly important for students needing immediate assistance. It includes emergency contact numbers, counseling center resources available 24/7, and details about the new crisis text line.

Google Storage Updates - Marc Hoit, Vice Chancellor for Information Technology

Marc Hoit led a discussion surrounding the implementation of storage quotas for the Campus Google Workspace. The introduction of quotas on Campus Google Workspace Storage is attributed to increased costs. Mr. Hoit put into perspective the concept of storage sizes, from gigabytes (GB) to petabytes (PB). NC State currently uses 5 petabytes on Google Workspace. Initially, Google had provided this storage for free, leading to heavy usage. However, in 2020, Google decided to start charging for storage over a certain limit, effective from November 2024.

The proposed cost is \$144,000 per year for each petabyte. With the current usage, this would result in an additional cost of around a million dollars annually for the university. Some individuals have stored massive amounts of data, including 500 terabytes for personal stuff and research data, mainly because it was initially free and unlimited.

The university offers research storage for one-fifth of the cost of Google's proposed charges. The goal is to guide users to use the right storage solutions, especially for research and essential data. Faculty members will be allocated 100 gigabytes. Graduate students will get 15 gigabytes. Retired faculty members will be provided with 5 gigabytes.

There is an understanding that data is crucial, but there is also a suggestion that too much data might not always be beneficial. OIT plans to work with the most significant data users to understand their usage patterns and assist them in optimizing their storage needs. Every faculty member is eligible for up to 30 terabytes of research storage. This storage solution is designed specifically to support the needs of researchers. Faculty can easily access this storage through a website and share it with their graduate students. This research storage is backed up to ensure the preservation of data. Additional

measures are taken to safeguard the information stored, ensuring that it is challenging to lose this data.

OIT is encouraging the movement of data out of Google and into their research storage solution. To facilitate this, they are working on developing tools to make the transfer process simpler and more streamlined. Matt, the technical lead, is mentioned as the point person in ensuring the automation and easy transition of this data. The overarching goal is to make efficient and cost-effective decisions concerning storage. By doing so, the institution aims to save significant amounts, potentially around a million dollars annually, which could be better used in other valuable areas.

System Policies and State Legislation - Herle McGowan, Chair of the Faculty

Chair McGowan addressed the subject of faculty workload. A new policy on faculty workload was approved by the Board of Governors during the summer. Efforts were made to clearly articulate what constitutes a full-time faculty equivalent workload. The standard expectation for a full-time faculty member is defined as 24 credit hours or equivalent contact hours. However, these hours can be reallocated among other job aspects like research, creative activity, and service.

Teaching is considered the primary mandate of the public university system, as emphasized by the Board of Governors. The 24 hours are not just classroom hours but encompass various teaching-related tasks. Teaching goes beyond merely the credit hours for classroom teaching.

Research is broadly defined and includes metrics such as publications, presentations, and grants. Service is highlighted as crucial for the university's role in supporting North Carolina and enhancing scholarly life. It's often a smaller percentage of the workload for most faculty members, but it's essential for the university's holistic development. The role of the Faculty Senate is recognized as part of this service to the university. Administrative responsibilities are also categorized under service work.

The policy is purposefully written broadly to cater to all 16 schools in the UNC System, from large research-intensive institutions like NC State and UNC Chapel Hill to smaller schools and even the North Carolina School of Science and Math, a high school. The primary aim of the policy is to ensure better consistency in faculty workloads across different institutions without attempting to redefine the roles and responsibilities of faculty members.

The new policy will be referred to individual campuses, which will have to align their internal policies with the system-level one. The Faculty Senate will be involved in these conversations to ensure faculty perspectives are represented and to facilitate compliance with the new system policy. While the faculty workload policy is finalized, there are other recommendations that are still open for comments and feedback. Faculty members are encouraged to review and provide feedback, especially on areas of personal or professional interest. A system-level committee, including members from the Faculty Senate, will work on transforming these recommendations into policy, and a Google Doc has been shared for collecting faculty feedback.

8. Faculty Senate Orientation - Herle McGowan, Chair of the Faculty

Chair McGowan provided a brief overview of Faculty Senate Orientation, emphasizing the importance of service to the Faculty Senate and participation in standing committees and highlighting the roles of subcommittees in addressing specific aspects of faculty concerns.

9. Adjourn

Chair McGowan adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.