

NC STATE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the Faculty Senate
Regular Meeting No. 3 of the 70th Session
October 3, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting No. 3 of the 70th Session Faculty Senate Chambers October 3, 2023

Present: Herle McGowan, Chair of the Faculty; Chris DePerno, Associate Chair of the Faculty; Carolyn Bird, Parliamentarian; Senators Hajbabai, Burke, Kedrowicz, Bell, Roland, Daley, Davis, Blank, Burke, Tourino, Hou, Dae Lee, Zagacki, Ange van Heugten, Hajinbabai, Taveirne, Diaconeasa, Narayan, Morant, Mullins, Drake, Robinson, Jasper, Hyman

Guests: Warwick Arden, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost; Kyle Bunds, Associate Professor of Sport and Sustainable Community Development, PRTM, CNR; Holly Hurlburt, Interim Director of the NC State QEP Packways: Learning by Doing

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

Chair McGowan called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

Chair McGowan then went on to provide the announcements:

- So today we have several important updates that I would like to allow plenty of time for. And I would also like to end early so that everyone can go home and prepare for Halloween as necessary. So I'm gonna keep my remarks even shorter than usual.
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2. Approval of the Minutes, Regular Meeting No. 2 of the 70th Session, September 5, 2023 – Christopher DePerno, Associate Chair of the Faculty

Associate Chair DePerno called for a motion to approve the minutes of the second meeting of the 70th session NC State Faculty Senate. A motion and second were made and the minutes were approved with one correction to attendance.

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

Chair McGowan made the following remarks.

Chair McGowan began the meeting by addressing an issue that has been brought up through the faculty wellbeing survey and via email. The issue concerns the armed conflict between Israel and Palestine in Gaza. Faculty have expressed concerns to me about the lack of an official statement from the Administration, which is easy to interpret as lack of caring. However, the UNC System office has issued guidelines to each institution and to all of the university administrators, encouraging them to limit public statements in the spirit of institutional neutrality. However, there is nothing in that messaging that prevents individual faculty from making a statement, especially to acknowledge pain or express concern for their students.

NCSU offers resources if needed including lighten your pack program is a good place to start. You may also reach out to Poole College of Management, Professor Eileen Taylor

directly. The light in your pack link highlights the wellness website which was presented at an earlier faculty Senate meeting where students can go to find multiple resources available at NCSU.

4. **Provost's Remarks and Q&A** – *Warwick Arden, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost*

Provost Arden provided the following remarks:

A self study for SACS Reaffirmation has been submitted; there will be an off-site review later in the year to inform us of issues we need to address and an on-site review in the spring.

Two 5-year leadership reviews are coming up this fall, with another two in the spring. All members of the campus community are invited to attend a presentation and Q&A period for the follow leaders:

- Senior Vice Provost and Director of Libraries, Greg Rashby: November 1, from 9 to 10 A.M., in the Currituck/Hatteras Ballrooms of the Talley Student Center, with a virtual attendance option via go.ncsu.edu/libraries-review.
- Dean Frank Buckless of the Pool College of Management: November 9, from 8:30 to 9:30 A.M., in the Currituck/Hatteras Ballrooms of the Talley Student Center, with a virtual attendance option via go.ncsu.edu/pcom-review.

August events included Integrated Sciences Building (ISB) groundbreaking, new department head orientation, and multiple very successful symposia throughout August.

Question: Will there be an option for providing feedback if you cannot attend the leadership review presentation.

Answer: Yes, in addition to the presentation, the Provost will meet with relevant constituents that same day, and a link to an anonymous survey will be sent out to those same groups.

5. **Campus Safety** – *Keith Edmisten, Co-Chair of the Resources and Environment Committee; Doug Morton, Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities; David Rainer, Associate Vice Chancellor Environmental Health and Public Safety*

Mr. Edmisten provided some background on the issue of concern that motivated the committee's discussion as well as recommendations they considered. These recommendations and a summary of campus consideration/action that has already taken place with respect to each is available in a report on the Faculty Senate website. Mr. Morton and Mr. Rainer provided further information and answered additional questions.

Campus has a multi-layered approach to safety and security, including multiple ways to report issues of concern: through the police department, through the legal hotline, through the violence prevention program. The Behavior Assessment Team addresses concerns about violence; the CARES Team addresses other concerns, such as students not attending class or drinking/drug problems. Concerns can be submitted anonymously; they can be submitted by or about faculty, staff, students, or someone not affiliated with the university; they are monitored daily and the various channels work together to address them.

There are currently 59 campus police officers who undergo a higher level of training than other law enforcement officers in the State of North Carolina and who practice emergency response on a regular basis. Response times to many parts of campus are 2-3 minutes. Campus police work with the state police, sheriff's department, highway patrol, and Raleigh police department.

There are cameras and safety stations in public spaces across campus, for example at all the tunnels. There are over 1,000 panic buttons across campus. 911 is the best way to report an emergency in progress. There is a Security Master Plan with recommendations; some are being implemented and some require additional funding.

On campus there are currently 238 Classtech classrooms (about 400 individual doors) and 220 or so class labs (about 300 doors) which can be used by all departments. Some can already lock. There can be a tremendous cost to installing locks (roughly \$500/door) and they may not be effective, for example if there is glass on the doors/walls or if people follow someone into a room. There are also many common spaces and offices that need to be considered.

Question and Answer

What about low-tech door jams?

They were purchased at one time but they disappeared, so they do not appear to be a good solution.

What about electronic door locks?

There are about 4000 card access points currently on campus. All new buildings on campus meet the design guidelines that were developed by security applications and technology for security (available on the facilities website), including electronic locks. But there is no funding to retrofit electronic locks.

What about the RAVE system that is used by Wake County Schools?

Campus uses some elements of the RAVE system, for example to send out Wolf Alerts. We have investigated other panic buttons and phone apps. There are over 1,000 panic buttons across campus. The ones individual officers are often accidentally triggered. Because of false alarms from the panic buttons they do not initiate a full scale police response; instead a 911 dispatcher will call that office to see what's going on.

What are faculty supposed to do in a classroom if they get a message about an active shooter on campus?

It's incumbent on people to take the training that we've made available to them. There is training on REPORTER on active threat response and on de-escalation strategies. The police department will come and train faculty members and departments in situational awareness and train them in how to best respond.

Where can faculty find more information on available training?

[This document](#) outlines resources available with respect to active threats, including training opportunities, mitigation strategies, security planning, and emergency communications. At the very end, there are some printable resources that you could post around your spaces.

6. Old and New Business

a. Update on the DEIB Committee

Chair McGowan provided the following update:

In January 2023, Faculty Senate convened a committee to explore how DEIB work, across all realms of faculty responsibility, could be more formally recognized during faculty evaluation. The intent was to better recognize high-quality faculty work that supports Goal 4 of NC State's Strategic Plan, which is to "Champion a culture of equity, diversity, inclusion, belonging and well-being in all we do," as this work is often considered invisible labor.

The committee was co-chaired by Dr. Pamela McCauley, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Wilson College of Textiles, and Dr. Corey Johnson, a distinguished professor in the College of Natural Resources.

It was designed to complete work over the 2023 calendar year, concluding this coming December. Unfortunately, two things occurred at the end of the Spring that led to Dr. Johnson and I stopping the work of the committee early. First, Dr. McCauley left NC State to take a leadership role at another university.

Second, concerns were raised about the committee in light of the compelled speech policy passed by the Board of Governors in February 2023. In May, screenshots of a survey put out by the committee were shared with the media, which misconstrued the committee's efforts as trying to force faculty at NC State to engage in DEIB work. While this was never the case, Dr. Johnson and I felt it was prudent to stop the current effort and reassess how to best move forward.

I want to assure members of the Senate and of the committee that the work completed during the Spring semester was not in vain. Phase 1 of the project, which focused on gathering information from peer institutions, federal funding agencies and our own campus community, was completed. This information will be available for future committees to build on.

I also want to assure you that I remain committed to the original goal of the committee and to Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan, as do our administrative leaders. Acknowledging our sensitive political climate, however, I believe that the best chance of enacting meaningful change will come from strategically regrouping. I am not sure exactly what this will look like yet, but I will be sure to keep the Senate updated.

b. Lead Senator Role

The purpose and responsibilities of the Lead Senator were discussed by the full senate. The role is intended to facilitate communication between the colleges and the senate and elevate visibility of the senate and the work that we do. Lead Senators would also encourage their college faculty to run for future senate seats. In some colleges, the Lead Senator provides regular meeting summaries; in other colleges they reach out when there is a particular issue requiring feedback. In some colleges the Lead Senator serves on their college leadership team. The role can require significant time in addition to standard faculty senate duties. In some colleges, several senators share these responsibilities.

Given time constraints, the rest of the discussion was tabled until a future meeting.

7. Issues of Concern (IOCs)

Faculty Issues of Concern can be submitted at any time to a senator or to the Office of the Faculty Senate [online](#) or via email at Faculty_Senate@ncsu.edu

8. Adjourn