

NC STATE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the Faculty Senate
April 16, 2024

Regular Meeting No. 13 of the 70th Session Faculty Senate Chamber April 16, 2024

Present: Herle McGowan, Chair of the Faculty; Christopher DePerno, Associate Chair of the Faculty; Carolyn Bird, Parliamentarian; Senators Ange-Van Heugten, Bell, Blank, Breen, Burke, Daley, Davis, Diaconeasa, Edmisten, Edwards, Friend, Hajbabaie, Hajibabai, Hyman, Jasper, Kedrowicz, Lee, Morant, Mullins, Narayan, Reiskind, Robinson, Roland, Taveirne, Tourino, and Zagacki

Guests: Boo Corrigan, Director of Athletics; Katie Graham, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Senior Associate Athletics Director; Kimberly Grainger, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Personnel and Policy; Stephen McGuinness, Student Senate President; Joel Pawlak, Associate Professor, Department of Forest Biomaterials & Faculty Athletics Representative; Katharine Stewart, Senior Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs

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

The meeting was formally called to order by Chair McGowan at 3:00 PM. The Chair announced a reception in honor of Senior Vice Provost Kathryn Stewart, scheduled for May 2nd, with remarks by the Provost. Newly elected Senators in attendance were welcomed.

2. Approval of the Minutes, Meeting No. 12 of the 70th Session, April 1, 2024 - *Christopher DePerno, Associate Chair of the Faculty*

Associate Chair DePerno called for a motion to approve the minutes of April 1, 2024. A motion and second were made and the minutes were approved.

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

Chair McGowan gave the following remarks. "... I would like to offer a short reflection on the current senate session. We have discussed numerous issues important to faculty, including faculty wellbeing, student success, and the evaluation of teaching. We have provided feedback on UNC System Policy changes and considered the impact of federal law surrounding admissions. I tried to strike a good balance between information sharing and discussion, so that Faculty Senate could best fulfill its role as an advisory body representative of faculty interests and needs.

Several of the topics considered this year were the result of issues of concern shared with the senate by faculty from across the university. We received more than 20 IOCs via our new online submission form and numerous more via email. Each IOC was discussed by the Executive Committee and, when appropriate, assigned to a subcommittee for further consideration. I've been working with the Executive Committee to update our standard operating procedure for addressing IOCs, to increase transparency and accountability in this process, as IOCs are critical to the work and impact of the Faculty Senate."

4. Provost's Remarks and Q&A - *Katharine Stewart, Senior Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs*

Katharine Stewart provided an overview of the university's academic landscape. Key points included:

- The search for the new Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Excellence is currently in progress. An email will be sent shortly, announcing the four finalists and the dates of their campus visits. Helen Chen, the Senior Vice Provost for Instructional Programs, is chairing the nominating committee.
- Four faculty members were recognized for winning the Alexander Quarles Holladay Medal for Excellence, the highest honor awarded by NC State University and the Board of Trustees. The recipients are:
 - Thomas Barry - School of Architecture
 - Linda Hanley Bowden - Plant and Microbial Biology
 - Cora Condon Murde - Nuclear Engineering
 - Laurie Williams - Computer Science

These extraordinary faculty members will receive the Holladay Medal during the university's commencement ceremonies. Additionally, they will be honored at the Celebration of Faculty Excellence on April 25, 2024.

- The Teaching Awards Luncheon took place on April 11th. Among the honorees were:
 - Paul Mulvey - Department of Management, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship, who received the UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching for NC State.
 - Stephanie "Steph" Jeffries - Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources, who won the Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The luncheon also recognized Outstanding Teachers, Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professors, Alumni Distinguished Graduate Professors, and the winners of the Gertrude Cox Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching and Learning with Technology.

- From March 25 to March 28, 2024 the SACSCOC Reaffirmation Team met with various members of the NC State community, including faculty, to review the university's accreditation status. An update on the reaffirmation process will be shared early next week.

5. Authorship Workgroup Recommendations - Kimberly Grainger, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Personnel and Policy

Kimberly Grainger provided an update on the Authorship Workgroup's recommendations, which had been developed over several months of consultations and discussions. The workgroup presented a set of guidelines aimed at ensuring fair and transparent attribution of authorship in research publications. Key recommendations included:

- **Criteria for Authorship:** The guidelines proposed clear criteria for determining who qualifies as an author on academic papers, emphasizing contributions to conceptualization, data analysis, and manuscript writing.
- **Order of Authorship:** The workgroup suggested a standardized approach for determining the order of authors, with an emphasis on the corresponding author's role in coordinating the work.
- **Dispute Resolution:** A process for resolving disputes over authorship was also outlined, recommending mediation through department chairs or a designated faculty committee.

The Senate members engaged in a detailed discussion about these recommendations, with several expressing strong support for the clear guidelines, noting that they would help avoid conflicts and ensure that all contributors receive appropriate recognition.

6. Student Senate Campus Directory Legislation - *Stephen McGuinness, Student Senate President*

Stephen McGuinness presented legislation proposed by the Student Senate concerning the campus directory. The legislation aimed to address student privacy concerns while improving the accessibility of contact information for campus services. Key points discussed included:

- **Privacy Considerations:** The proposed changes focused on allowing students more control over their personal information, particularly in the digital directory. This included options for students to opt-out of being listed or to limit the information displayed.
- **Accessibility:** The legislation also sought to make it easier for students to find important contact information, proposing a more user-friendly interface for the campus directory.
- **Security Concerns:** Several faculty members raised concerns about the potential security risks associated with the directory, particularly regarding the protection of sensitive information. It was suggested that the legislation include provisions for regular security audits and updates to the directory system.

After an in-depth discussion, the Faculty Senate agreed to support the legislation, with the understanding that the Student Senate would collaborate with the IT department to address the raised concerns.

7. Athletics Update - *Joel Pawlak, Associate Professor, Department of Forest Biomaterials & Faculty Athletics Representative; Katie Graham, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Senior Associate Athletics Director; Boo Corrigan, Director of Athletics*

Joel Pawlak, Katie Graham, and Boo Corrigan provided updates on the university's athletic programs. The update covered several key areas:

Recent Achievements: The Senate was informed of recent successes in the university's athletic programs, including conference titles and individual athlete recognitions. These achievements were highlighted as significant boosts to the university's profile and student morale.

Budget Considerations: The financial aspects of maintaining and expanding athletic programs were discussed. It was noted that while athletics brings considerable value to the university, careful budgeting is necessary to ensure sustainable growth.

Future Plans: Plans for expanding athletic facilities were briefly outlined, including potential upgrades to existing infrastructure and the addition of new sports teams. The importance of balancing these developments with academic priorities was also emphasized.

8. University Standing Committee Updates

a. Admissions Committee, Dennis Davis

Senator Davis reported that the committee has not met this semester, but a meeting is scheduled before the term ends. A significant change to the committee's charge, which was mentioned in the fall report, has been approved and finalized as of January. A memo outlining this approval was sent to members for the record. The change involves removing from the committee's charge the responsibility of regularly reviewing student appeals for those seeking to return after suspension. This responsibility has been reassigned to a different committee, which is better suited for the task. Consequently, the committee's duties have changed substantially, and these updates are reflected on the committee's website.

b. Athletics Committee, Christopher Roland

Senator Roland provided an overview. The committee, chaired by Joel Pawlak, comprises 26 members, including faculty, alumni, Wolfpack members, coaching staff, and student-athletes. The committee holds 2-hour meetings at the end of each month, with additional meetings to assess the academic eligibility of student-athletes. There are approximately 550 student-athletes across 22 varsity teams. The focus for the year has been on the evolving landscape of student athletics.

c. Committee on Undergraduate Education, Gary Blank

Senator Blank reported the Committee on Undergraduate Education meets virtually every two weeks to review revisions or proposals for new courses in the General Education program. Courses are presented by a committee member and reviewed by at least three members prior to the meeting. These reviewers raise questions, particularly regarding how well the course meets GEP criteria and objectives. The committee recently established an administrative process to approve minor course changes without requiring formal committee approval, which has streamlined the process and reduced faculty wait times. The liaison also has a vote on the committee and participates in reviewing course proposals.

d. Courses and Curricula Committee, Mihai Diaconeasa

Senator Diaconeasa reported that the course information management website plays a key role in the review and approval process. Minor changes are now expedited, with the committee meeting every two weeks to vote on them in batches, allowing for a faster process. Major changes, however, still go through the standard procedure, including being placed on the agenda, reviewed, and undergoing the necessary changes.

e. Group Insurance and Benefits Committee, Craig Friend

Senator Friend reported that the committee's work primarily focuses on 12-month employees rather than 9-month employees. This year, their efforts have been centered on expanding leave opportunities, particularly pursuing bereavement leave and leave for taking care of aging parents, with a focus mainly on staff.

f. Honorary Degree Committee, Michael Taveirne

Senator Taveirne reported that the Honorary Degree Committee met twice this academic year, once in the fall and once in the spring. The committee decided to eliminate self-nominations for honorary degrees, believing it is better for individuals to be nominated by others. They approved two nominations to be forwarded to the Chancellor and Board of Trustees for final approval. In December, the committee conferred an honorary degree to Dr. Saul, a urologist at the Institute Pasteur. In May, they will confer degrees to Dr. Jim Owens, a

philanthropist, NC State alumnus, and former CEO of Caterpillar, Inc., and to David MacMillan, a Princeton chemistry professor and 2021 Nobel Prize winner. The committee continues to seek nominations, with questions directed to Amy Jeannette in the Provost's office.

g. International Programs Committee, Dennis Daley

Senator Daley reported that the International Programs Committee, a faculty and staff advisory group, typically doesn't meet frequently with those who run the programs. However, this year there have been two joint meetings, which have been beneficial for discussing and addressing common issues. The committee faces high turnover in university staff, with new leadership currently coming in and learning the ropes. New faculty often encounter long-standing problems, so the committee is working on creating a FAQ resource to help faculty navigate technical challenges more efficiently.

h. Lifelong Faculty Involvement Committee, Michael Hyman

Senator Hyman reported that the committee, chaired by Peggy Dominic from Health and Exercise Studies, advises the provost on matters related to retired faculty. This academic year, they met seven times online and had a productive period. Their main objective was to create a "retirement tips" PDF to address gaps in the support for retired faculty, particularly in staying connected, maintaining productivity, and engagement post-retirement. The document is nearly complete and will soon be shared. The committee also plans to address issues next year, including developing a policy to ensure retired faculty are included in departmental emails and improving the availability of healthcare information.

i. Speakers and Lecturers Committee, Harriett Edwards

Senator Edwards reported that the committee, supported by the Harrelson endowment, focuses on bringing speakers to campus. They meet monthly, either via Zoom or email, to evaluate nominated speakers. This year, they have reviewed about a dozen nominees and are currently negotiating a contract for a speaker to visit in September. The committee also works on marketing strategies to increase participation from students and faculty and is exploring collaborations with other colleges and universities to maximize resources and extend the reach of these events into the broader community.

j. University Housing Committee, Jeong Dae Lee

The University Housing Committee met on February 23rd, where Pete Frackarole reported on the current and overall housing program. The university has been using University Towers, located behind the Allen parking deck, as additional housing under a one-year lease. The property will be purchased on May 6th and will cater to first-year students. A \$12 million renovation will follow, providing 916 beds across 7.5 floors. The report also highlighted the broader operations of University Housing, which manages 64 residential buildings, totaling over 3 million square feet and valued at over \$500 million, accommodating more than 10,000 residents next year. The housing program is committed to enhancing students' campus experiences by continuously adapting to evolving expectations, improving technological and safety standards, and streamlining maintenance processes. Several capital projects are underway to improve building systems, aesthetics, accessibility, space utilization, and increase bed counts.

9. Old and New Business

a. Elections

The elections for the upcoming Faculty Senate year are now finalized. Congratulations were extended to both newly elected senators and those continuing into a second term. The faculty elections for the 603, 604, and 607 committees did not fill all available seats. An email will be sent tomorrow to current and newly elected senators in the affected colleges where open seats remain. The email will request assistance in identifying faculty for one-year, stop-gap appointments to ensure full representation for every college and unit.

During the last Faculty Senate meeting (not the joint meeting), it was noted that there was one candidate for the office of Chair-Elect, Dr. Chris DePerno, who had submitted his nomination in advance. No additional nominations were received from the floor. Due to an oversight, the ballot for the Chair-Elect was not included in the recent elections, meaning no election for this position has taken place. The Chair apologized to Dr. DePerno and the faculty for this mistake, and announced that the election would be postponed until the start of the fall semester. The delay will provide time to recruit additional candidates, ensuring that the faculty has a genuine choice in selecting their representative. Information about the election will be provided at the beginning of the fall semester.

Current faculty senators will have additional opportunities to vote on several upcoming matters:

- Voting for next year's Executive Committee, which will occur in a two-step process.
- Voting for the selection of the NC State Faculty Assembly delegation.
- Voting for the Council on Athletics, as discussed earlier in the meeting.

Information about these elections, including candidate bios and voting instructions, will be sent via email later this week or early next week. The Executive Committee has decided that electronic voting will be used for these elections to save time during physical meetings and ensure that all votes are properly counted, especially with the increased use of online and hybrid meetings.

b. Faculty wellbeing

Chair McGowan reported that Faculty wellbeing has been a significant focus, particularly in the area of research support and administration. An open letter from faculty led to the creation of three task forces, each co-chaired by a faculty member and a staff member.

- The task forces will focus on:
 - Sponsored Programs
 - Research Implementation and Culture
 - Collaboration and Communication
- These task forces will work over the summer to develop recommendations for improving processes.

Beyond research administration, other aspects of faculty wellbeing are also being considered. The speaker will continue to strategize on ways to address these issues. Faculty members are encouraged to share their ideas and suggestions, with an open invitation to discuss them over coffee during the summer.

c. NC State Faculty Policy Working Group

Katharine Stewart expressed her gratitude to those involved in the Faculty Policy Working Group, which has ensured representation from each of the Faculty Senate's standing committees.

The group has developed a faculty workload policy that will be presented to the Board of Trustees next week. The policy is compliant with the university system's guidelines but avoids being overly restrictive.

The working group will continue to work on updating related regulations, such as those on faculty workload, annual review, and statements of faculty responsibilities. These regulations are easier to modify since they do not require Board of Trustees approval. The group is prioritizing changes that are time-sensitive due to system office deadlines. After addressing these urgent matters, they will return to the usual process of consulting with the Executive Committee and standing committees of the Senate.

10. 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.

11. Adjournment of the 70th Session Faculty Senate

Acknowledgments and Thanks:

- Before adjourning, Chair McGowan expressed gratitude to all members of the Faculty Senate for their contributions throughout the year, particularly the Executive Committee, which served as his advisory group.
- Chair McGowan thanked the Senators who will not be returning next year for their service and wished them well. She also looked forward to working with returning Senators.
- Appreciation was extended to faculty members who participated in meetings, both in person and via Zoom, for their engagement and contributions to discussions.

Commendation Resolution:

- Chair McGowan specifically thanked Senior Vice Provost Katherine Stewart for her support and assistance throughout the year.
- The Faculty Senate Executive Committee drafted a resolution recognizing Katherine Stewart's leadership.
- Per Senate bylaws, resolutions of commendation can be voted on in the meeting where they are first read, without requiring a second reading.
- Chair McGowan read the resolution and then called for a voice vote.

The resolution was passed by a majority vote.

Chair McGowan adjourned the 70th Session of the Faculty Senate at 4:38 PM.