

NC STATE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the Faculty Senate
August 20, 2024

Regular Meeting No. 1 of the 71st Session Faculty Senate Chambers August 20, 2024

Present: Herle McGowan, Chair of the Faculty; Christopher DePerno, Associate Chair of the Faculty; Katherine McKee, Parliamentarian; Senators Allaire, Ange van Heugten, Bell, Blank, Burke, Campbell, Daley, Davis, Diaconeasa, Drake, Edmisten, Edwards, Fabiku, Hajbabaie, Hajibabai, Jasper, Meiklejohn, Mullins, Paige, Phukan, Robinson, Roland, Schwartzman, Taveirne, Taylor, and Verhallen

Absent: Senators Breen, Fang, Hou, Hyman, Lowe Reed, Moore, and Zaarour

Guests: Warwick Arden, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost; Damon Armour, Charles Hall, Staff Senate Chair; Taquan Dewberry, Student Senate President Pro Tempore; Caroline Miranda, Student Senate President; Randy Woodson, Chancellor; Alyson Wilson

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

Due to technical difficulties, Chair McGowan opened the 71st Session of the Faculty Senate at 3:19 p.m.

She announced the transition from BCBS to Atena as the state health plan's third party administrator. To help faculty and staff learn more about Atean, the State Health Plan will host webinars and outreach events throughout this month. Starting in October, the state health plan will host events to help with Open Enrollment.

2. Approval of the Minutes, Regular Meeting No. 13 of the 70th Session, April 16, 2024 (no corrections) - Christopher DePerno, Associate Chair of the Faculty

Associate Chair DePerno called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2024 Faculty Senate Meeting. A motion and second were made and the minutes were approved.

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

Chair McGowan welcomed the new and returning faculty senators.

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

Chancellor Woodson shared updates and information of note from across campus. He highlighted the excitement surrounding the start of the fall semester, noting that over 7,000 students have joined the campus community, including nearly 6,000 first-year students and over 1,600 transfer students. Approximately 30% of these new students hail from underserved counties in North

Carolina. The Chancellor emphasized the competitiveness of the admissions process, with the university receiving over 44,000 new student applications and nearly 5,000 transfer applications, ultimately admitting around 42% and 47% of these applicants, respectively. Woodson expressed pride in welcoming such a diverse and talented group of students and acknowledged the efforts of the faculty and staff in preparing for their return, setting the stage for a successful semester.

Chancellor Woodson then addressed recent leadership changes, beginning with the retirement of Mladen Vouk, former Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, who served NC State for nearly 39 years. Alyson Wilson, who previously served as Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, has been appointed as Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation. A national search for a permanent replacement will be conducted this fall, chaired by Dean Jim Pfaendtner. Additionally, Paula Gentius, former Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees and Chief of Staff to the Chancellor, has left NC State to join Wake Forest University. Her duties are now being shared between Lindsay Recchie, who serves as both Assistant to the Chancellor and Interim Chief of Staff, and Maggie Thompson, who now holds the dual roles of Chancellor's Communications Specialist and Interim Assistant Secretary. Chancellor Woodson expressed confidence in the university's continued success under this new leadership.

Chancellor Woodson reiterated his plans to retire at the end of his current contract in June 2025. He stated his willingness to serve as Chancellor through the academic year or as long as the UNC System and the search committee require. Lindsay Recchie will support the search committee and the UNC System Office during this transition. The university is in the process of selecting a search firm, and listening sessions for various campus communities will be announced soon. Updates on the search process will be available on the Chancellor's website, where a survey has also been posted to gather feedback from the NC State community. Woodson expressed that serving as Chancellor has been the greatest honor of his professional life and looks forward to what the coming year holds.

Finally, Chancellor Woodson celebrated the success of NC State athletes at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. Thirteen current, former, and future Wolfpack student-athletes represented various countries, with swimming being the most prominent sport. Notably, NC State alumni Katharine Berkoff and Ryan Held won gold medals as part of the United States' 4x100 medley relay teams. Berkoff, a five-time NCAA champion and 30-time All-American, and Held brought great pride to the university. Additionally, professional tennis player Diana Shnaider, who played for NC State in 2022, won a silver medal in women's doubles representing the Independent Neutral Athletes. NC State Swimming and Diving Coach Braden Holloway also contributed to the Olympic success as an assistant coach for Team USA. Chancellor Woodson expressed pride in the accomplishments of these athletes and optimism for their future endeavors.

In closing, Chancellor Woodson thanked the faculty for their leadership and service, acknowledging their critical role in advancing NC State's research, education, and outreach missions.

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

Provost Warwick Arden provided a detailed update on the current semester, emphasizing that it is shaping up to be very busy and full of activities. He noted the arrival of nearly 6,000 new first-year freshmen students and 1,600 transfer students, predominantly from North Carolina community colleges. Additionally, over 300 Spring Connect students are participating in various off-campus programs this fall, with 49 of them studying in Prague this semester. The university also welcomed

2,446 new graduate students, underscoring the continued strength of its graduate programs. Arden highlighted that NC State now has over 3,600 international students, making it the largest population of international students at any university in North Carolina.

Arden also celebrated the arrival of 145 new faculty members, with significant numbers joining the College of Engineering, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He underscored the importance of recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty and shared that a new Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Excellence, Kim Grainger, took office on July 1, replacing Katharine Stewart. Grainger, who has served as an associate vice provost for many years, is highly regarded, and Arden expressed enthusiasm about working with her in this new role.

Additionally, Arden announced the appointment of Eduardo Laurente as the new Vice Provost for Budget and Business Operations, starting September 23. Laurente brings extensive experience from his previous roles at the University of Maryland and the University of Virginia. Arden also mentioned the departure of Dr. Rich Bonanno, who served as Associate Dean and Director of Extension as well as Vice Provost for Outreach and Engagement. In his stead, Sarah Kirby and David Monks will share the interim associate dean roles, with Monks also taking on the position of Interim Vice Provost for Outreach and Engagement. A search for a permanent replacement is underway, with hopes to fill the position soon.

Arden concluded by expressing his eagerness for the semester ahead and indicated that he would provide further comments on other discussion topics as the meeting progressed. He also looked forward to seeing everyone at the Chancellor's event that evening.

6. Introduction of New Senate Leaders - *Charles Hall, Staff Senate Chair; Taquan Dewberry, Student Senate President Pro Tempore; Caroline Miranda, Student Senate President*

Charles Hall, the Staff Senate Chair, began his remarks by briefly introducing himself as the Director of Marketing Communications for Computer Science, Electrical, and Computer Engineering, noting that his role has kept him primarily on Centennial Campus. He expressed that serving as Staff Senate Chair has provided a valuable opportunity to explore other parts of the campus and connect with various departments. Hall emphasized the importance of fostering partnerships across campus among faculty, staff, and students, highlighting that this will remain a key focus for the upcoming year. He also acknowledged the efforts to ensure that the Staff Senate Chair has adequate physical space, which is critical for conducting meetings and other duties. While he personally has an office, he recognized that many staff members do not, and removing this barrier for future chairs is immensely valuable. Hall concluded by welcoming any conversations or discussions from others about solving problems and improving campus governance.

Caroline Miranda, the Student Senate President, introduced herself and shared that they are a third-year student majoring in Science, Technology, and Society (STS). As the Student Senate President, Miranda expressed a strong commitment to working collaboratively with the Faculty Senate and other campus partners to address important issues. They emphasized the importance of coalition building to tackle complex challenges, particularly in chaotic times.

Miranda highlighted several key issues the Student Senate plans to focus on this year, including advocating for marginalized students and ensuring that resources for these students are maintained, especially in light of recent policies by the Board of Governors. Mental health is another significant

focus, with an emphasis on promoting holistic wellness for students, faculty, and staff. Campus safety and improving relationships with University Police and emergency services are also priorities.

Given that it is an election year, Miranda underscored the importance of fostering active citizenship on campus, noting that NC State had one of the highest voter turnouts in the ACC during the last presidential election. They are committed to maintaining early voting access on campus, particularly for students who may not have other means of transportation.

Miranda also mentioned the establishment of a new Academic Affairs department within the Student Senate, which aims to collaborate with the Faculty Senate. Additionally, the wellness department is working on a best practices guide for professors to promote student wellness in the classroom.

Miranda invited Faculty Senate members to attend Student Senate meetings, which are held every other Wednesday at 7:30 PM in Tally 4140, and encouraged them to reach out if they have any questions or need assistance. They also mentioned that efforts are underway to provide live streaming or Zoom options for these meetings to make them more accessible.

Taquan Dewberry, the Student Senate President Pro Tempore, introduced himself as a second-year student majoring in Computer Science and Philosophy. He expressed enthusiasm for working with the Faculty Senate and highlighted the importance of strengthening relationships and shared governance among all members of the university community. Dewberry emphasized the need for open communication, recognizing that everyone is affected by the decisions made at the university. He looks forward to providing regular reports to the Faculty Senate throughout the year.

7. Old and New Business

Chair McGowan reorganized the items under Old and New Business to support schedule constraints of a guest speaker. Many of the items under this section are ongoing; Faculty Senate will receive updates when available.

a. Updated REG 08.00.02 – Use of IT Resources

Damon Armour provided an update on the regulation of IT resources, which had undergone significant revisions to streamline content and clarify roles and responsibilities related to technology use on campus. This regulation, previously known as the "Computer Use Regulation," was renamed to reflect broader technological applications. The revisions reduced redundancy, standardized compliance expectations, and included new sections on privacy and email usage for university business. This presentation was an introduction to regulation; senators will have the opportunity for more in depth discussion and a vote at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

b. Research Administration and Support Services Task Forces

Chair McGowan reminded those in attendance that in April, Chancellor Woodson commissioned three task forces to evaluate and make recommendations for improving Research Administration and Support Services with a charge that included both short-term

and longer-term goals. The first update of multiple updates about these task forces will be given by Alyson Wilson, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation.

Alyson Wilson discussed the work of task forces set up to address research administration and support services. These task forces were initiated after an open letter highlighted inefficiencies in research administration. They were tasked with proposing pilot projects to address specific issues, such as standardizing pre-award submission timelines and improving the efficiency of research-related services. The task forces will continue their work with a comprehensive report due by the end of September, and further updates are anticipated. In the meantime, updates will be posted to the [task force website](#) and questions or comments can be sent to rass-feedback@ncsu.edu.

c. Faculty Chair-elect

McGowan also addressed an oversight from the previous semester regarding the selection of a Chair-elect for the Faculty, noting that a candidate's name was left off the ballot, preventing an election from taking place. Over the summer, efforts were made to recruit a second candidate to ensure a competitive election, which will now take place in October. The candidates will be announced at the General Faculty Meeting on October 1st, with the election running from October 3rd to 17th. McGowan expressed eagerness to work with the future Chair-elect.

d. Chancellor Search

Chair McGowan briefly mentioned the Chancellor's search process, with an emphasis on confidentiality and the importance of faculty participation in the survey and upcoming listening sessions, which will be announced via email and Faculty Senate announcements once dates are set.

e. Student Mental Health Task Force and Implementation Teams

McGowan addressed the ongoing work of the Student Mental Health Task Force, which began in the fall of 2022 and continued through the spring of 2023. In early 2023, this task force published a report with a comprehensive set of recommendations that concentrated on three themes:

1. Cultivating a culture of care
2. Providing additional resources, and
3. Revising our current policies, rules and regulations to support student well-being.

Since May of 2023, teams of faculty, staff, and administrators have been working to implement these recommendations. Progress has been made by some teams, such as updates to the [wellness website](#), including a [searchable database of resources](#) that could "lighten a student's pack," as well as changes to the university's postvention procedures. Other implementation teams have been working, including some over the summer; updates from these will be made at a later Faculty Senate meeting.

f. Foundations of American Democracy

Chair McGowan provided an update on Foundations of American Democracy, a controversial policy update from the system office that introduced system-wide student learning outcomes related to the foundations of democracy. These outcomes must be met through coursework starting with the freshman class of 2025. A working group, which includes faculty representatives, is tasked with determining how NC State will comply with this requirement.

g. DEI Repeal and Replace

McGowan also provided an update on the DEI Repeal and Replace policy, which was passed by the Board of Governors in May. Late in the Spring semester, the UNC System Office proposed to the Board of Governors that the policy and corresponding regulation on Diversity and Inclusion Within the University of North Carolina be repealed and replaced with one entitled Equality Within the University of North Carolina. This proposal was approved on the consent agenda of the May Board of Governors meeting, just after the last Faculty Senate meeting of the 70th session.

Institutions have been given until September 1, 2024 to comply with the new policy and report the steps they took toward compliance to the System Office. In late June, the System Office provided four pages of guidance to campus regarding implementation of the new policy. McGowan highlighted that the guidance is a delineation between the roles and rights of faculty and students vs. that of the administration. Initiatives that support student success, including those “tailored to the experience of students based in part on their race, sex, nationality...” are allowed under the new policy. Organizations such as the Women’s Center or the Multicultural Student Association are allowed as they can help foster communities that contribute to an environment conducive to student success. It is important to note that the guidelines provide clear metrics of student success, as previously defined in the UNC System Strategic Plan.

For faculty, both the policy and the guidelines clearly affirm academic freedom and domain expertise in teaching, research, and service. If faculty has something as part of their class or research agenda which addresses diversity, equity, and inclusion, that is germane to the discipline or student success in their field, it is permissible under the new policy.

To comply with policy, NC State has reorganized and renamed the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity to the Office of Equal Opportunity, and it will focus on compliance issues. Student centers, such as the African American Cultural Center and the LGBTQ Pride Center, will move from that office to the Division of Academic and Student Affairs. Additional details can be found in emails sent to the campus community from the Provost earlier this month.

h. 2023 Faculty Policy Working Groups

Chair McGowan highlighted the 2023 Faculty Policy Working Groups. These groups, a collaboration between the system office, all UNC campuses, and the Faculty Assembly, have been instrumental in making significant policy changes, particularly concerning professional

track faculty. Recommendations from many of the working groups resulted in policy changes during the last academic year. More recently, recommendations from the Awards & Recognition Working Group resulted in policy changes that widened eligibility for the BOG Teaching Award to a years of service requirement rather than a tenure requirement. Ongoing discussions based on recommendations from the Professional Track Faculty Working Group are expected to lead to substantial updates to the UNC System's Code and Policy Manual regarding these faculty members.

i. New Faculty Assembly Initiatives

McGowan described new Faculty Assembly initiatives aimed at addressing additional issues that could benefit from the collaborative approach seen in previous working groups. Faculty are encouraged to volunteer for these task forces, which are still being formed. The Academic Program Review Committee has already begun its work, with Walt Robinson representing NC State. The other initiatives are open for faculty nominations and participation, with a deadline set for the end of the week.

j. Other UNC System Updates

Chair McGowan highlighted a significant issue that arose following the last Faculty Senate meeting: UNC Chapel Hill had used the Panopto classroom recording system to record a faculty member without their knowledge or permission, claiming it was part of an investigation. This [incident](#) raised concerns about the misuse of recording technology, especially since Panopto's implementation on campuses had already sparked debates about privacy. McGowan noted that UNC Chapel Hill lacked a clear policy on such recordings, and after reviewing NC State's policies, it became evident that there were gaps in addressing the use of widespread classroom recordings like those by Panopto.

In response, McGowan suggested that the Faculty Senate should proactively develop a clear policy governing the use of classroom recording technology to prevent similar situations at NC State. This policy would clarify the rules and expectations for both faculty and administration. McGowan planned to discuss this with the Executive Committee and involve a relevant subcommittee to ensure comprehensive policy development, considering existing university, state, and federal policies. This initiative aims to prevent unexpected incidents and ensure that faculty rights and privacy are protected.

8. Adjourn

Chair McGowan adjourned the meeting at 5:04 PM.