

NC STATE UNIVERSITY
Spring 2024 General Faculty Meeting
March 5, 2024 at 3:00 PM

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

Chair McGowan called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM and made a motion to approve the revised agenda. A motion was made and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair McGowan made the following announcements:

A few days ago, the CDC shortened its COVID isolation period. The updated guidelines recommend that a person can return to normal activities if they are fever free for 24-hours and any symptoms are improving. Since NC State follows CDC guidelines, this may have implications for students in your classes. You can learn more on NC State's or the CDC's COVID-19 websites.

Full-time faculty should have received a personalized link to complete the COACHE faculty satisfaction survey, which should take about 25 minutes. This is not a survey where results go into an abyss never to be seen again. Results are used to create or bolster initiatives that support faculty, including creation of the Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Office of Interdisciplinary Programs, and mentoring resources that can benefit all faculty. If you have not already, please complete the survey; it will close by the end of this month.

2. Approval of the Minutes, Fall General Faculty Meeting - October 17, 2023 - Christopher DePerno, Associate Chair of the Faculty

Associate Chair DePerno called for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2023 General Faculty Meeting. A motion was made and seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

Chair McGowan emphasized the importance of participating in both civic and university-level governance, particularly with today being an election day for state primaries. She noted that higher education is a key topic with various bills impacting it. The aim is to engage in thoughtful discussions on these issues without causing panic or political polarization.

Chair McGowan urged faculty to actively participate in governance processes by voting in elections, running for university positions, and providing feedback through surveys like the upcoming Employee Engagement survey. She highlighted the need for candidates in

the Faculty Senate elections, encouraging anyone passionate about improving the university's work environment or who values the faculty role to consider running. The term is for two years, with about two hours a week required for meetings.

In addition, she mentioned opportunities to serve on faculty hearing committees, the Faculty Assembly, and as Chair-elect, each offering different levels of commitment. The deadline to submit candidacies for these positions is March 8.

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

Chancellor Randy Woodson provided several updates, beginning with recent leadership changes at NC State. He noted that Kevin Howell left for UNC Health, but Julie Smith has taken over his responsibilities, bringing extensive experience with the North Carolina General Assembly. Additionally, Lisa Marie Ferrell was introduced as the new Chief Communication Officer, having previously held similar roles at Lenovo and UNC Chapel Hill.

Chancellor Woodson highlighted a significant achievement by the Wilson College of Textiles, which received a \$15 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to support university-community college collaborations in the textile industry, with potential funding up to \$160 million over 10 years. Another NSF grant was awarded for a North Carolina Center for Coastal Algae Research, focusing on harmful algae blooms affecting coastal industries. He also announced that NC State received a bronze award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) as part of the "Sea Change" initiative, which aims to support underrepresented faculty in STEM fields. NC State was one of only a few universities to receive this recognition.

Lastly, Chancellor Woodson provided an update on the Poe Hall situation, indicating that testing will resume soon following adjustments to the mainframe distribution system and collaboration with the EPA and National Institute of Environmental Health and Safety (NIEHS) to ensure safety standards. He assured continued transparency and regular updates on these efforts.

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

Provost Warwick Arden announced several key updates and initiatives. He began by mentioning that his office is holding annual Reappointment, Promotion, and Tenure (RPT) information sessions for new and current tenure-track or professional-track faculty. The next session will take place on March 20th in Riddick Hall. Provost Arden also emphasized the importance of participating in the COACHE survey, administered every three years by the Harvard Graduate School of Education, which tracks faculty satisfaction over time.

Regarding leadership changes, he noted that Senior Vice Provost Katharine Stewart will be returning to the psychology department after nine years of service, and the search for her replacement has already begun. Two five-year leadership reviews are in progress this

spring for Vice Provost Sherri Schwab from the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity and Vice Provost Mark Bernhardt from NC State's Continuing and Lifelong Education. Additionally, Provost Arden completed reviews for Dean Frank Buckless of the Poole College of Management and Senior Vice Provost Greg Raschke.

The university has also received recognition as a Fulbright top-producing institution, with 11 students and 7 faculty members awarded this year, placing NC State among the top institutions for both scholars and students. Lastly, 22 new University Faculty Scholars were named, representing 10 colleges and 21 departments. This program, now in its 10th year, is designed to recognize and retain high-achieving early to mid-career faculty by offering a title and an increase in base salary, aiming to counter recruitment efforts from other institutions.

6. Faculty and Policy: Updates from NC and Around the Country

Chair McGowan provided a comprehensive update on recent proposals and legislative actions affecting the university and its faculty, highlighting concerns about academic freedom and the value of higher education. One key focus was the Foundations of American Democracy (FAD) proposal, initiated by the UNC System Office, which was discussed at a previous Faculty Senate meeting. Feedback from NC State and other institutions led to modifications, such as removing the requirement for a 3-credit hour course and revising the wording of the student learning outcomes. If approved in April, these changes will be implemented for students entering in Fall 2025, requiring prompt campus discussions on how to integrate this into existing curricula.

McGowan also addressed broader legislative trends, citing the REACH Act from South Carolina and a bill in Indiana that ties tenure to "intellectual diversity," emphasizing how such measures could disproportionately impact faculty in certain disciplines. She highlighted a recent North Carolina bill requiring universities to change accrediting agencies after each accreditation cycle, which adds complexity to the re-accreditation process. Additionally, a report on the return on investment for UNC system schools showed positive results but raised concerns about its narrow focus on lifetime earnings.

Chair McGowan urged faculty to stay engaged, advocate for their interests, and participate in shared governance, reinforcing the importance of voicing concerns and contributing to discussions about the future of higher education.

7. Old and New Business

a. NC State Faculty Policy Working Group

Katharine Stewart, Senior Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs

Vice Provost Katharine Stewart provided an update on the NC State faculty policy working groups. She emphasized the importance of shared governance in university decision-making and stressed that faculty participation is more crucial now than ever. The working group was established to address recent changes in faculty-related institutional policies at the UNC System level that require swift amendments to NC State policies.

The group is focused on changes to policies with tight deadlines, such as the faculty workload and annual review policies, and includes representatives from the Faculty Senate's standing committees, department heads, and the Office of General Counsel. Vice Provost Stewart clarified that this group is only being used for policies requiring quick action, while other policies with more time will follow the standard, more inclusive process.

One key change involves requiring an annual workload plan for each faculty member and strengthening the annual review process. She assured that ongoing consultation between the Provost's office and the Faculty Senate will be built into the regulation to ensure that these policies are regularly evaluated and revised as needed.

b. Faculty Wellbeing Update

Chair McGowan noted that she covered this information in her earlier presentation.

8. 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.

9. Adjourn

Chair McGowan adjourned the meeting at 4:17 PM.