

NC STATE UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the Faculty Senate
Regular Meeting No. 4 of the 71st Session
October 29, 2024

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Present: Herle McGowan, Chair of the Faculty; Christopher DePerno, Associate Chair of the Faculty; Walter Robinson, Chair-elect; Katharine McKee, Parliamentarian; Senators Allaire, Bell, Burke, Campbell, Daley, Davis, Edmisten, Fang, Hajibabai, Hyman, Jasper, Lowe Reed, Meiklejohn, Mishra, Moore, Mullins, Paige, Robinson, Schwartzman, Taveirne, Taylor, Verhallen

Absent: Senators Ange van Heugten, Blank, Breen, Diaconeasa, Drake, Edwards, Fabiku, Hajbabaie, Hou, Krim, Phukan, Roland, Zaarour

Guests: Warwick Arden, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost; Miroslava Colan, Graduate Student in Student Leadership and Engagement; Fashaad Crawford, Vice Provost for Assessment and Accreditation; Pierre Gremaud, Associate Dean of the Graduate School; Kaitlyn Mittan, Director of Assessment and Accreditation

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

Chair McGowan announced that it is NC State's Red and White Week, the annual homecoming celebration. Key events include the Chancellor's Fall Address at 1:30 pm the next day in Talley Student Center, which will also be streamed online. More details and a full event calendar are accessible via the link on the agenda's second page. Additionally, free food will be available at Stafford Commons for those wearing red throughout the week.

2. Approval of the Minutes, Regular Meeting No. 3 of the 71st Session, September 17, 2024 - *Christopher DePerno, Associate Chair of the Faculty*

Associate Chair Christopher DePerno called for a motion to approve the minutes of the third meeting of the 71st session of the NC State Faculty Senate. A motion and second were made and the minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Chair of the Faculty, Herle McGowan, offers several updates in her remarks. She announces Walt Robinson from the College of Sciences as the newly elected Chair-Elect of the Faculty, and thanks Dennis Daley for his willingness to serve. She then provides a detailed update on the Chancellor search process, noting the conclusion of listening sessions and the collection of over 5,000 survey responses to form a leadership prospectus. The search firm Parker Executive, chosen after a competitive process, will assist in candidate outreach and background checks. McGowan addresses concerns about Parker's involvement in UNC's Chancellor search, assuring faculty of the firm's capability and her commitment to an authentic search process.

The timeline for the search includes synthesizing feedback to develop a leadership statement, candidate outreach, and application reviews, with the goal of having the next Chancellor announced by the end of the spring semester. McGowan encourages continued participation through survey feedback and candidate nominations. She explains the nomination process and the search firm's role in encouraging candidates to apply based on the merits of the position and the university, rather than financial incentives. She closes by mentioning that information about the Chancellor search is available [online](#) and notes upcoming updates to campus policy resulting from changes to UNC system policy.

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

No remarks.

5. Academic Program Review Draft POL and REG - Fashaad Crawford, Vice Provost for Assessment and Accreditation; Kaitlyn Mittan, Director of Assessment and Accreditation; Pierre Gremaud, Associate Dean of the Graduate School

Vice Provost Fashaad Crawford, Director Kaitlyn Mittan, and Associate Dean Pierre Gremaud presented an overview of the proposed Academic Program Review (APR) policy updates in response to new UNC System requirements. The APR comprises two primary parts: the existing annual student learning outcomes assessment and the strategic program review conducted every seven years, which focuses on continuous improvement and student success. Recent updates from the UNC System mandate institutions to include specific data points labeled A through F as listed in *The Code Policy 400.1* Section A.ii, covering areas like enrollment, workforce demand, and financial considerations.

The team's response is to create a new institution-level regulation (Reg) that complies with system policy while preserving NC State's current review processes, which are valued for their focus on academic quality and support for students. The new Reg will

integrate the mandated data points as an addendum to existing self-study reports, aiming to minimize additional workload on faculty.

During the Q&A, concerns were raised about the potential workload for departments, particularly regarding difficult-to-track data, like graduate employment outcomes and workforce demand projections. The presenters assured that they would handle as much data collection as possible centrally, though some aspects may still require departmental input. Additional questions addressed the complex nature of data gathering and the relevance of outcomes beyond North Carolina, with the team acknowledging ongoing challenges in aligning data requirements with institutional capabilities and meaningful assessment.

Other key topics and concerns emerged:

1. **Ambiguity and Open-Ended Requirements:** Attendees expressed concerns about the lack of clear criteria for evaluation, particularly with point "F" of the policy, which allows for "any other considerations" to be added by the Chancellor or President. The presenters acknowledged that this flexibility could lead to unpredictable demands, and they are working to anticipate these requests.
2. **Metrics for Success and Program-Specific Criteria:** Questions were raised on how success metrics, such as post-graduation employment and workforce demand, would vary across disciplines. There was a consensus that metrics should reflect each program's context and values. This would likely require a blend of standard metrics and program-specific measures, with departments contributing narratives to contextualize quantitative data.
3. **Concerns About Program Curtailment:** Faculty members voiced concerns that the collected data might be used to justify program cuts, as seen in recent curtailments at other universities within the UNC system. There was particular worry that this new approach, focused heavily on financial and employment metrics, could disproportionately impact humanities and interdisciplinary programs where success may not align with high salaries or immediate local employment.
4. **Logistical and Resource Challenges:** Faculty pointed out the difficulties of gathering accurate post-graduation data, especially given limited resources and alumni tracking issues. They also questioned how the increased workload would be managed without additional resources. The presenters emphasized that they aim to centralize data collection where possible to reduce the burden on individual departments.
5. **Financial Transparency:** Some attendees suggested that understanding how tuition and other funds are allocated within the university would help departments better plan and justify program value.

6. **Alignment with University Mission:** Attendees expressed concerns about the policy's narrow focus on North Carolina outcomes, which they felt was misaligned with NC State's status as an R1 research institution with a global impact. There was a call for future conversations with the incoming Chancellor to balance system requirements with NC State's broader mission.

The presenters encouraged ongoing faculty feedback as they refine policy implementation and finalize metrics by 2026. Faculty thanked the presenters for involving them early and expressed willingness to continue providing input as the policy evolves.

6. [Pack the Polls](#)

Miroslava Colan, Graduate Student in Student Leadership and Engagement

Miroslava Colan and her team, representing "Pack the Polls," introduced the nonpartisan initiative designed to promote civic engagement and voter turnout among students at NC State. With 22 ambassadors, the group provides resources, workshops, and events like the "voting toolkit" to guide students on voter registration, polling locations, and election information. Colan highlighted ways faculty could support these efforts, such as inviting "Pack the Polls" to speak in classes and sharing resources like the voter wellness guide, which addresses election-related stress.

7. **Old and New Business**

- a. Foundations of American Democracy

Faculty discussed implementing a new "Foundations of American Democracy" course requirement for undergraduates, set to begin in Fall 2025. Recommendations included creating a corequisite GEP (General Education Program) FAD category, requiring courses to satisfy two system-mandated objectives without additional criteria. The goal was to allow these courses to double count with other requirements, ensuring no additional credit hours. Faculty voiced concerns about managing demand for these courses and transfer equivalency, especially from community colleges. Feedback from faculty was encouraged to fine-tune this requirement.

- b. Staff Senate Updates - No updates.

- c. Student Senate Updates

Taquan Dewberry shared that the student government had presented their tuition and fee recommendations to Chancellor Woodson. Listening sessions for the Chancellor search received good feedback, and a student survey was conducted. Upcoming resolutions include advocating for free academic printing on campus. A future discussion was anticipated about DRO (Disability Resource Office) accommodations and the need for consistent application of student accommodations across classes, as well as addressing capacity issues in proctoring and testing services.

8. Adjourn - Herle McGowan, Chair of the Faculty

Chair McGowan adjourned the meeting at 4:43 PM.