Convene Meeting and Remarks

Andrea Hunter, Chair of the General Faculty and Faculty Senate

Welcome to the First Meeting of the Faculty Senate for this academic year, and my inaugural meeting.

My name is Andrea Hunter, and I am affirmed by the pronouns she, her, and hers; and I am the Chair of the Faculty Senate and the General Faculty, and I now Call this Meeting to Order.

I want to first introduce you to the leadership team, Anne Wallace (Immediate Past Chair), Brad Johnson (Secretary), and Lynda Kellam (Parliamentarian) who is new to the Faculty Senate and joins us from the Libraries.

I begin with the tradition, of the Immediate Past Chair, to give a few opening remarks. As we are at a moment of historical reflection, within the university and nationally, I will share how comingled pasts will shape my leadership and inform my aspirations for the Senate.

An Inaugural Presentation to the Senate: Opening Remarks

James Baldwin, in his essay, a Talk to Teachers wrote: “American history is longer, larger, more various, more beautiful and more terrible than anything anyone has ever said about it.”

History is like everybody talking at once, to use the words of Elsa Barkley Brown, there are multiple rhythms being played out in relation to each other as in a jazz composition. This is evidenced by the work on the Aycock Public Memory Project led by Benjamin Filene with the collaboration of history students.

And there are moments, when history beckons all of us, as it has in the weeks since the incidents at The University of Virginia, and Charlottesville, to ask: Who and what we are becoming? And, that answer most often begins with how we first understood ourselves – and this is defined in relation to one another.

When I told my mother, I had applied to a position at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, she said first, “Our family was from the Carolinas”—to
which I wryly replied, “You know, there are two.” But she was right, as she nearly always is; like the sparrow, my family made a migratory passage through the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida with transatlantic landings in colonial Virginia.

Like so many black folk pulled by forces more instinctual than reasoned, I returned to the place where “I first knowed myself.” Mine was not the return migration Carol Stack wrote of in Call to Home but rather an intergenerational journey along the southern leg of the Atlantic Flyway more than a century in the making.

Here I was, on the faculty of a public university in the state of North Carolina, a little more than an hour’s drive from Franklin County, where my great-grandfather had been born into bondage, as was his father, his father before him, and his father before him, a white planter.

Two lineages of my family, left North Carolina, just a few years after this university’s founding, in pursuit of opportunity and to escape racial violence. I knew none of this when I arrived, but it was immediately felt.

When I was a child, I did not understand how close my kin and I were to American slavery. I thought this history to be distant, somewhere near the beginning of time, but those days stood near us like a shadow in the noon-day sun.

I could see no scars in their eyes, nor fear, and in the world my elders created for themselves and for me, there was no shame. So, I could not have imagined that their parents had just walked out of bondage and all of who they were now, the enslaved and stolen generations before gave them this—something that could not be bought, sold, or taken.

And I was raised to believe that the arc of history bends toward what is just—fueled by faith, and acts of will. This, I learned from those, for whom almost everything was taken yet who still believed in the promise of this nation.

So, the university’s defining themes of opportunity and excellence, shared place and fate, and transformation are not just words to me.

We now commemorate the 125th anniversary of this university’s founding, to braid together the best of what we have been, and to make ourselves anew—it is our Third Act, a time for Giant Steps, as Chancellor Gilliam has stated, and we are resolute, and aspirational—as we should be.
After 25 years of the Faculty Senate, we are ending our First Act, we have been tested in ways you know, and now the Second Act opens amidst great change in the academy and university education, as well as at UNCG as it moves forward in these currents.

The Faculty Senate, the legislative arm of the General Faculty, and our committees where so much of deep work occurs, is an engine. Together we are service-leaders; we have both breadth and depth in our university-level faculty governance structures, which includes not only 36 senators, but 25 committees and we are 200+ faculty strong.

To move forward as a faculty governance body, we must increase communication and transparency, build deeper connections between committees of the Faculty Senate, with each other as faculty, and with central administration and other divisions of the university; and we must work toward mutual trust and respect; and we can also advance commitments to equity, diversity, and inclusion.

I do not believe our work in faculty governance is immaterial, or that we are powerless, through our missions we support the university as an educational institution, and promote a diverse student body and faculty, and promote the success and welfare of each. The faculty are central to this story, we are a part of the lifeblood of UNCG; and though our roles and responsibilities differ from those of central administration and other divisions, the health of the university is no less dependent on what we do.

We no longer should be UNCG’s best kept secret, and it is important to bring visibility to our work in the Senate (and its committees), and to elevate its value so that it is commensurate with the contributions we make.

I come to the leadership of the Faculty Senate with great optimism but I do so without naiveté, in the words of Langston Hughes, my life in the academy “ain’t been no crystal stair.” I deeply understand the challenges we face but we, as a body, need not be defined by them.

To close, I bring to my role as Chair, the conviction of those who could not stand where I do now; and with a commitment to faculty governance, and to a body that is engaged, empowered, and is both advocate for faculty, and partner with central administration, as well as other divisions of the university, and staff and student organizations---an aspiration shaped by this historical moment, and where we now sit as a university.

I look forward to serving as Chair, and I deeply appreciate the confidence placed in me, and it is an honor to serve with my university colleagues in this way.
Approval of the May 3, 2017 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Brad Johnson, Secretary of the Faculty Senate (Enc. A)

● No corrections.
● Minutes passed.

Provost Remarks

Dana Dunn, Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor

● Provost Dunn welcomed back the Senators to the new academic year
● Cited university setting as a refuge at times from what is going on in the world
● Going to be a busy year for UNCG; much momentum at the present
  ○ We should congratulate ourselves for the work that’s been done as we have grown to 20,000 students (up 1.4% from the past year; 3.4% in graduate enrollment)--have increased enrollment steadily over the last 4 years
  ○ 23% increase in online credit hours generated
  ○ Housing on campus opened completely full with overload, including a waitlist that couldn’t be addressed--approximately 5,400 students living on campus
  ○ 39 new tenure-line faculty were welcomed this year--a combination of replacement faculty as well as expansion faculty
  ○ 26 new searches have been authorized for this year--these are expansion searches beyond replacements
  ○ 9 faculty have been welcomed to endowed professorships--article on the Provost’s website
  ○ We were able to award 2 Sullivan professorships this year (in honor of the late Chancellor Patricia Sullivan)

● Activity
  ○ 5 new programs in development
    ■ Undergraduate degree information studies
    ■ Master’s in Data Science
    ■ Joint PhD w/ A&T in Social Work
    ■ Online PhD in business
    ■ Master’s in International Business

● Research activity has been increased
  ○ Last year set goal of 5% for externally-funded research--we met and exceeded this goal

● Key positions on campus beyond faculty
  ○ 2 Dean searches--Nanoscience and HHS
  ○ Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs search
  ○ Associate Vice Chancellor for Research
  ○ Provost thanked faculty serving on these search committees

● Student Success
  ○ We have joined the Frontier Set funded by the Gates Foundation
  ○ We are 1 of 33 institutions doing cutting-edge work on student success and 1 of 5 profiled by the Gates Foundation (report available mid-year)
Infrastructure
- Banner 9 project
- Course Leaf online software platform implemented this fall

Strategic planning activity--under way but nearing completion
- An update at the General Faculty meeting
- Website will go live next week with general framework of the plan as well as goals for departments
- Have prescribed metrics from General Administration--Provost asked Senators to review her website at the dashboard developed to review targets established for UNCG

Strategic seed funding program will be launched again this year
- $150,000 will be available for grants tied to themes of the strategic plan

Provost shared that we have opportunity to provide very modest salary increases to faculty and staff this year
- Currently underway in terms of awarding of increases that came from State Legislature and monies generated from UNCG enrollment growth

Questions from Floor
- Senator asked about Chancellor’s statement about DACA and the impact at UNCG
  - Provost shared we will continue to follow updates on DACA
  - We are doing what we can through various professional associations to urge Congress to protect current students and establish further legislation
  - Shared other UNC Chancellors are doing similar efforts on their respective campuses
  - We have a very small number of DACA students here at UNCG--have reached out to every one to offer what assistance we can (counsel, comfort, and support)
  - Provost also acknowledged the impact on faculty and staff as well as students
  - Will keep the campus updated on DACA as further developments arise

Legislative Update
Andrew Cagle, Director of State and External Affairs
Nikki Baker, Director of Federal and External Affairs
- Andrew--legislative liaison in Raleigh for UNCG--here with UNCG for about 13 months
  - Major incentive for UNCG was enrollment growth--roughly $20M coming into UNCG
  - Faculty retention dollars--GA asked for $3M to bump up the fund but it came back at $1M
  - UNCG’s presence in legislative affairs in Raleigh--UNCG is “at the table” more so than some other UNC schools
• Nikki--been with UNCG since 2012
  ○ UNCG alumna--Master’s is Languages, Literature, and Culture
  ○ Worked with House of Representatives member for about 10 years’ experience in Washington, D.C. As well as N.C.
  ○ Time is spent monitoring policies, trends, etc.
  ○ Time spent articulating value in public education
    ■ Showcasing UNCG as major economic influencer as well as educational force in NC
  ○ Partners with Andrew so narrative is same from both perspectives about UNCG??
  ○ Welcomed feedback and suggestions

ENGAGE Banner 9
Elizabeth Crawford--Director of Initiatives, presenting on behalf of Kristine Sunda, Executive Director of Banner 9 Implementation, who was out ill
Michael Gaines, Director of Registration and Records
• Worked from a PowerPoint presentation, which will be available on the Faculty Senate website
• Must evaluate business and data processes before implementing to Banner 9
• Curriculum checking will be turned on March 2018
• New features
  ○ Advisor/Student profile--will have a lot of data configured in 1 place instead of having to navigate to several different screens as is currently the case
• Course Leaf Implementation
  ○ New online catalog initiative being implemented
    ■ Currently in PDF but will be moved to more interactive online format
  ○ Curriculum Inventory Management
    ■ Will be able to track curriculum changes as they move through committees
    ■ Take current workflows and put into technology formats--will be working with the Office of Assessment
    ■ Hope to begin utilize the system starting Fall 2018 that include changes to be implemented for 2019-2020
  ○ Degree Works
    ■ Will work with Graduate School to put Graduate programs inside Degree Works in addition to undergraduate programs
    ■ New features
      ● DW Planner integrates with Student Registration--allows advisors to work with students to map out student’s career at UNCG--online worksheet system
      ● Planner will be able to better integrate with Registration so students can register for classes easier than currently
• UNCG has been on Banner for about 20 years
- How can we help?
  - Data Standards Information sessions will be held--attend if able
  - Program and curriculum owners will be contacted to help clean up catalog data

- Questions from Floor
  - Senator asked for definition of “state approval workflow”
    - how workflows are defined currently and how will they be defined going forward
  - Senator asked about functional course listing on line that used to exist (Smart Catalog) to PDF that now exists--when’s the timeline for new system
    - Kelly Burke spoke about Smart Catalog
    - New electronic system will be rolled out for Fall 2018
  - Senator asked about methodologies faculty will have to be educated on new tools and features
    - A team member will be dedicated to training and explaining new software and features to faculty

Resolution #FS09062017/1

Stephen Yarbrough, Chair, Faculty Governance Committee

- Resolution #FS05032017/1: To Amend the Constitution of the General Faculty, Article II, Section 2, “Election of Senators,” to Restore Electoral Divisions’ Minimum Representation by Two Senators and to Provide for Optional Exemption for Small Electoral Divisions
  - Steve read the resolution to the Senate
  - Questions from Floor
    - Language indicates that if start at 1 they can become 2 but not clear if the reverse is true
      - Anne Wallace clarified--division can go up or down if they are at 1
      - 2 senators is the default; every electoral division has at least 2 senators; if a division is small, they can elect to have just 1 senator to avoid overtaxing faculty
      - An electoral division can, through a majority vote, always elect to go back to having 2 representatives in Faculty Senate
    - Questions--what is the situation with regards to representation for programs such as WGS?
      - Anne Wallace shared this has nothing to do with Faculty Senate but is based more inside an electoral division--this is a small repair to the Constitution with division representation and does not affect how representation is determined within a division
      - Anne shared that this resolution would not address the concern--Senators should talk with election committees within the division
Anne clarified that individual depts. or programs are not represented within the Faculty Senate

Question--one could say that Libraries didn’t like their representation and wants to change the rules and how another program could bring up the same concern

Steve shared that the Libraries have always had 2 senators and with the new reapportionment, they would drop down to 1

Greg Bell shared that it’s not that Libraries didn’t like what happened, it was more than the original intention of the Senate was restored to at least 2 senators per division

Question--asked to clean up language to distinguish between General Faculty vs. general faculty within the division

Add to “d” that it is the general faculty of that electoral division

Steve shared this was original language used in the Constitution and that the current wording is correct and doesn’t warrant the need to be changed

Andrea called for vote: resolution carried unanimously

Updates: Faculty Senate Website, Chancellor Chats
Brad Johnson, Faculty Senate Secretary
Anne Wallace, Immediate Past Chair

Brad--Website updates

Leadership team met with IT before Fall semester to discuss desires/wishes for a new website

New website is initiative meant to be more responsive to Senators’ needs, as expressed last year, to be more communicative and transparent in the Senate’s actions and business

Additional capabilities we hope the new website will bring to the Senate:

- more streamlined menu options
- a new name for the website domain from the one currently used (facsen.uncg.edu)
- will have a link for faculty to invite a senator to a meeting of their department/program/unit
- will have an “Ask the Senate” comments box form
- will embed a Google calendar of Senate events right on the homepage

Will hope the new website will be ready for Senator review in October

Anne--Chancellor Chats

opportunity for Chancellor to become more intimately engaged with Faculty Senators as another means by which to increase communication lines

No Faculty Senate leadership will be at these chats

Opportunity for the Chancellor, in addition to attending Senate meetings, to get in front of Faculty Senate
Communication Strategies and Connecting with Faculty

Unit Delegations (Round Table)

- Emerged from Senate self-study
- Some concerns with the ways that Senators connect back to their units, so the Senators are organized today in round tables based on their divisions
  - Questions are provided for Senators to start the conversation
- Andrea asked Senators to talk as delegations about how they can increase communication and transparency with their constituencies and divisions

Announcements & Adjournment

- General Faculty Meeting & Convocation: September 20, 2017, 3pm-5pm in the Virginia Dare Room of the Alumni House
  - Andrea reminded that we need a quorum at this General Faculty Mtg.
  - Followed by New Faculty Reception held in the Faculty Center (Sponsored by UTLC)
- Next Faculty Senate Meeting: Wednesday, October 4, 2017, 3pm-5pm in the Virginia Dare Room of the Alumni House
- Faculty Forum: General Education Program Review: Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 3pm-5pm in the Virginia Dare Room of the Alumni House
  - Andrea reminded Senators that attending Faculty Forums are part of Senator’s responsibilities to the Senate
- GSA President representative wanted to share there is a Science Policy Review Committee being formed
- Andrea revealed Faculty Senate equivalent to Chancellor’s “Giant Steps” by Coltrane---Earth, Wind, and Fire’s “Shining Star”
- Move to adjourn. Seconded
- Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Brad Johnson
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Pending approval at the October 4, 2017 Faculty Senate Meeting