



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 7, 2016  
3:00pm-5:00pm  
Virginia Dare Room, Alumni House  
*Approved 02/01/2017*

**Call to Order and Introductory Remarks**

*Anne Wallace, Chair of the General Faculty and Faculty Senate*

- *I have no idea what to say about this past month, except that it is past. On to the present and the future.*
- *Posters for the Jan. 30 screening of "Starving the Beast" are located at the back credenza—please take one or two to post in your department or unit.*
- *Yet another experiment in seating, and our pursuit of better microphone access continues. Please do make the effort to speak using a microphone: some Senators do write in after meetings to say how hard it is to hear. We'll try to facilitate, and we will wait patiently for your remarks until you can get to one.*
- *A packed agenda today, so I'll try to keep us on track, starting with keeping my own remarks brief.*
- *Agenda reflects the range of work undertaken by the Senate and its committees:*
- *maintaining the framework of representative faculty governance, discussing and developing academic policies for our campus, collaborating with our colleagues at other UNC system schools to protect our core academic mission and standards.*
- *Proposed questions for the Chancellor are also telling in their top concerns: the impact of growing enrollments on quality of instruction, the need to foster and protect diversity, and the means by which faculty and administration might advocate for higher education and its core values. Many other areas of interest came forward in these questions, including support for UNCG's research scholars, the relation of admission standards to enrollment and teaching, and that perennial favorite, budget and salaries.*
- *Art. II Sec. 3 of the Constitution outlines the extensive field of involvement which the Senate, at our best, engages. When we get tired, bogged down in the minutiae of our daily work, I think it helps to lift our eyes toward these large goals, our broader responsibilities and efforts.*
- *And if I don't stop talking and let us get on with it, we will be bogged down indeed. Let me close by wishing you a smooth end to your semester, and a happy holiday season!*

## **Approval of the November 2, 2016 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

*Brad Johnson, Secretary of the Faculty Senate*

- No corrections.
- Minutes passed.

### **Provost Remarks**

*Dana Dunn, Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor*

- Provost had planned to report on a closure of space related to faculty tied to the McIver demolition and the new building going up
  - Had previously planned on taking Faculty Center out of use in order to repurpose for instructional purposes for the School of Nursing but that is no longer an issue as an alternative plan developed by Nursing faculty has been developed where some Friday night and Saturday courses will be taught to accommodate instructional needs
- Provost shared information about the proposal going before the Board of Trustees this Friday regarding tuition and fees for the upcoming year.
  - Provost thanked the Tuition & Fees Committee for holding forums to gather community input and develop a report for the Chancellor
  - Committee was chaired by Alan Boyette and SGA President and included 3 faculty members and 2 staff members who served on this committee
  - From BOG, maximum increase for tuition was 2% and fees was 3%; the Committee has recommended the maximum increases allowed
  - Provost reminded the fixed tuition plan being implemented by UNCG where a student's tuition would be fixed at the first semester they enroll at UNCG and continue for the next 8 semesters to complete their degree
  - These increases will be a one-time increase for students and will help students in their financial planning for their education
  - These increases will result in a revenue of just under \$1 million each year
  - 3 uses of revenue funds:
    - Just over \$400,000 will be spent on faculty retention--students recognized the need to increase compensation for faculty and value faculty at UNCG
      - Could supplement future raises from the Legislature or be used as a true retention fund similar to GA's funds (which are currently dwindling)
    - Support academic advising and other forms of student support for academic success with emphasis on advising and the addition of new advisors to support student need
      - Advising tends to be one of the least satisfied aspects of UNCG when students are polled
    - Graduate student support--long been pressed to offer competitive stipends, new tuition waivers, etc.
      - About \$220,000 allotted for this
      - Provost stated that faculty, in some form, will probably be asked for suggestions for using these funds

- Fees--requests for increase from all funding areas exceeded the 3% increase
  - Requests from all fee-funded areas were not frivolous--were meant to keep pace with inflation and costs of services
  - Committee elected to do an across-the-board 3% increase for all areas
- Once BOT approves this proposal on Friday, this will go to the BOG for final approval
- Provost stated our tuition will still be in the lowest quartile compared to our system peers (UNCG is currently 3rd from the bottom)
- Provost shared that the presentation slides will be available on the Board of Trustee site with more detailed information

### **Provost Remarks Q & A**

- Question about advising--centralized, unit, or department?
  - Not certain yet but believe most will be toward departmental advising
  - Could be a combination
  - Should start by looking at advisor/student ratios and use this as a metric for allocating funds
  - Open to recommendations and ideas on how to best utilize those funds
- Clarification on increase--for all students or just a subset of students?
  - Provost gave the Senate the Undergraduate in-state figures
  - Comparable figures for Graduate students, Online, etc. groups
- Will \$1 million be for both in-state and out-of-state tuition as well as fees revenue?
  - Will only be for tuition and will not include fees revenue
- Please explain student success support and advising support?
  - Some instances where advisors are also student support professionals (tutoring, supplemental instruction, etc.)
- Will we be able to do 5% increase each year for the incoming first-year students?
  - Can do 5% total increase across tuition & fees next year; uncertain what percentage we will be able to do for the following academic year

### **Discussion: Questions for Chancellor's February 1, 2017 visit to Faculty Senate**

- Anne asked Senators to review the questions/information provided to hear prior to the meeting and do the following in small groups:
  - Identify your group's top 3 topics and/or questions
  - Draft revisions, new questions, merged questions, etc.
  - Send your notes to Anne via email

### **Discussion: Elections Committee on Reapportionment**

*Stoel Burrows, Chair, Senate Elections Committee*

- Anne provided brief background on the committee work
- The creation of the new VPA college called into question the need to reapportion senators based on the creation of this new entity

- Other changes such as the demographics of voting faculty at UNCG also necessitated further investigation into how many Senators should be represented within Faculty Senate
- Changing the number of Senators would bring about a cultural shift as well as more Senators for committees in addition to having further representation
- Committee is proposing going with the number of 36 for determining Senator representation
- Questions
  - How does this compare to what we have now and how will that apply to people who are extra?
    - Don't know how those changes are made based on the Constitution--to do this, requires no vote by the Senate
    - Will wait until the Spring to have a further discussion--just wanted to bring this information forward to the Senate this Fall
    - Anne asked for any further questions to be emailed to her for discussion in the Spring semester.

**Resolution: Government Committee on editorial/clerical changes to the Faculty Constitution Reapportionment Report**

*Greg Bell, Government Committee Chair & Senate Liaison [Enc. B of Agenda Packet]*

- This work also comes out of the development of the College of VPA
- Greg formally read Resolution #FS12072016/1 to the Faculty Senate for consideration
- Greg also commented on the rationale of the resolution
- Committee is requesting the ability to make small modifications and changes to the Constitution without having to bring forth each of these changes to the Senate for a vote
- Any changes made would be reported to the Senate on an annual basis
- Vote called for approving resolution; resolution passed unanimously
- This is an amendment to the Constitution, which will need to come before the General Faculty for vote for final approval

**Academic Policies Committee Discussion: University Office Hours Policy**

*Initial discussion led by Colleen Fairbanks--Chair, Academic Policies Committee and Wake Maki--Senate Liaison to Academic Policies Committee [Enc. C of Agenda Packet]*

- This is an initial discussion; information sent out in the Agenda packet
- Colleen shared the committee responded to a request by the Provost to look at office hours since there is currently no set policy
- The committee reviewed policies across the nation as well as within NC at peer institutions
- Committee is still in the exploratory stages and hopes to bring forward a resolution in the Spring to implement some kind of policy for the 2017-2018 academic year

- Wade sent out a Google document asking for faculty input and feedback; Wade encouraged more faculty to complete the form as soon as possible since the timeline is very tight
  - The committee needs to get us a recommendation for the March 2017 Faculty Senate mtg.
- Colleen shared that she is meeting in February with a student advisor group to receive feedback/input from a student contingency to make sure we are developing a policy flexible enough for faculty while meeting student needs as well
- Anne will send out the Google Form to the General Faculty to solicit more faculty input
- Question: Will there be a Senate Resolution and if the Senate rejects what is proposed, what will happen?
  - Yes, and if it is not supported, the Committee will go revisit the proposal to work on it further
  - Senator shared that among his department, there should be no policy regarding office hours
- Question: Has the committee received any information from departments on campus to see what their current policies are? Maybe collect this information to get a better idea of what is currently in place and not sure all faculty can be satisfied
  - Concern/problem is with both faculty and students---faculty sometimes have office hours that never see students and students sometimes aren't able to make office hours offered by faculty
  - Wade asked for any policies out there to be sent to the committee
- Question: any consideration given to faculty dealing primarily with online courses?
  - Yes--Committee feels that online courses must be considered in order to include everyone
- Senator commented that some faculty have office hours "by appointment only" and some students may feel they are infringing on faculty time
- Senator shared that they gave out their Google number and encouraged students to text him and wonder if we need to go in this direction and maybe leaving it to the department to come up with their policy/guideline for office hours may be best. University shouldn't mandate what it can't enforce
  - One factor would be just to include how you would be accessible to students
  - Want to have things that all should be doing with respect to office hours and accessibility and then delegate it down to the departments for further considerations
- Colleen shared that she doesn't see the Committee coming up with a policy stating that faculty will be in their office X hours a week; students are sometimes afraid to approach faculty without standard hours set
- Senator suggested a possible solution is helping students better realize ways in which they can approach and meet with faculty in our courses; educating students that it is their right to request to meet with their professors

## **Faculty Assembly Delegation Report for October 21 & November 18 Meetings**

*Anna Marshall-Baker, Lead Delegate [Enc. D of the Agenda Packet]*

- Last 2 meetings were lengthy so a brief report was created and presented to Faculty Senate
- Will be a future link on the Faculty Senate for Faculty Assembly reports
- October report is included because all the documents were not available for the last meeting
- Non-cognitive factors survey initiative is underway
- Strategic plan updates
- Student mental health
- NCGAP report
- November meeting
  - Spellings--expectations for Higher Ed to be more broad and less expensive
  - Strategic plan--anemic when compared to other states regarding transparency and accountability
  - Drew Moritz update--election results
- Oct. & Nov. mtg---delegates broke up into 5 working groups to provide feedback on strategic plan
- Working group of 8 faculty monitoring all information coming in on the public survey--faculty assembly work, survey work, and BOG input from campus visits
- Anna asked for questions to be emailed to her

### **Announcements**

*Anne Wallace, Faculty Senate Chair*

- “Starving the Beast” Film Screening January 30, 2017--posters available for distribution

### **Adjourn**

- Move to adjourn. Seconded
- Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brad Johnson  
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

*Approved February 1, 2017*