



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

*(approved 12/7/16)*

### **Anne Wallace Intro remarks:**

Brad Johnson is out today to take care of family matters – Wade Maki, former Sec. of General Faculty and current Senator, has graciously agreed to take minutes. Steve Yarbrough is also unable to be here today, so please don't raise any parliamentary ruckus in his absence.

Experimental seating arrangement stretches sound system limits, but please use mics if at all possible. We are working on better mic solutions for this and other possible future venues, if need to move at some point. Stay tuned.

Looking forward to a variety of events and opportunities that we hope will underscore the increasing activity and engagement of the Senate and faculty at large –

### **UNC Strategic Planning:**

> Forum here last Tuesday, Oct. 25, with BOG members present to listen to our concerns and suggestions. Thanks again to all who attended, to Andrea and others who took notes and helped staff the event, and to Julia Jackson-Newsom for her moderation of the event. Report going, to GA summarizing the input.

> The previous Friday, Oct. 21, your Faculty Assembly delegation contributed to four of the five working groups drafting pretty extensive revision suggestions for the five central themes of the current SP template. Report on this at Dec. meeting and longer form describing this effort in some detail posted later – would like to see UNC FA's final form first.

> The survey distributed in several emails, through which you can give your own detailed feedback on the current 5-theme template, is open until Nov. 20. If you have not yet responded, please do: the more faculty involvement there is for this round, the more strongly we can urge such involvement in the future. If you don't know where to find this, please ask me.

### **November 16 and February 15 Faculty Forums:**

November 16, 2016 Faculty Forum, "Diversity & Inclusive Excellence at UNCG," led by Julia Mendez Smith (Chanc. Fellow for Campus Climate), Gerald Holmes (Ch. of Senate EDI Committee), and Andrea Hunter. An initial presentation and Q&A, followed by discussion and break-out groups to discuss specific topics, for instance, Student Activism.

February 15, 2017 Forum will follow up on this discussion, and also on concerns rising among faculty in various ways: Academic Freedom, followed by Shared Governance, each about an hour. I hope for a panel for each, and large components of discussion. Sources: our discussions so far about Senate priorities, which have included these large categories or related concerns at each stage; our Senate meeting discussion following Title IX presentation, including how the policies intersect concerns with academic freedom, and later email questions from Senators to the presenters; and a proposal from George Dimock and others that shared governance be a Forum topic during this year. Planning is not yet even quite underway – your input and suggestions are most welcome.

A campus showing of "Starving the Beast," Jan 30, 6 pm in EUC Auditorium: Directed by Steve Mims, premiered at Austin's South by Southwest film festival, "explores the decline of state funding and the philosophical divide that's caused it: What kind of a good is higher education? What should taxpayers be expected to support?" [Inside Higher Ed, Mar. 22 2016] UNCG AAUP has been pursuing this showing for some weeks; Provost and Chancellor have discussed and feel a campus showing would be appropriate and valuable; and Senate has been invited to co-sponsor.

**Planning for the Chancellor Visit Feb. 1:** we discussed at my regular meeting with the Chancellor (the first of six this year), and he is glad to return. The format we previewed would be a few questions from the Senate that he has in advance, and then open discussion, lasting perhaps a hour in total. My plan is to ask you to send potential questions in before our Dec. meeting and then discuss/amend them at that Dec. meeting.

The Chancellor's view of that office's relationship to Faculty Senate is new to us here at UNCG. During our conversation Chancellor Gilliam likened this structure to the checks-and-balances we are accustomed to in the larger political sphere, and I think the analogy is apt. I myself agree with this new, different vision of this relationship, which I believe provides a new opportunity for Faculty Senate to move to a more active, independent role – as you have been suggesting. So I look forward to preparing for the Chancellor's visit and the dialogue that will ensue.

**Minutes of the October 5 Senate meeting were unanimously approved.**

**Provost Dunn Remarks:**

I want to update you on initiatives from GA that Provosts have been involved in. GA has changed the low productivity review. After reviewing thresholds the NC standards were unreasonably high. The BOG has elected to approve a revised threshold based on the number of graduates which is reduced from the previous standard. The new

standard looks at a 5 year window to have 35 total graduates for undergrad and MA program. Research Doctoral degrees will be 10 and professional doctoral degrees will be 40 graduates over 5 years. Formal details are forthcoming from your head/chair.

Concerning the legislative mandate on fixed tuition at some campuses. As of Fall 2016 all campuses must fix tuition for the entering cohorts such that for 8 consecutive semesters that group would pay that rate. It is important for faculty to be attuned to this program because timely graduation within four years is going to be financially important. Those who go beyond 8 semesters will have their tuition changed to the current rate. Additional provisions and rules are being worked on. For example, officially classified 5yr programs get 10 semesters. It will be important for our departments to work to help students graduate within 8 consecutive semester. We may need to re-evaluate our curriculum (in cases where sequential courses make it hard to graduate within the locked tuition window).

GA has elected to fund UNC Asheville, NCA&T, and UNCG participation in PAR framework (predictive analytics model) which costs 65K each year. We will participate in a community of practice to use data mining on our data to determine the limitations on student success. It will also help us track the success of various interventions to determine what works. This will allow us to identify the best ways to support student success. A future presentation will provide more details. It will be as good as we make it. It is imperative that faculty engage in the program to make it successful. Many of the ideas that will help student success will come from the faculty. I will be soliciting faculty volunteers to participate. This data will be available to the implementation team and then communities of practice. There is an opportunity for those who get involved to directly engage with the data. A formal call for participation will be forthcoming.

The Division of Continual Learning has been renamed UNCG Online. This is a change in name only. It is not a change in scope or responsibility. UNCG did not have a front door for online learning - a landing place - what people found was all over the map when they searched the web. Offices were not equipped to transfer students to the appropriate office when contacted. UNCG Online is now the front door for online. They are not taking over programs.

### **Continued Discussion: How the Senate Does its Work**

Anne Wallace: All senators are invited to attend planning meetings or may send in items for the agenda. Senate leadership may send reminders prior to deadlines for setting the agenda. Regarding our conversations on how the senate does business. Some tensions emerged in comments on Senate. There was a strong call for less purely informational presentation and a strong calls for increased transparency. Sometimes transparency requires more informational presentations. Another tension exists between shorter meetings and more activity (a less reactive and more proactive Senate).

Activity takes time. An active senate means even more activities from Senate. Senate committees carry a lot of the work for us. If we want to do more then we need to step up to do it. What do we want to do, how will we do it, who will do it? These are the questions we will attempt address in our group conversations today.

Andrea Hunter: As we converse in groups we should consider issues of growth, diversity and physical space. There are a lot of ways in which these issues intersect. What areas do you see that the senate can work on?

*The senate engaged in small table discussions and individual table notes were submitted for review and further discussion.*

### **Budget Committee & Survey Collection Report**

George Michel: Last year we decided to create an FAQ, but then realized that our FAQ might differ from yours so this survey will help us offer a better FAQ. The issue of transparency has become less of an issue under VC Maimone and Provost Dunn. When we first thought about funding and enrollment it seemed simple. But it is actually much more complicated and difficult. The 2015 Enrollment manual is a "fun read" to see how difficult and complex it is. The Provost and VC are members of the committee. We meet and ask questions. We also include institutional research staff. While our focus has been on academic affairs we now have a seat on the tuition and fees committee and see how all aspects impact the budget. One question we ask is does the Senate agree that our committee is the vehicle for faculty input on the budget? We will be surveying senators yearly to ensure that we are accomplishing what you expect of us.

*Completed surveys were collected. Additional input can be sent directly to George*

### **General Education Council Report**

David Carlone: Last Spring Provost Dunn asked us to look a Gen Ed Review. I've been asking faculty through meetings and forums to get feedback. It is important for you to know where we are in laying the groundwork for a possible gen ed review. Nov 18th will be another opportunity to provide input. The list provided in the agenda captures the types of comments faculty have been making.

*Below is a summary of comments & questions along with David's answers.*

Comment: Students are not learning what they should from Gen Ed.  
Course size is a big factor.

Q: Any initiatives to standardize gen ed on campuses?

A: No.

Q: What is the internal motive for review of gen ed?

A: It has been a decade since the last review. Enrollments have grown. Resources limited. Strategic planning implication. "General reasons"

Q: What are the constraints from SACS on the gen ed program?

A: Not too much. Certain credit hours, not too tied to students major... We have great latitude in determining GE.

Q: How do students respond to GE requirements? They seem to think things are boxes to check off without any understanding of how it relates to their degree.

A: We don't have specific data on that? What data do we want? Students do understand the requirements. The "sense making" may not be clear to them.

Q: One change at UNCG is that we are now a minority serving institution. Has your committee thought about this change?

A: We have talked about it as something to include in future planning. There is research out there that we should look at.

Comment: We should look at other schools requirements such as diversity markers, information literacy, and other changes in society that should impact our gen ed plan.

Anne: The Senate will weigh on in having a GE review.

David: Please contact me or other GE council members with ideas.

**Adjournment:** *With no further business the meeting was adjourned right on time to enjoy the remains of a beautiful day.*

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**Submitted by Senator Wade Maki,**

**for Faculty Senate Secretary, Brad Johnson**

*Minutes Approved 12/7/16*