



Minutes (approved 3/2/16)

Wednesday, February 5, 2016

3:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Virginia Dare Room, Alumni House

Call to Order and Introductory Remarks: The Chancellor's Role in Faculty Senate Meetings

Anne Wallace, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Frank Gilliam, Chancellor

The Chair welcomed Senators back for first spring semester meeting.

Anne Wallace: Twenty-five years ago, Faculty Senate was convened in its present form for the first time, after the Constitution of the General Faculty was approved in Spring 1991. It became customary for the Chancellor and Provost to both offer remarks at the beginning Senate meetings, but this custom is nowhere required or inscribed in policy. The description of the responsibilities of Chancellors to be sure that an elected "faculty council or senate" advises the Chancellor is inscribed in UNC policy, in the Code of the Board of Governors. Section 502 D.2, the section referenced at the beginning of our Constitution, lays out the details of this responsibility, and adds that chancellors "shall ensure" the faculty's "means to give advice" not only through the required council or senate, but by other means. I find it rather extraordinary, and heartening, that this general responsibility and the broad role of the Senate is spelled out in the Code. But again, we find here no requirement that the Chancellor attend or offer remarks at every Senate meeting. The Chancellor and I have had several conversations about whether the traditional practice serves us well, or whether we would be better served by a more intentional approach. Should the Senate invite the Chancellor to speak or should the Chancellor request to speak, rather than a monthly *pro forma* appearance by the Chancellor at every meeting?

Frank Gilliam: I enjoy working with the Chair and Faculty Senate, so this discussion should not be interpreted as my dissatisfaction with the Faculty Senate. Some of it is guided by the fact that when we meet, they have nothing new to add since their last meeting. I will continue to be in regular touch with Anne and future chairs so there will be plenty of opportunity to discuss issues with faculty and the Faculty Senate. The faculty Senate does deserve some time away from the prying eyes administration. So, I want to experiment with this. I believe I am accessible, I'm easy to find, and I'm happy to talk about almost anything. I just don't think it is a good use of my time to come for the sake of ceremonial function. I want my engagement with you to be meaningful.

I would also like to mention two items. One is Andy Dunhill's death. The university always abides by the wishes of the family in disclosing details. Second is for over a year, a subcommittee has studied renaming the Aycock Auditorium. We have done due diligence on this, with input from over 1,000 people. On February 18, we will make a report to the Advancement Committee—the day of the first BOT meeting. The Board will make a decision on the 18th or 19th, and the Chancellors' Office will notify the campus. There is a website devoted to this. We want to avoid disruption, but we must also respect the state's open meeting laws.

Approval of Minutes

Jim Carmichael, Secretary of the Faculty Senate:

The Secretary called for motion to approve the minutes of December 2, 2015. So moved and seconded. Minutes approved.

Remarks*Dana Dunn, Provost*

Personally, I find it productive to be here, but I will not be offended if you wish to excuse me. At my former institution, the practice was to excuse administrators for the latter portion of the meeting.

First, I want to talk about the news from the State Health Insurance Plan, which I am sure has been disturbing to anyone keeping track of developments. We have just learned that the meeting of the health plan board on Friday will not entertain the most challenging of these proposals (elimination of 80/20 participation plan). That is off the table for the present. We will follow this situation and share information as it becomes available.

Second, I want to announce the Provost's Faculty Fellow Program to begin August 1. I encourage applications from tenured faculty interested in exploring administration. The deadline is March 1. It is an "experimental" program for the first year.

Third, I want to announce that the Tenure and Promotion process is going very well this year. The University committee was very thorough, and the decisions will be announced well before the end of February (three months earlier than only two years ago). In the course of the reviews, we learned things about the process that bear further discussion.

The Provost addressed another issue of the health plan regarding the elimination of spousal coverage and explained we have been told that there is limited support for the removal of spousal benefits and that it is quite clear that our benefits are not competitive with other states. Additional points made were that the smoking cessation statements adversely affect the lowest paid employees (since smoking is negatively correlated with income), and concern about the swiftness of the proposed changes coming from Raleigh, adding that the health plan does not stand in isolation from other issues being proposed swiftly. Faculty was urged to use their private emails to contact their legislators, and the primary is March 15.

Committee Reports*Beth Barnhardt, Scholarly Communications Public Access Policy for Upcoming Faculty Forum*

This is a reminder of the Public Access Faculty Forum which the committee will host on February 17 from 3 to 5 in the Virginia Dare Room. Panelists will include Dianne Welsh and Anna Craft from IRC, Anne Gilliam from Chapel Hill, and Terri Shelton, Vice Chancellor for Research.

Announcement *Chancellor Frank Gilliam*

A flyer has been circulating, apparently by a student organization that contains inflammatory remarks. Students are marching on my office right now, so I must leave. Is this the result of misguided youth to bring a call to action or was it intentionally inflammatory? We don't know yet. We should teach students how to talk about different perspectives in a critical and respectful way. I try to stay even with these things and I will find out what happened.

Committee Reports (cont)

Spoma Jovanovic for John Lepri, UNC Faculty Assembly Delegation. Notes Dec. 4 and Jan. 15 Assembly Meetings. Faculty Assembly has been very active. Thanks to Michael Frierson for providing notice of the health plan changes being considered. Jovanovic was one of the faculty members in the UNC system interviewed by the Boston Consulting Group regarding UNC and General Administration operations. \$1.1 million was the cost for report, supplied by an anonymous donor. In other news, *NC Gap* (see Report) is guaranteed to affect our admissions if implemented. Concern about the new post tenure review process continues with Faculty Assembly poised to address faculty concerns with new president Margaret Spellings.

Resolution #FS020316/1, To Recommend the Establishment of an Ombuds Office at UNCG*Anne Wallace, Spoma Jovanovic and Jim Carmichael, Members, Joint Faculty Senate/Staff Senate Working Group on Ombuds Proposal*

Wallace invited Kim Zinke, co-chair of the Staff Senate, to join her in answering questions. The proposal was read formally, and the floor opened for discussion. A working group has met for the past 18 months to develop a proposal for an Ombuds program, modeled after the one at UNC-CH. There has been desire for this through the years. Dennison reported that she had done research on this over a period of three years previously that urged the formation of this office. Adams said that there had been an earlier proposal as well. Also NC School of the Arts has just approved an

Ombuds Office. A thoughtful discussion ensued: Why would an Ombuds report to the Chancellor and not, instead, to a faculty committee? Because, although an Ombuds functions outside the formal reporting structure of the University, there needs to be a place to report to assure large-scale accountability. Is there funding and is this person independent? The answer is no funding yet, since this is only the first step to see what support, if any, exists? The person operates strictly independently, reporting trends to the Chancellor and university offices if these seem useful. But individual cases are recorded only by type and frequency: detailed records of individual cases are not retained. Should a public Memorandum of Understanding be published to protect the operon? Yes, good suggestion. How would an Ombuds operate any better or differently than other structures? It provides an informal opportunity to resolve issues before they reach the point of impasse or grievance. It's an opportunity for someone who feels they have been wronged to have a neutral place to go. Since we have had a lot of requests for this type of office, shouldn't we try? In favor of endorsing the resolution?

Yea: 28

Nay: 0

Abstain 1.

Resolution Passed.

Discussion of How the Senate Does Business

Anne Wallace, Senate Chair

We only have ten minutes left so please email suggestions to me. We have a desire for more open discussion related to issues impacting us (from the state, BoG, etc.) There is a recognition that there are mounting frustrations. Could we have a forum to launch discussions related to the bigger issues facing us in higher education? Do faculty senators represent only themselves, or their constituents? Is it problematic to have the Chancellor here at our meetings? Shouldn't he consider 2 hours a month as a good way to hear what faculty are thinking?

New Business

Anne Wallace, Senate Chair

The Chair is appointing an ad hoc committee to review the April 2015 GEC approval for GNS marker for KIN 220. The natural sciences remain convinced that the marker should not have been given. In October 2015 Wallace met with members of the CAS natural sciences departments and members of Kinesiology to discuss this disagreement, but no complete resolution was achieved. A petition has circulated asking that the Senate reconsider this decision. There is no precedent for this situation. Yes, the Senate has broad oversight and yes, anyone can bring forward an issue for Senate consideration. Wallace has asked Gary Rosencrantz to chair the committee, which has not been composed yet, but which probably would consist of five members who understand GEC, Senate policy, and undergraduate education. Wallace hopes that by the April Senate meeting, this committee will be able to report back to the Senate.

Adjourn

Move to adjourn. Seconded.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jim Carmichael
 Secretary, Faculty Senate
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