

FACULTY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2016

Voting Members Present

(Ex Officio): Jeffrey Leak (President); Lisa Walker (President-Elect); Loril Gossett (Secretary); Gregory Starrett (Past President); Chandra Subramaniam (FEC, COB); Susan Furr (FEC, COED); Judy Walker (FEC, LIB); Phil Dubois (Chancellor); Ken Lambla (COA+A Dean); Steve Ott (COB Dean); Yi Deng (CCI Dean); Ron Smelser (on behalf of COE Dean); Susan Sell (on behalf of CHHS Dean); Nancy Gutierrez (CLAS Dean); Tom Reynolds (Graduate School Dean); Anne Moore (Library Dean); John Smail (UCOL Dean)

(Unit Representatives): Casper Wiggins (ACCT); Janet Levy (ANTH); Janet Williams (ARTS); Susan Sell (BINF); Jian Zhang (BIOL); Joanna Krueger (CHEM); Jim Bowen (CEGR); Sayde Brais (COMM); Phyllis Post (CSLG); Ellen Sewell (ECON); Lynn Ahlgrim-Delzell (EDLD); Aba Ebong (ECGR); Carlos Orozco (ETCM); Alan Rauch (ENGL); Kiplan Womack (FINN); Sandra Clinton (GYES, alternate); John Cox (GIAS); Benny Andres (HIST); Ed Hopper (LACS); Beth Martin (LIB); Ed Jernigan (MGMT); Charles Bodkin (MKTG); Jaya Bishwal (MATH); Heather Coffey (MDSK); Stephan Hobbs (MSCI, alternate); Mike Hackett (MUSC, alternate); Maren Coffman (SON); Phillip McReynolds (PHIL); Yasin Raja (PHYS); Cherie Maestas (POLS); Jane Gaultney (PSYC); Ahmed Arif (PHS); Michael Green (REEL, alternate); James Tabor (RELS); Mark Ezell (SOWK); Lisa Walker (SOCY); Shawnee Wakeman (SPED); Yesim Sireli (SEEM); Tom Burch (THEA)

Voting Members Absent

(Ex Officio): COA+A FEC Representative; Cynthia Gibas (FEC, CCI); Howie Fang (FEC, COE); Mike Turner (FEC, CHHS); Paula Eckard (FEC, CLAS); James Tabor (FEC, CLAS); Mark Wilson (FEC, CLAS); Joan Lorden (Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs); Arthur Jackson (Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs); Bob Wilhelm (Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development); Ellen McIntyre (COED Dean)

(Unit Representatives): Richard Sanders (AERO); Tanure Ojaide (AFRS); David Thaddeus (SOA); Cem Saydam (BISOM); KR Subramanian (ITCS); John Stogner (CJUS); Ann Dils (DANC); Reuben Howden (KNES); Alireza Tabarraei (MEGR); ITIS Unit Representative (ITIS)

Also Present (but Not Voting)

Leslie Zenk (Academic Affairs); Matthew Wyse (Academic Affairs); Jay Raja (Academic Affairs); Cindy Wolf Johnson (Academic Services); Heather McCullough (CTL); Jessica Kapota (CTL); Cliff Scott (COMM); Tina McEntire (Enrollment Management); Jesh Humphrey (Legal Affairs); Janet Daniel (OASES); Christopher Knauer (Office of Registrar); Mark Sanders (PHIL); Tina Katsanos (RELS); Cathy Blat (University Center for Academic Excellence)

UNC Charlotte Faculty Council Meeting called to order by Dr. Jeffrey Leak at 12:31pm

I: Approval of minutes from 3/17/2016

GOSSETT: Change reference "Liz" on page 3 to "Siler" for consistency

ARIF: 3/17/2016 minutes incorrectly indicate Arif was absent. Request minutes be changed to reflect that he did attend this meeting.

All changes approved via Acclamation.

Minutes approved via Acclamation.

II: Announcement of Memorial for UNC CHARLOTTE Faculty Member (Jeffrey Leak)

A memorial will be held for Jacek Dmochowski, an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics on Saturday (4/23) at 1pm in the Cone University Center

III: General Education Proposal (Dr. John Smail, Dr. Mark Sanders, Ms. Tina Katsanos)

A University task force has been piloting several classes that would fit within the requirements of the new LBST critical thinking and writing course proposal. This pilot effort has included five faculty members teaching LBST classes and three faculty in the University Writing Program who helped to connect these LBST courses to the writing and communication goals of the new proposal. Two of the faculty members who participated in this pilot project (Dr. Sanders & Ms. Katsanos) have come to Faculty Council to share their experiences teaching under this new curriculum model.

SANDERS: He taught a Philosophy course with a service learning requirement. Dr. Sanders said that overall he liked working with this new curriculum and enjoyed the process of adapting his class to fit the new LBST requirements. Sanders did note that the service learning component of his class didn't work well with this new course design and he needed to find new ways to spread the critical thinking and communication concepts more broadly throughout the semester. However, Dr. Sanders felt these were issues that could be worked out over time.

KATSANOS: She converted a religious studies/ecology class for this pilot process. She found that the students were caught off-guard with her class having additional communication, writing, and critical thinking requirements (since this was not the case for this course in the past). As such, some students felt the class was a lot more work than they initially expected it to be, and were therefore not as willing to actively embrace those assignments. However, Katsanos argued that she felt the students would be successful in this course and gain value from the modified curriculum as long as they knew what to expect when they signed up

for the course. Additionally, she noted that the students in her class did seem to need more work on their critical thinking and communication skills (first year writing did not seem to be enough for them to excel in her class). As such, this new curriculum seems to meet a need for our students.

DISCUSSION:

Q (RAJA): Is there a single definition of “critical thinking” that we are using for this course university wide?

A (SMAIL): The definition varies by discipline. This curriculum is not trying to impose a single definition from one discipline to all other departments. The thought is that all disciplines can benefit from considering and discussing this topic from their various perspectives.

A (SANDERS): I wouldn’t want to be too specific/technical with a definition of critical thinking for this class. The value seemed to come from considering this question at a broad level. There is value created by simply having students think about what counts as “critical thinking” v. “information processing”.

Q (LEVY): Did you see any improvement over the course of the semester in student performance?

A: (KATSANOS): I did see improvement – particularly for the students who were invested. The e-portfolio was a great resource and helped students see their own growth/progress throughout the semester. One challenge was that we didn’t always have enough technical support/training available to help the students get comfortable with the e-portfolio system. It would be important to have more help with this resource because it was so valuable.

A (SANDERS): I also saw improvements. The more I repeated the concepts, they more they got it. I also need more help with e-portfolio system. It did get better with the second semester.

Q (HOPPER): How does this impact the writing intensive requirements in general education?

A (SMAIL): It doesn’t impact/replace the current writing intensive requirements. Those still exist, but this should help them be better prepared for those courses.

Q (RAUCH): Is there any experience with or possibility to team teach this course?

A (SMAIL): We haven't thought about team teaching. It isn't in the current proposal. I can see the advantages but we haven't really explored it.

Q (MEMBER): How does this impact our prospect for success program?

A (SMAIL): Once we get it established, we hope to connect it to the prospect to success program.

Motion comes to the Faculty Council endorsed by the FEC (Leak).

Starrett Moves to Approve. Approved via Acclamation.

IV: The request to change name of the Department of Accounting (Dr. Leak)

FEC reviewed and approved the Accounting Department's request to change their name to the Turner School of Accountancy. Dr. Turner was a former chair of the department and helped build it into an impressive, well-respected program. Dr. Turner is also giving \$2.5 Million to the School for undergraduate scholarships.

DISCUSSION:

Q (RAUCH): Are you comfortable with the Acronym TSA?

A (OTT): We hadn't considered that but I don't think it is a problem.

(WINK): We will need to include this name change into the constitution but this won't require a new vote.

Move to approve (Walker), Second (Ott). Approved via acclamation.

V: Attendance Policy Changes (Dr. Leak)

This policy change comes recommend from FAPSC. This change allows attendance to be allowed as a category for grading purposes.

Move to approve (Walker). Approved via Acclamation:

VI: Resolution to Repeal House Bill 2 (Dr. Leak)

This resolution comes endorsed by the FEC

DISCUSSION:

(COX): This was a well written statement and I am glad we are taking a stand on this issue early on.

(WALKER): The Faculty Assembly of the UNC system also has a resolution that condemns HB2 but our resolution goes one step further to asks for it to be repealed.

(MEMBER): Move to amend section 2, the last line. Rather than it read “at earliest opportunity” I would suggest the resolution read “immediately”

Move to approve the amendment (Starrett), Seconded (Levy)

Amendment approved via Acclamation

(Green): We should update the date on the amendment to the current date (currently reads April 7th)

Move to approve (Starrett).

Voice Vote taken for those in support. No votes registered in opposition. Two votes registered abstention. Motion Carries.

VII: Report of the Chancellor (Dr. Phil Dubois)

Our institutional plan (2016-2021) will be presented to the Board of Governors over the Summer. The BOG is currently refining the system’s strategic plan but it is not expected to be a total overhaul.

We are currently working with SAGE Hospitality to determine if we can have a hotel/conference center at the light rail stop next to campus. We are hoping to attract conferences in the South-East that don’t currently come to Charlotte because there isn’t a conference center near a major university. We are thinking of 200 rooms, 20,000 ft conference space. We want a high end, full-service conference center. We don’t need another limited service hotel.

We don’t know how HB2 will impact our campus. We never had a bathroom policy on campus. We have 23 gender neutral bathrooms and 6 new ones being built. We have just allowed people to use the bathrooms they like and have never had a problem. We will just try to keep treating people humanely and move forward.

We are trying to expand our carry over authority funds. We hope to use these funds to support the current construction projects we have underway that are necessary to cope with our enrollment increase. We are hoping to make the carry over expansion (twice current rule) permanent. We are also trying to get the rule that we cannot spend more than 1 million in State money for fund raising efforts rolled back.

Our bond initiative (which we are using for the new science building) passed with 70% support in Mecklenburg County and 2/3 statewide. Betty Dossier did a great job mobilizing the effort and getting student registration. We are now working to figure out the new science building. We are going to put it where the parking service is located. We hope to break ground 18 months to 2 years. In other construction news:

- Levine Hall will be ready in Spring 2017. The students will first move into the old High Rise for the first semester b/f they get to move into the new building.

- We are planning to expand the career center in the Atkins building.
- We are planning to work on the old core (Denny, etc.). Denny will go off-line in the Spring 2017 and be back in service for the Fall 2017.
- Light rail is on its way and should be here in Fall of 2017.
- The Belk Plaza redesign is moving forward. We are going to put @ 1.5 Million into the redesign.

President Spelling has redesigned GA to get people back into their proper “swim lanes.” Spelling has been pro-active with communicating with the Chancellors and held a Chancellor retreat for 2 days at end of the Spring to help with Strategic Planning.

Staff changes are coming to the Chancellor’s office. The current Chief of Staff has accepted a position at another institution and the General Council and Auditor are both retiring. Jesh Humphrey is taking over at the new General Council for UNC Charlotte. There will be a national search for a new Auditor. A new Chief of Staff will likely be selected from UNC CHARLOTTE or elsewhere in the UNC system.

VIII: Report of the President-Elect (Dr. Lisa Walker)

Faculty Council elections were held last month. The new President-Elect is Dr. Richard Leeman from Communication Studies. Loril Gossett from Communication Studies was re-elected as Secretary.

IX: Report of the President & Faculty Athletics Representative (Dr. Jeffrey Leak)

The FEC has the responsibility of appointing the Faculty Ombuds/Mediator position for a three-year term. Unfortunately, we were not aware that the current term ended this year. It caught us all off-guard. While we had a few great applicants for the position, the FEC decided we needed a bit more time to discuss this position and determine if the Ombuds and Mediator should remain a joined position or if there might be value in separating out these two roles. The FEC decided to reappoint the current Ombuds for another three-year term but are going to reconsider how to allocate the Mediator duties. We are going to refine the requirements/duties for both of these positions next year.

In addition to my duties as Faculty Council President, I also serve as UNC CHARLOTTE Faculty Representative for the athletic program. To summarize our accomplishment/issues covered this year:

- 210 UNC CHARLOTTE student athlete got on the honor roll for Conference USA
- UNC CHARLOTTE athletes are spread throughout all colleges
- UNC CHARLOTTE hires student tutors (at \$10/hr) to assist athletes and help them get caught up when the miss class due to competitions. Unlike other UNC system schools (notably Chapel Hill) we do not use alumni, coaches, or fans as tutors. We also assign all tutors by subject area.

- UNC CHARLOTTE has a travel/training grid for all student athletes. The goal is to make sure that students do not miss any more than three classes due to athletics (with a maximum of 5 absences...which can occur if teams make the playoffs, etc.).

It has been a pleasure to serve as your faculty council president. Thank you for the opportunity.

Meeting Adjourned (1:40pm)

Minutes submitted by Dr. Loril Gossett (Faculty Council Secretary)