

**FACULTY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes**  
**March 27, 2014**

**Present** (ex officio): Eddy Souffrant (President); Kim Harris (Secretary); Chandra Subramaniam (COB); Beth Rubin (CLAS); Alan Freitag (CLAS); Phil Dubois (Chancellor); Joan Lorden (Provost); Tom Reynolds (Dean, Graduate School); Daryl Kerr (Belk College of Business); Yi Deng (Dean, College of Computing & Informatics); Robert Johnson (Dean, College of Engineering); Nancy Fey-Yensan (Dean, College of Health & Human Services); Bill Hill (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences); John Smail (Dean, University College)

**Absent** (ex officio): Greg Starrett (President Elect); Ed Jernigan (Past President); Jose Gamez (COAA); Mirsad Hadzikadic (CCI); Chance Lewis (COED); Mehdi Miri (COE); Meredith Troutman-Jordan (CHHS); Paula Eckard (CLAS); Heather McCullough (Library); Art Jackson (Student Affairs); Stanley Wilder (University Librarian); Ken Lambla (Dean, College of Arts and Architecture); Ellen McIntyre (Dean, College of Education)

**Present** (unit representatives): Dennis Ogburn (ANTH); Mary Tuma (ARTS); Jian Zhang (BIOL); Jing Zhou (BISOM); Joanna Krueger (CHEM); Lori Gossett (COMM); Taghi Mostafavi (ITCS); Lyndon Abrams (CSLG); Charisse Coston (CJUS); Sandra Dika (EDLD); Keener Hughen (FINN); John Diemer (GYES); Joe Coyle (Alternate, KNES); Charles Bodkin (MKTG); Paul Fitchett (MDSK); Dylan Savage (MUSC); Michael Kelly (PHIL); John Szmer (POLS); Charlie Reeve (PSYC); Jeff Balmer (SOA); Shawnee Wakeman (Alternate, SPED)

**Absent** (unit representatives): Casper Wiggins (ACCT); Dean Fitzgerald (AERO); Veronica Hilliard (AFRS); Jun-Tao Guo (BINF); Rajaram Janardhanam (CEE); E.E. Balcos (DANC); Ellen Sewell (ECON); Ed Stokes (ECE); Na Lu (ETCM); Alan Rauch (ENGL); John Cox (GIAS); Dan Dupre (HIST); Dale Grote (LACS); Bridgette Sanders (LIB); Janaki Gooty (MGMT); Anthony Fernandes (MATH); Russ Keanini (MEES); Gary McGinnis (MSCI); Vasily Astratov (PHYS); Beth Racine (PHS); Ian Binns (REEL); Joseph Winters (RELS); Lucille Travis (SON); Susan McCarter (SOWK); Stephanie Moller (SOCY); Yuliang Zheng (SIS); Yesim Sireli (SEEM); Carlos Cruz (THEA)

**Also present:** Leslie Zenk (Academic Affairs); Matt Wyse (Academic Affairs); Jay Raja (Academic Affairs); Cindy Wolf Johnson (Academic Services); J. Garvey Pyke (Center for Teaching and Learning); David Spano (Health Programs and Services); David Broome (Legal Affairs); Meredith Evans (Library); Bob Price (Library); Janet Daniel (OASES); Christopher Knauer (Registrar); Denise Dwight Smith (University Career Center); Cathy Blat (University Center for Academic Excellence); Brian Cooper (Chair, FAPSC); Concepcion Godev (Honors Council); Malin Pereira (Honors College)

**The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM, President Souffrant presiding.**

**1. Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings of the Faculty Council**

A. Chandra Subramaniam made the motion to approve the minutes from January 23, 2014. Beth Rubin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously as amended.

B. Beth Rubin made the motion to approve the minutes from February 20, 2014. Chandra Subramaniam seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously as amended.

## 2. Motion from FAPSC to revise the Academic Probation and Suspension Policy

In order to comply with the GA policy on “Fostering Undergraduate Student Success,” the Faculty Academic Planning and Standards Committee moved to revise the UNC Charlotte Academic Probation and Suspension Policy to the following statement.

### **II. Policy and Procedure Statement**

*This policy applies only to undergraduates: “student” should be read as “undergraduate student” throughout. Newly admitted students begin in good academic standing. Each student’s academic standing is evaluated at the end of every fall or spring semester for which the student was enrolled, based on hours attempted at UNC Charlotte only. The possible results of this evaluation are described below:*

#### **GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING**

*To remain in good academic standing, a student must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 **and** a cumulative ratio of earned to attempted credit hours of at least two-thirds.*

##### **Semester Warning**

*A student who meets the cumulative requirements for good academic standing but performs below either numerical standard in the semester of evaluation is given a “semester warning.” This indicates potential academic problems and is communicated to the student and to the student’s advisor and major department(s). Semester warnings do not appear on the student’s permanent academic record.*

#### **ACADEMIC PROBATION**

*A student whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.0 or whose cumulative ratio of earned to attempted hours falls below two-thirds is placed on academic probation. This status is noted on the student’s permanent record with the semester of the evaluation, and continues until the next evaluation opportunity.*

#### **ACADEMIC SUSPENSION**

*A student on academic probation who does not meet the cumulative requirements for good academic standing at the next evaluation is suspended from the University, unless the student’s GPA for that semester is at least 2.3, in which case the student remains on probation instead. Academic suspension is noted on the student’s permanent academic record.*

##### **Exception for Summer Enrollment**

*Students on academic suspension are permitted to enroll in summer-session classes, but are not eligible to enroll for fall or spring semesters until they have applied and been approved for reinstatement or readmission.*

Charles Bodkin seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

## 3. Motions from Honors Council

A. The Honors Council moved to revise the Standing Rules of the Faculty Council concerning standing committees to the following:

*The Faculty membership of each standing committee concerned with primary policy-making and academic planning responsibilities of the Faculty shall consist of the following except the Academic Planning and Budget Committee and, the Faculty Research Grants Committee, and the Honors Council:*

Alan Freitag seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

B. The Honors Council made the motion to revise the description of the Honors Council in the Standing Rules of the Faculty Council to the following:

- 1. The Honors Council functions as a standing committee of the general Faculty.*
- 2. Membership of the Honors Council will be composed as provided by the "Structure and Election Process for Honors Council" document. Representatives to the Honors Council shall elect their own chair annually.*
- 3. The membership and term of service on the Honors Council will be determined according to the "Structure and Election Process for Honors Council" document.*
- 4. The Honors Council shall serve as the Faculty advisory body to the Executive Director of the Honors College.*

Alan Freitag seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

#### **4. FESC endorsement and relevant documents**

The Faculty Executive Committee made the motion to endorse the proposed changes to the tenure documents. Beth Rubin seconded the motion. Dean Bob Johnson expressed his concern that letters to the reviewers should include a statement about who has access to their letters. Provost Lorden explained that the process of contacting reviewers is not being changed. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **5. FAPSC endorses the changes to the policy on Appeal of Final Course Grades**

Brian Cooper (Chair of FAPSC) reported that FAPSC supports the proposed revisions to the Appeals policy. Chandra Subramaniam made the motion to endorse the policy and accept the changes. Beth Rubin seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

#### **6. Request to change degree name of the Master of Arts in Clinical/Community Psychology**

Taghi Mostafavi moved to approve the request from the Department of Psychology. The motion was seconded by Sandra Kika and was approved unanimously.

#### **7. Motion to award degrees**

Provost Joan Lorden moved to confer appropriate degrees on candidates who meet the established requirements of the Faculty for May 2014 graduation. Alan Freitag seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

## **8. Request to award Posthumous Degree**

Chandra Subramaniam moved to approve the request for the posthumous degree. Charles Bodkin seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

## **9. Understanding and supporting the mental health needs of UNC Charlotte students (Dr. David Spano)**

Faculty members are in ideal positions to notice signs of distress in students. Student distress can impact academic performance, the safety of students, and their interpersonal relationships. Within the last 12 months, 44.7% of the students who went to the Counseling Center reported that they felt things were hopeless, 30% of the students reported that they felt so depressed that it was difficult to function, and 47.7% felt overwhelming anxiety. Last year almost 2000 students sought counseling services, and 49% of those students had prior counseling. The presenting concerns of students were anxiety (generalized and social), depression (recurrent and moderate), relationship issues (with partners and parents), and post-traumatic stress. Student-clients reported that their problems decreased from the start of counseling to after counseling. Dr. Spano also reported that the mean numbers of visits per student was 5, and the mode was 1. Students are allowed a maximum of 12 visits for individual counseling. There is no limit for group counseling sessions. Dr. Spano identified three ways in which faculty can help: 1. Identify and approach students who may be experiencing psychological distress, 2. Consult with counseling staff when you have questions, and 3. Refer students who may be in psychological distress. Dr. Spano also identified resources for faculty. The Counseling Center's website (<http://counselingcenter.uncc.edu/home/concerned-about-a-student>) has information concerning signs and symptoms, guidelines for responding, consultation, and referral guidelines. Consultation services are available – either one-on-one sessions with a counselor about how to respond to a particular concern or presentations and discussions to departments and other groups. In response to traumatic events that may occur, counselors are available to do class presentations on trauma response and counseling services. An online simulation called *at-risk gatekeeper training* can be completed in 45 minutes and allows the user to practice having conversations with virtual students. The phone number and the website for the Counseling Center are 704-687-0311 and [http://counseling\\_center.uncc.edu](http://counseling_center.uncc.edu).

## **10. Report of the Chancellor (Dr. Philip Dubois)**

- The Chancellor pointed out that the role of faculty in identifying students in distress is critical to campus safety.
- The general assembly budget session will open in May. We can expect that some decisions will have been made before it opens. The UNC Charlotte administration is working on priorities for this campus. The plan is to leave enrollment increase numbers in the second year of the budget, and we are in good financial condition because of those increases. In the last 5 years, UNC Charlotte is responsible for 48% of the total growth in the system. It looks like the planned budget reduction in the second year will be eliminated. The status of employee raises is still unclear, but we are hoping that raises

will be included in the budget along with raises for teachers and other state employees. We are not expecting that our request for \$412.8 million to plan a new Science building will be approved any time soon. The director of the state budget asked universities to plan for a 2% budget reduction. Since we had already planned for this, we do not anticipate significant consequences for us.

- The new Portal building is not being paid for with state funds; we are using funds from indirect costs to pay for the building. Traffic on Highway 29 will be a mess due to the construction of the light rail system. Construction around the location of the early college high school will also cause traffic issues. The first class of ninth grade students has already been accepted, so the school will open with an enrollment of 100 students. The renovation of Phillips Road in the athletics area will begin in June. Work will continue around the residence halls. The new renovations in the high-rise residence halls will include plans for venting in rooms and closure of windows in the student rooms. The first building that will be renovated will be Holshouser. The renovation of Belk Gym and Colvard will also begin soon.
- Larceny from buildings and personal property is still the number one crime issue on campus. Car-related problems have decreased significantly.
- A feasibility study for a hotel/conference center will be conducted. The center would be located near the light rail system and would be operated by an off-campus firm. The Master's program in professional data science and business has been approved and will be begin in Fall 2014. Before any marketing has taken place, we already have 41 applications for the Master's degree and 16 applications for certificate programs.

#### **11. Report of the Provost (Dr. Joan Lorden)**

- Dr. Lorden reported that we have been conducting the ETS proficiency profile testing for seniors. We will have enough students for reasonable sample of 360. Every couple of years, we conduct a General Administration senior survey that students have to complete when they apply for graduation. Results are broken down by department and college and given to the deans. The survey gives us the opportunity to find out what the students have to say about their experience here.
- This is the tenth anniversary of our general education curriculum. The University College Faculty Council undertook a review of the program and made some recommendations particularly around LBST courses. The Council did not commission a task force immediately because it was late in the year and the General Assembly had launched its General Education Council which was identifying core competencies for assessment. The Council recommended that we focus on the assessment of critical thinking and written communication. As a result, UNC Charlotte decided to assemble its own task force to look at these competencies, and it is already meeting regularly.
- The presentation that the General Education Council gave to the Board of Governors on February will be on the faculty governance website. The Council recommended that we work with ETS to develop our own assessment for the UNC system. The Council is adamant that the assessment must be useful to faculty and there is no point in carrying out this process if it is not going to help us improve our educational programs. We will need

faculty engagement in the development of the product. ETS will come to North Carolina and run workshops for faculty so that they can provide input for the development of the assessment instrument.

**12. Report of the President (Dr. Eddy Souffrant)**

- The President-Elect wanted to report that the ballot for 2014-2015 faculty governance positions is almost complete and will be distributed soon.
- The Faculty Council has received a challenge from the Staff Council and the Senior Class President. The event is called “Pie a Professor,” and they are asking faculty members to spend 15 minutes of time to be “pied.” Contact Eddy Souffrant if you are interested.
- The deadline to register for the Chili Throwdown is March 27th.
- Heather McCullough orchestrated the visit from the Vice-President for Technology-Based Learning and Innovation from GA. The purposes of the meeting were to inform the Vice-President about the services that we are using and to inform us about the new UNC instructional innovation incubator. This service provides the opportunity to digitize a particular course that may be useful to students as an online option.
- At the next meeting of the Faculty Council we will have Dr. Robert Jones follow up on Dr. Spano’s presentation today, and Niles Sorenson will discuss issues facing the university.

**The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.**

Submitted,



Kim Harris, Secretary