

## Faculty Council

### Minutes of March 27, 2025, Meeting

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#### Voting Members Present

**(Ex Officio):** Xiaoxia Newton (President); Denis Jacob Machado (Secretary); Emily Makas (FEC, COAA Faculty Chair); Jack Cathey (FEC, COB); Barbara Knight (FEC, COB Faculty Chair); KR Subramanian (FEC, CCI); Jessica Schlueter (FEC, CCI Faculty Chair); Matthew Whelan (FEC, COE Faculty Chair); George Shaw, Jr. (FEC, CHHS); Katryna McCoy (FEC, CHHS Faculty Chair); Elizabeth Stearns (FEC, CHESS); Amber Knight (FEC, CHESS Faculty Chair designee); Tonya Bates (FEC, COS Faculty Chair); Sharon Gaber (Chancellor); Jennifer Troyer (Provost); Kevin Bailey (V.C. for Student Affairs); Jose Gamez (COAA Dean); Antonis Stylianou (on behalf of COB Dean); Bojan Cukic (CCI Dean); Robert Keynton (COE Dean); Christopher Boyer (CHESS Dean); Bernadette Donovan-Merkert (COS Dean); Bill Tolone (Graduate School Dean); Malin Pereira (Honors College Dean); Lee Gray (Library Dean); Teresa Petty (University College Dean)

**(Unit Representatives):** Pat Mynatt (ACCT); Catherine Fuentes (ANTH); Mike Turner (APHC); Ming-Chun Lee (SOA); Denis Jacob Machado (BINF); Antonis Stylianou (BISOM); Justin Grandinetti (COMM); Taghi Mostafavi (CS); Jack Culbreth (CSLG); John Stogner (CJUS); E.E. Balcos (DANC); Gang Chen (EEGS); Artie Zillante (ECON); Madhav Manjrekar (ECE); Maciej Noras (ETCM); R. Mark Hall (ENGL); Lorenzo Hopper (ECH); Dolly King (FINN); Jurgen Buchenau (HIST); Ertunga Ozelkan (ISE); Olga Padilla-Falto (LANG); Dawn Schmitz (LIB); Karen Ford-Eickhoff (MGMT); Alireza Golmohammadi (MKTG); Oleg Safronov (MATH); Tonya Anderson (SON); Rick Moll (PAS); Lisa Rasmussen (PHIL); Menelaos Poutous (PHYS); Regina Branton (POLS); Erin Washburn (REEL); Kent Brintnall (RELS); Jill Yavorsky (SOCY); David Wilson (SIS); Chris O'Brien (SPCD); Carlos Cruz (THEA)

#### Voting Members Absent

**(Ex Officio):** Debra Smith (President-Elect); Beth Murray (FEC, COAA); Ryan Miller (FEC, COED); John Nance (FEC, COED Faculty Chair); Aidan Browne (FEC, COE); David Dalton (FEC, CHESS); Kevin McGoff (FEC, COS); Catherine Tingelstad (FEC, Library); Abby Moore (FEC, Library Faculty President); John Daniels (V.C. for Research); Malcolm Butler (COED Dean); Catrine Tudor-Locke (CHHS Dean)

**(Unit Representatives):** Matt Flynn (AERO); Dorothy Smith-Ruiz (AFRS); JB Burke (ARTS); Richard Chi (BIOL); Jordan Poler (CHEM); Wei Fan (CEGR); Harish Cherukuri (DTSC); Jamie Kudlats (EDLD); John Cox (GLBL); Elena Platonova (HMP); Regina Vrikkis (MEES); Hilary Dack (MDSK); Joseph Frederick (MSCI); Dylan Savage (MUSC); Lori Van Wallendael (PSYC); Matthew Mills (SOWK); Debarati Dutta (WRDS)

#### Guests Present (Not Voting)

Kim Bradley (Chancellor's Office); Kiran Budhrani (CTL); Sarah Edwards (Legal Affairs); Asher Haines (School of Professional Studies, Associate Provost); Katherine Hall-Hertel (Graduate School); Penny Hawkins (Advancement); Natalie Huie (Advancement); Jesh Humphrey (Legal Affairs, General Counsel & V.C. for Institutional Integrity); Jon Reece (Registrar); Jennifer Reed (MATH); Brett Tempest (COE); Evan Wantland (MATH); Johnna Watson (Graduate School); Monique Wilson (Registrar's Office); Matthew Wyse (Academic Affairs); Leslie Zenk (Academic Affairs, Associate Provost)

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1. **Call to Order.** Faculty President Xiaoxia Newton called the meeting to order at 1:01 P.M.
  2. **Roll Call/Quorum Check.** Members and guests used the Google form to record their attendance. A quorum was pronounced at 1:03 P.M. when the live Google form results reached the quorum threshold. [Attendance notes: 61 members and 16 guests.]
  3. **Adoption of Agenda.** A member moved to adopt the agenda, and that motion was seconded. The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.
  4. **Report of the Chancellor (Dr. Sharon Gaber).** Gaber gave the following report:
    - We are continuing to monitor what is happening at the System, State, and Federal level. We are working our way through waivers for DEI courses. We have a centralized resources website in Inside UNC Charlotte that has 'News' and 'Key Legal and Policy Changes: What You Need to Know'. Collectively we will work our way through this.
    - Our R1 celebration was yesterday. It was a glorious afternoon. Thank you everybody.
    - We have an event tonight celebrating faculty with \$1M or more in external funding in 2024, the Million Dollar Research Circle.
  5. **Report of the Provost (Dr. Jennifer Troyer).** Troyer's report covered the following:
    - The Provosts across the System are talking to one another to attempt consistency.
    - I know that research related issues are not falling evenly among Colleges and units. There have been 7 terminations, 2 reinstatements, and several more stop work orders. Academic Affairs, Deans, and the Division of Research are here for you.
    - Undergraduate student enrollment is up. We are getting quality applicants.
    - Graduate student enrollment is up with domestic students, but down for international students. The Graduate School is doing a lot to get those numbers up and get folks here.

**Q:** Is the enrollment increase happening more in certain colleges?  
**A:** COE and COB will be up significantly.
  6. **Reports of Officers.**
    - a) Faculty President (Dr. Xiaoxia Newton):
      - On 3/18 we held our first Office Hour. We will email to you the next Office Hour.
      - This slide entitled "Key Legal and Policy Changes: Awareness" has links to Charlotte's centralized resource ([Inside UNC Charlotte, Key Legal and Policy Changes: What You Need to Know](#)) and the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, &

Transportation [press release](#), [October 2024 report](#), and [Database](#) (link at bottom of press release).

- There will be a meeting with System President Hans. We are collecting questions you would like to ask President Hans.
- b) President-Elect (Dr. Debra Smith): No report.
- c) Faculty Secretary (Dr. Denis Jacob Machado): The Ad Hoc Committee is a little ahead of schedule. We are currently compiling a report on committee loads, then we will move to the next phase.

### **New Business.**

7. **Consent Agenda.** Newton asked if there were any requests to remove an item(s) from the consent agenda for discussion. There were no requests for removal. Ford-Eickhoff moved to approve, and the motion was seconded by another member. The motion passed unanimously.

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- a) Minutes of the Faculty Council meeting of February 20, 2025
8. **Review of the Five-Year Academic Calendar.** Registrar Jon Reece gave background. The FEC posed a question that prompted a change to the Five-Year Academic Calendar. This updated version is the one the Faculty Council received.

**Q:** The start in Spring is after MLK day, but why is that not the case in previous years?

**A:** If possible, we do that. We need a certain number of contact hours and sometimes it doesn't always work out where we can start then.

A member moved to recommend approval to the Chancellor. Ford-Eickhoff seconded the motion. The motion to recommend approval of the Five-Year Academic Calendar to the Chancellor was approved.

9. **Classroom Scheduling Presentation (Dr. Lee Gray & Dr. Jon Reece).** Gray said we are now using Centralized Scheduling. The system we used prior to Centralized Scheduling was over 30 years old and better suited for smaller institutions. At the launch of this new system there were a few mistakes, but we have made fixes and will continue to make it better each semester.

**Q:** Can you give an example of mistakes and fixes?

**A:** An effective process is predicated on having all the necessary information. Originally it missed the connection to the adjacent resource class. We have since fixed that. For example, a class might need to be adjacent to a liquid flame retardant. We are still doing some things manually.

**Q:** A few instructors were assigned back-to-back classes in impossible distances from each other.

**A:** We are going to try to get you close to your home base. We use neighborhood approaches to minimize classes being too far apart. If we don't get it right, please let us know and we'll fix it.

Assistant Registrar Monique Wilson added that classes at non-standard meeting times are the last to get scheduled.

**Q:** Can you add a notes section on the form to add important notes?

**A:** Registrar Jon Reece answered that we must rely on email for that. We are limited by Banner restrictions. There is no notes ability in Banner.

**Q:** Can we schedule an alternate classroom for specific class date(s)?

**A:** Reece – After pushed to 25Live, CRES will have all available space. You can schedule with CRES for an alternate site for specific classes.

**Q:** Can you calculate the classroom space by using classroom space minus one for instructor. Sometimes instructors need to sit and if the class size is not calculated this way and has 100% attendance, then there is not a seat for the instructor.

**A:** Gray – we can take this under advisement.

Reece said we want all your feedback. This is our second semester under Centralized Scheduling and your feedback will help us improve classroom scheduling.

10. **For the Love of Charlotte Presentation (Penny Hawkings, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development & Natalie Huie, Assistant Director Annual Giving).** Hawkings said the volunteer leadership for this campaign are all alumni. Among the campaign leadership are two couples (Darla '83 & Craig '85 Albert and Kia '98 & Demond '97 Martin), which fits the theme, "For the Love of Charlotte". We are already at \$295M, on our way to a record. Our financial goal is \$500M. For the Love of Charlotte will:

- Realize the University's 10-year strategic plan, Shaping What's Next;
- Grow the development pipeline and invite transformational giving;
- Build stronger alumni affinity and engagement across the University; and
- Elevate the UNC Charlotte brand locally, regionally and nationally.

The campaign pillars are Student Success & Opportunity, Academic & Research Leadership, and Campus & Community Vibrancy. Impact to date includes gifts:

- Rabin School of Architecture
- Lowe's Endowed Chair in Computer Science and the Lowe's Technology Innovation Fund
- The Mebane Early Literacy Center
- Klein College of Science & Endowed Professorships
- Graham Siddall & The Center for Precision Metrology

The campaign goals are to raise \$500 million to support the campus community, engage, energize and empower volunteer leadership, and increase the pipeline of future prospects and donors.

Huie said that Niner Nation Gives is coming up, April 8-10. The goal is \$4.9M and 6,500 individual gifts. The target audiences are alumni, faculty & staff, parents & friends, and students. We hope to receive \$250,000 and 975 individual gifts from faculty and staff. To activate faculty and staff there will be early giving incentives, kickoff luncheon, thank-a-thon, and unit tabling across campus. Key

dates include Faculty/Staff Kick-off (April 8<sup>th</sup>), BIG Student Event (April 9<sup>th</sup>), and NNG Celebration (April 9<sup>th</sup>). Mark your calendars and please come out and support. If you would like to volunteer that would be great. Come talk to me.

11. **Student Athletes Update (Dr. Mike Turner).** Turner started the presentation explaining what a Faculty Athletic Representative is. It is the University's Faculty Representative to the NCAA and AAC. A lot of what this person does is serve as liaison between Faculty/Administration and Student-Athletes/Athletic Department. The position has to understand the key issues within Collegiate Athletics and work with the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). Turner shared that this year UNC Charlotte won 5 championships in the American Athletic Conference (AAC). Also, there have been 5 coaching changes in the past 12 months. Student athletes have performed slightly better than the university mean. In Spring 2024, student athletes had a GPA of 3.21 while the university mean was 3.13. In Fall 2024, student athletes had a GPA of 3.20 while the university mean was 3.11. Turner shared some of the teams that performed exceptionally well with academics. Student Athlete Riley Felts was a finalist for NCAA Woman of the Year, an impressive feat considered there are only 9 finalists. Turner completed the presentation sharing issues student athletes face and asking faculty for understanding. Some student athletes coming through the portal arrive after the start of the semester. Please keep in mind the impact of mandatory attendance opportunities and previous assignment opportunities during the drop/add period. If we have second half semester courses without prerequisites that could also benefit these students. Half of our student athletes have been here for 1 or more years, while half have been here less than a year. Please understand that they may need help finding majors and courses.
12. **Announcements.** Faculty Governance Assistant Matt Wyse mentioned the deadline for nominations for the University-wide faculty governance elections is tomorrow. We still need a nomination for Chair of FITSAC, Chair of FWC, and Chair of PTFC. Newton asked if there were any other announcements. None raised.
13. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 P.M.

Minutes taken by Matthew Wyse, Faculty Governance Assistant