

Senate Minutes
January 19, 2016
EB 162

President Meinhold presiding
Called to order: 2:04

President Meinhold: A motion to approve the Nov and Dec meeting minutes was passed - no revisions.

- I. Special order of the day – nomination for FA delegates. (Vote will take place in April.) Two - four nominations are needed for faculty to represent UNCW; we get 3 delegates in addition to our Senate President, who holds an ex officio position. Nominees do not need to be a current Senator, but must be willing to travel to Chapel Hill five times per year, on Fridays. Stuart Borrett's position is open; he is in the third year of his first term and eligible for and interested in re-election. Stuart Borrett and Derek Miller are nominated. A motion to close the nominations is made, seconded, and approved. Unanimous consent that these be our two candidates.
- II. Provost's Report – No particular topic was requested for today three issues will be targeted.
 - A. Distance Education – Three candidates are coming to campus this week for the new position. An important question is where UNCW is going with DE. There is no intent to turn UNCW into a DE university, but there are areas where more support can be provided for faculty to do on-line education. The new position is to provide more resources for faculty (including stipends). There are no expectations that all faculty should do on-line teaching.
 - B. Particular business practices need review. A young faculty member in BIO commented that she came to UNCW to teach and do research and service, but feels that business operations are taking up all of her time - this means that we haven't taken time to refine our practices. Conversations are ongoing with Business Affairs and Rick Whitfield, to form a committee to identify stumbling blocks. The committee will have faculty involvement, especially faculty with relevant expertise.
 - C. Faculty are reporting that their courses have more students than seats. This needs to be fixed. New chairs have been ordered in CAS. Please let the Provost know if there are situations that still need to be addressed.
- III. President Meinhold's report –
 - A. The Faculty Senate President is invited to present to the BOT at every meeting they hold – this is not true at all sister institutions. President Meinhold presented at the recent BOT meeting and will be posting all reports delivered going forward. The most recent report provided an overview of the Senate mission and organization – there are a number of new BOT members. The report also included a brief update on post-tenure review training modules. BOT members were encouraged to complete the modules themselves. A description of our motion on DE for today was also included. It will be good for all Senators to be familiar with what has been presented to the BOT.
 - B. Renovations to the Senate's Library office are in progress. Four finalists have been interviewed for the Senate's new administrative assistant. This individual will be available to help with committees, etc. The Senate Webpage has been updated with membership and Committee memberships.

- C. Jeanie Pursuit reporting for FA – FA met on Friday in Chapel Hill. Spellings has negotiated to start in March, so she was not present. We'll hear from her at our last meeting this year. Gonzales is interim President. A consultant group (funded by anonymous donor) has been hired to study the system. FA will participate but does not endorse the strategy. The FA wants to make Spellings and BOG aware of sensitive items – one of those is PTR. Many have serious concerns about the current directions, and another resolution is likely. A report from FA is forthcoming and it should not be edited for or by BOG. The FA met with Chair of BOG, Lou Bissett – he seems receptive to our ideas. BOG demonstrations can take place only outside of the building. Two pieces of legislation are on the table – NC Gap, and the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights. We should be speaking with our campus legislative expert – Mark Lanier. The position of Academic Planning is vacant at GA right now; interviewing is ongoing. It will be important to have someone who comes from academic background, because this person is in front of BOG often. Banding is under study by Staff Senate. In response to a question from the floor: GA and the BOG are aware of how alarming it is to have an anonymous donor responsible for a consultant's study, but the study is still proceeding.

IV. Chancellor's Report – Good afternoon, happy New Year, and wishes for a prosperous, healthy, and happy 2016.

- A. Meetings are ongoing with SGA, other students, and faculty for listening and learning. The Chancellor and Provost will be visiting chairs and departments, to get to know everyone. The Chancellor appreciates working closely with Senate President Meinhold, Staff Senate, and the BOT. Alumni visits are ongoing across the state and in Washington, and the Chancellor is spending time with athletics, to make sure programs have funding. Things are looking good. 132 donors have been visited, including alumni, potential donors, and parents. This is all part of how we attract more students. Other meetings are ongoing with various groups, including: corporations are ongoing – they're very proud of their partnerships with our students; the Panthers (a former UNCW student part of the org); our state senators, the Gov., the Mayor, and others at the regional level; representative from Mexico and the Middle East; the community colleges (they are developing honors programs that we should recruit from); the military; overseas universities (to potentially develop MOUs – Milano, Brazil and others); ILM Chamber, Kiwanis, and similar groups; and internal units.
- B. Work is also ongoing to advance the bond issue. There is opposition to the bond, so hard work is needed between now and Mar 15. It doesn't seem to be the case that individual taxes will increase.
- C. Other updates: Continuation of Track and Field is very important –work on that front is ongoing. Most Cabinet positions are filled. Interviews for the DE position are in progress. Freshmen will be required to live on campus starting in the fall. Our retention for this year is 95% – another 10% will likely be lost between now and May. We need to determine what's needed to retain more students. An Integration Committee is now at work on the final stages of the Strategic Plan, which will have implications for the biannual plan and budgeting. OUR has been refocused and restructured – the best way to communicate and market the new strategic plan is under discussion. Recruiting for students (military, grad, etc.) has been refocused, and work on increasing scholarships to attract students of quality is in progress. Our goal for SATs is 1250 (vs 1191), and scholarships will be necessary to make this happen. The hope is to make at least 100

available for next year. More money for faculty salaries was made available, and more will be done moving forward. We can't expect excellence and not reward that. Your fight is my fight. A speaker's bureau is starting, featuring faculty and others from outside the university who can speak to students and serve as good role models. Good speakers for Commencement are also a target, including Nobel Prize winners.

- D. Thanks to each faculty member for all the help in the 199 days so far. Hope we'll have a great spring semester.

- V. Committee Reports – Motions from standing committees don't require a second and are not placed on the agenda by Steering. If a motion is made by a standing committee, it's on the agenda.
 - A. From the University Curriculum Committee: MO 2016-1- M01: approval of the course prefix ACT (Approaches to Critical Thinking) to be housed in the office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. This will be the prefix for ACT 490, which will be a capstone for a new cluster. (CT cluster was approved at Dec 2015 Senate meeting).
 - i. Arguments for the motion: a) one requirement of a cluster is that at least one course is taken here, so a regularly available on-line option is needed. Critical thinking is an important part of US, present throughout the curriculum, but it has no separate category, and assessment show that we need to strengthen/emphasize critical thinking further. It would help to have the course housed at a general level. b) The course is result of a competitive grant funded by GA, on common competencies. Critical thinking at a broad level was targeted because students from areas struggle with it. A scaffolded cluster was designed (a different sort of cluster model). There has been excitement from instructors wanting their courses to be part of the cluster, and this customizable course could be taught by any faculty member, using the AACU rubric. The course could eventually be face to face, but will be on-line initially. c) It's unusual to have a prefix match just one course, but not unheard of. If we're going to really try something new with the curriculum, we may just need to have something new with the prefixes as well.
 - ii. Questions: Does critical thinking need a separate course, when it should be part of all we do? Is this vote about the prefix, or about the course (ACT 490)? How can we approve a prefix for a single course without having all necessary information to consider and debate the course? (Our current process requires separate approvals for a new prefix and a new course.) Why is the prefix a unique one – why not UNI (or Honors, or LIB)?
 - iii. Motion to amend was passed, to clarify that only the prefix is under consideration. The amended motion: Approve ACT (Approaches to Critical Thinking) prefix. ACT (Approaches to Critical Thinking), to be housed at the office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.
 - iv. Referring the issue to USAC could be appropriate. If the vote is no, that is what would happen.
 - v. The question was called, and the motion failed. UCC and USAC will be contacted to explain where we are.

- B. From Senate Steering. MO 2016-1-MO2: Review of Distance Education Programs. Resolved that the Faculty Senate establishes an ad hoc committee for the purpose of reviewing all curriculum and curriculum support matters associated with distance education. The Distance Education ad hoc committee shall report to Senate regularly and issue a final report no later than Oct 2016.
- i. There was much discussion on the issue, primarily to clarify the intent of the motion. In sum, there is a sense that distance education is taking place in a tremendous variety of forms, that the enterprise is complicated and tangled, and that there is currently no oversight of this important component of our curriculum (which is the faculty's responsibility). We don't really have good information on what's being done. With a new DE administrator coming on board, having an inventory of current practices seems prudent. The faculty should have our own self-reflection prior to input from a new senior administrator. There is no authority or intent to change distance education, although a report could make recommendations that would require Senate endorsement. The Senate will review the data collected. The Chancellor has just requested similar data, which will be of use to the committee.
 - ii. Other questions: Why an ad hoc committee vs a standing committee? (No by-laws change needed.) Is the focus of the review on courses or programs? (The intent is simply to find out what's going on – not to change practices in individual classes, or to assess effectiveness.)
 - iii. Motion to amend the motion title was made, seconded, and approved to read: Review of Distance Education. ("Programs" was removed from the original motion title.)
 - iv. Motion to amend, to add "programs" to the end of the first full sentence (i.e., ...curriculum support matters associated with distance education programs.) Motion failed.
 - v. Motion to table failed.
 - vi. Vote on the motion with amended title was called and passed.

VI. Old business - none.
New business – none.
Announcements:

1. Motions to be considered by the Senate can come from Senators and departments and be voted on at the next meeting.
2. Meetings for the remainder of the semester will be held in McNeill Hall.
3. USAC will be distributing review materials to departments soon.

Meeting adjourned: 3:45