

**FACULTY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes**  
**October 22, 2009**

**Present** (ex officio): Alan Freitag (President); Kim Harris (Secretary); Sonya Hardin (President); Charles Bodkin (President Elect); Jay Grymes (alternate, CAA); Ed Jernigan (BUS); David Binkley (ENG); Jim Laditka (alternate, HHS); Yvette Huet (CLAS); Michele Bissiere (LA & S); Barbara Tierney (LIB); Phil Dubois (Chancellor); Joan Lorden (Provost); Tom Reynolds (Dean, Graduate School); Nancy Gutierrez (Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences); Joseph Mazzola (Dean, College of Business); Mary Lynne Calhoun (Dean, College of Education); Ron Smelser (for Robert Johnson, Dean, College of Engineering); Yi Deng (Dean, College of Computing & Informatics); Karen Schmaling (Dean, College of Health & Human Services); John Smail (Dean, University College)

**Absent** (ex officio): Barry Wilkinson (C&I); Ann McColl (EDUC); Gregory Weeks (POLS); Stanley Wilder (Librarian); Ken Lambla (Dean, College of Arts & Architecture)

**Present** (unit representatives): Casper Wiggins (ACCT); Veronica Nmoma Walker (AFRS); Diane Brockman (ANTH); Chris Beorkrem (ARCH); John Ford (ART); Sue Peters (BIOL); Chandra Subramaniam (BISOM); Thomas DuBois (CHEM); Johnny Graham (CENG); Daniel Grano for Courtney St. Onge (COMM); Taghi Mostafavi (CS); Lyn Exum for Anita Blowers (CJUS); E.E. Balcos (DANC); Ted Amato (ECON); Richard Hartshorne (EDLD); Thomas Weldon for James Conrad (ECE); Carlos Orozco (ET); Chris Davis for Susan Gardner (ENGL); Louis Trosch (FINN); Walt Martin (GEOG/ES); Sonya Ramsey (HIST); Tricia Hubbard (KNES); Mike Olson (LIB); Peter Davis (MGMT); Mesbah Uddin (MENG); Teresa Petty (MDSK); Jay Grymes (MUSC); Dick Toenjes (PHIL); Bob Tyson (PHYS); Saul Brenner (POLS); Jane Gaultney (PSYC); Sarah Laditka for Cynthia Cassell (PHS); Adriana Medina (REEL); David Mozina (RELS); Lucille Travis (SON); Julie McLaughlin (SOC); Susan McCarter (SOWK); Bill Tolone (SIS); Christopher O'Brien (SPED); Lon Bumgarner (THTR)

**Absent** (unit representatives): Christopher Rogers (AERO); Dennis Livesay (BIOINF); Jack Culbreth (COUN); Jose Batista (LCS); Sunil Erelles (MKTG); Joe Quinn (MATH); Eddie Johnson (MILSCI)

**Also present:** Jay Raja (Academic Affairs); Christopher Knauer (Registrar); Cynthia Wolf Johnson (Academic Services); Janet Daniel (OASES); Connie Martin (Continuing Education); Valorie McAlpin (Center for Teaching & Learning); Brittany Bernado (SGA); Sharon Thorpe (University Career Center); Tony Carter (Student Financial Aid); Sam Lopez (Multicultural Academic Services); Vidal Dickerson (Multicultural Resource Center); Al Maisto (Honors College); Mehdi Miri (Chair, FAPSC); Lisa Hibbs (Athletic Academic Center); Bobby Lutz (Men's Basketball); Nick Konawalik (Athletics); Brenda Sawyer (Residency Determination Office); Julie Putnam (Academic Affairs)

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

**1. Approval of the Minutes of the September 24, 2009 Faculty Executive Meeting**

Sue Peters made the motion to approve the minutes. Roy Fielding seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Update on Multicultural Academic Services (Sam Lopez) and Multicultural Resource Center (Vidal Dickerson)**

Mr. Lopez discussed the Office of Multicultural Academic Services which is housed in Academic Services under Academic Affairs. The office provides academic support for students, mentoring, tutoring, aimed at recruitment, retention, and graduation of students, particularly students from under-represented groups. Mr. Lopez reminded faculty members that external funding may require inclusion of underrepresented students, and his office is available to help faculty members with this. There are four programs under this office: UTOP, PRODUCE, SAFE, Building Better Brothers. The office is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Fretwell Building.

Mr. Dickerson discussed the Multicultural Resource Center which is housed in Student Affairs and is located in the Student Union. This area is fee-targeted so students must play a vital role in activities. The office is expanding resources for faculty to learn more about students: Poverty simulation – partnering with Counseling – to provide discipline based simulations, Faculty/Staff dialogue – Souls of Our Children, the Multicultural conference on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Planning for MLK celebration is going on now.

**3. Update on Accessibility Committee activities (Ahmed Arif).**

Mr. Arif will give his update at a later Faculty Council meeting.

**4. Motion to Award Posthumous degree for Mr. Christopher Rogers.**

David Binkley made the motion to award the posthumous degree; Ed Jernigan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. Motion to Award Posthumous degree for Ms. Danielle Morgan.**

Stella Nmoma made the motion to award the posthumous degree; Charles Bodkin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. Two FAPSC motions: Course levels catalog copy; grade appeal deadline**

The first motion from FAPSC was to delete the policy that requires junior and senior students to have permission from their major department to enroll in any class below the 300-level that is not required in their degree program. Casper Wiggins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The second motion from FAPSC was to change the deadline for students to file an appeal of a final course grade. The motion requires students to file an appeal within the first four weeks following the last day of the regular semester or the summer term in which the grade was received. Ed Jernigan seconded the motion. Saul Brenner proposed that the policy also be amended to read that a student must file an appeal with the appropriate department

chairperson or interdisciplinary program director or “designee.” Ron Smelser seconded the amendment. The motion with the amendment passed unanimously.

## **7. Announcements from Athletics Department and Men’s Basketball Coach**

Nick Konawalik announced that November 16<sup>th</sup> is the Faculty/Staff day for Women’s Basketball. December 8<sup>th</sup> is the Faculty/Staff day for Men’s Basketball. At the game on December 8<sup>th</sup>, the academic athletes will be recognized at halftime.

Coach Lutz thanked the faculty for their support of student athletes. He reminded faculty of the opportunity for first year season ticket holders to purchase a season ticket for \$49.

## **8. Plus/Minus grading presentation**

The panel discussion was mediated by the chair of FAPSC, Mehdi Miri. The registrar Chris Knauer emphasized that this would be a huge movement to go to a plus/minus system. Among the items that would have to be taken care of: clarifications of university policies related to C grades, administrative concerns related to forms that need to be adjusted, all old forms would need to be destroyed, huge education effort to get to all faculty, all students, all offices. In addition to the above, a lot of processes would need to be updated – academic suspension, probation, prerequisites, minimum passing grades, CAPP. Catalog changes would have to take place. Lots of reports would have to be changed. It would take a full two years to make this happen. He equated this to reinventing Banner.

Lisa Hibbs explained that athletes also have academic requirements from NCAA and the Athletic-10 Conference. Her concern is how grades of B- and C- would effect a student’s “timely progression” towards a specific degree. If they have to repeat courses with C-, they will not be able to repeat courses. Because of time commitments and academic majors, some majors are closed out for students. A minuses are also a concern. Athletes currently receive lots of academic awards. We have received more awards in our conference than any other school. Our baseball team is currently #3 behind Vanderbilt & UNC CH. Women’s soccer is #4 in the country.

Al Maisto looked at 31 universities similar to us, including other UNC schools as well as peer institutions. Many of them (22) have a plus minus system. Most universities who implemented in last decade had to make many curriculum changes. What about in Honors programs where project grade must be an A? We would need a task force in place that will work for at least one year to work on implementation. What would graduation honors mean: cum laude, magna cum laude, summa cum laude? Each school that has done this has struggled with it.

Liz Haney is the Pre-health professions advisor. For students who apply to medical schools, their UNCC grade point average is completely irrelevant because of the way they are compared to other students. The difference between an A and an A minus could make the difference in acceptance.

Cindy Wolf-Johnson explained that there are certainly values in plus/minus system. A major concern from faculty is increase in student grade appeals. Other concerns: Impact on minority

students – potentially negative; Higher percentage of minority students within their population are on academic probation; Financial aid – merit scholarship or academic progress for eligibility; Advising folks about progression – all departments make that decision at the same time; Grade point deficit calculation. How would the conversion process take place? For a while there would be students with 2 types of grades on their transcripts. What is the potential effect on transfer admission?

Brittany Benardo, the SGA representative, reported that last March the SGA Senate voted against the proposal.

## **9. Report of the Chancellor**

The budget was permanently cut by 6.8%. We are in the midst of 5% reversion. The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter reports are out, and tax revenues are down. The Master Plan moving towards conclusion and will be looked at by BOT at their December meeting. There is a discussion between CMS, UNC Charlotte, and the Dean of Education for a public school on the university campus with its own attendance zone. This would facilitate a closer relationship with CMS. The timeframe is long range -- 2017.

Football is very much in question. The question to consider is will we go forward as planned. Seat licenses are below the \$5 million target. Private donations are starting to pick up. Debt service fee for students may be considered.

We have broken ground on a residence hall next to Laurel Hall with 450 beds. Our goal is to maintain 25% of undergraduates on campus. Plans are to build a new dining hall around the high rises. The high rise residence halls will remain with interior and exterior renovations.

## **10. Report of the Provost**

The Levine Scholars Program is moving along, and we have already received many applications (over 300). We will interview students on campus on Feb 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of 2010. A search committee is in place chaired by Dean Gutierrez to search for a permanent director for the program. We are working on the enrollment targets for spring and fall. All the new students have led to an increased demand for parking. The spring semester should be better. We have almost met our cap for spring admissions. We are working with community colleges on a pilot program to make a smooth transition for students. We have commissioned a study on non-tenured track faculty. One issue that came out of UNC Tomorrow was how do we value faculty engagement in entrepreneurship and economic development. FAPBC will be handling the reviews of our non-collegiate service units in academic affairs: ITS, Academic Services, Research and Federal Relations. FAPBC will be reviewing that.

## **11. Report of the President Elect**

Faculty Assembly met last month and discussed among other things a definition of shared governance, distance education, and comprehensive wellness issues.

**The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.**

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Harris". The signature is written in a dark ink on a light-colored background.

Kim Harris, Secretary