

Faculty Council

Minutes of September 24, 2020 Meeting

Voting Members Present

(Ex Officio): Joel Avrin (President); Susan Harden (President-Elect); Debra Smith (Secretary); Chris Jarrett (FEC, COAA); Dawson Hancock (FEC, COED); Jay Wu (FEC, COE); Travis Hales (FEC, CHHS); Anton Pujol (FEC, CLAS); James Tabor (FEC, CLAS); Beth Whitaker (FEC, CLAS); Katie Howell (FEC, LIB); Sharon Gaber (Chancellor); Joan Lorden (Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs); Rick Tankersley (Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development); Jennifer Troyer (COB Interim Dean); Fatma Mili (CCI Dean); Teresa Petty (COED Interim Dean); Susan Sell (On Behalf of CHHS Dean); Nancy Gutierrez (CLAS Dean); Anne Moore (Library Dean); John Smail (UCOL Dean)

(Unit Representatives): Catherine Fuentes (ANTH); Thomas Forget (SOA); Jeff Murphy (ARTS); Robert Reid (BINF); Melanie Harris (BIOL); Kexin Zhao (BISOM); Christopher Bejger (CHEM); Brett Tempest (CEGR); Melody Dixon (COMM); Wenwen Dou (CS); Jack Culbreth (CSLG); Delia Neil (DANC); Doug Hague (DTSC); Ayesha Sadaf (EDLD); Yong Zhang (ECE); Jake Smithwick (ETCM); Juan Meneses (ENGL); Yilei Zhang (FINN); Craig Allan (GYES); Joyce Dalsheim (GLBS); Ella Fratantouno (HIST); David Verrill (KNES); David Boyd (LACS); Catherine Tingelstad (LIB); Karen Ford-Eickhoff (MGMT); Charles Bodkin (MKTG); Shaoyu Li (MATH); Jerry Dahlberg (MEES); Warren DiBiase (MDSK); Fred Spano (MUSC); Florence Okoro (SON); Beth Yoder (PAS); Lisa Rasmussen (PHIL); Menelaos Poutous (PHYS); Tom Barth (POLS); Andrew Case (PSYC); Lauren Wallace (PHS); Tracy Rock (REEL); John Reeves (RELS); Travis Hales (SOWK); Phil Rutledge (SOCY); Rob Pennington (SPED); Amy Colombo (WRDS)

Voting Members Absent

(Ex Officio): Dongsong Zhang (FEC, COB); Heather Lipford (FEC, CCI); Kevin Bailey (Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs); Brook Muller (COAA Dean); Robert Keynton (COE Dean); Tom Reynolds (Graduate School Dean)

(Unit Representatives): Paul Tanyi (ACCT); Dustin Puett (AERO); Oscar de la Torre (AFRS); Sam DeWitt (CJUS); Krista Saral (ECON); Caitlin Moore (MSCI); Sunshine Niu (SIS); Ertunga Ozelkan (SEEM); Carlos Cruz (THEA)

Also Present (but Not Voting)

Kim Bradley (Chancellor's Office); Jody Cebina (Distance Education); Christen Crumpler (Student); Janet Daniel (OASES); Kaley Davis (Student); Fumie Kato (Chair, Faculty Legacy Scholarship Committee); Kira Marsh (Student); Malin Pereira (Executive Director, Honors College); Garvey Pyke (CTL); Jay Raja (Academic Affairs); Jon Reece (Registrar); Kimberly Rodgers (University Center for Academic Excellence); Beth Rugg (OneIT); Tahlieah Sampson (Student Body President); Liz Siler (Atkins Library); Johnna Watson (Graduate School); Matthew Wyse (Academic Affairs); Leslie Zenk (Academic Affairs)

(Attendance chart attached)

The meeting began at 1:00 P.M.

1. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Faculty Council.** Ford-Eickhoff indicated that the proposed amendment for agenda item #5 was not hers, the amendment was made by someone else. Ford-Eickhoff moved to amend the minutes by removing her name as proposer of that amendment. Spano seconded the motion. The motion to amend carried. Ford-Eickhoff moved to approve the minutes as amended. Hales seconded the motion. The minutes for the April 23, 2020 meeting, as amended, were approved unanimously.

2. **Introduction of Faculty Legacy Scholarship Recipients (Dr. Fumie Kato).** Fumie Kato, Chair of the Faculty Legacy Scholarship Committee, shared PowerPoint slides on the Faculty Legacy Scholarship (FLS) which supports students on the basis of merit and financial hardship. This year six students were awarded \$700 each: Christen Crumpler (Music), Kira Marsh (Biology), Kaley Davis (Pre-Accounting), Emma Dixon (Exercise Science), Cecilia Whalen (Dance), and Rebecca Grubb (Nursing). Crumpler, Marsh, and Davis attended the Zoom meeting and introduced themselves and thanked the faculty. Kato indicated that only 17 of the 1,087 full-time faculties are current FLS contributors. She indicated the importance of becoming a contributor, how to become a contributor, and asked faculty to disseminate this scholarship information in your department. You can go to <https://fls.uncc.edu/>. Avrin added his wish that more faculty contributors will come forward this year.

3. **Request to Award Posthumous Degree to Marissa S. Styron.** Whitaker moved to approve. Wu seconded the motion. The request to award a posthumous degree to Marissa S. Styron was approved unanimously.

4. **Proposed Honors Council Bylaws.** Avrin mentioned that the proposed Honors Council bylaws were adopted by the Honors Council in March 2020 and that Executive Director Malin Pereira and Honors Council Member Karen Ford-Eickhoff were willing to answer any questions the Faculty Council might have. Ford-Eickhoff mentioned the process and that these bylaws were created to improve continuity through the years while Honors Council membership changes yearly. Malin thanked the Honors Council and last year's Honors Council Chair Jordan Poler for their work on the bylaws. No questions were posed. Ford-Eickhoff moved to approve the bylaws. Whitaker seconded the motion. The Honors Council Bylaws were approved unanimously.

5. **Request for degree name change for M.S. in Construction and Facilities Management.** The [Curriculog proposal](#) to change the degree name for M.S. in Construction and Facilities Management to M.S. in Construction and Facilities Engineering reached the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) and Faculty Council steps. The FEC approved on September 3, 2020. Dahlberg moved to approve. Whitaker seconded the motion. The request for degree name revision of M.S. in Construction and Facilities Management to M.S. in Construction and Facilities Engineering was approved unanimously.

6. **Faculty Council Collection Review Task Force Recommendations.** Liz Siler said that if the Faculty Council had questions about the Task Force Recommendations, then she could answer the questions and was also prepared to give a presentation on the Task Force Report. No questions were posed. Whitaker moved to approve the recommendations. Hague seconded the motion. The Faculty Council Collection Review Task Force recommendations were approved unanimously.
7. **Faculty Assembly and UNC System Activity Report.** Avrin had two things to report. (1) Peter Hans is the new System President. There are many positive things he hears and reads about him. Avrin wanted to let everyone know about something that concerns him. Peter Hans had requested more power in the bylaws with chancellor searches. Faculty Assembly pushed back requesting to the Board of Governors that this be struck from the bylaws. The Board of Governors upheld the change. (2) Tim Ives, Faculty Assembly Chair, and the outgoing Faculty Assembly Chair together proposed a racial equity task force. They want to know what the campuses think they are doing right and how they can improve. Avrin asked Chancellor Gaber to mention UNC Charlotte's latest hire. Gaber said that UNC Charlotte has appointed Dr. Cheryl Waites Spellman to the role of Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion. This role will be coordinating efforts by faculty, staff, and students.
8. **Report of the Chancellor.** Chancellor Gaber gave the following report:
- First, she said it was nice to meet everybody and looks forward to a time she can meet in person. She is 60 days into the position and all the meetings are virtual. She has had lots of conversations with stakeholders and found everybody has been helpful. She indicated that her job is to help you all do your job. Gaber is trying to learn and digest everything she can to understand how best she can help. She encourages people to stop and talk to her when they see her, in the parking lot or wherever our paths cross.
 - She mentioned her excitement over the enrollment data. A continued increase even in the wake of the pandemic. UNC Charlotte is now the second largest university in the UNC System.
 - Next, Gaber wanted to share how the Fall semester decision was reached. This involved numerous discussions with numerous groups. This was not done in a vacuum. We are all in this together. She heard from parents of students in specialized programs that the online format was not benefitting the students. We want you to feel safe in the classroom. Health officials recommended not to bring back students after the Thanksgiving break. We are requiring masks and have de-densified the campus. Only one student per dorm room. We are continuing to monitor wastewater testing for residence halls. If cases escalate, we will amend our plan. Thank you for your patience.
 - Gaber concluded that they are beginning strategic planning. Everyone on campus will have opportunities for input. The current plan is for 2016-2021. We will be continuing efforts to increase our fund raising and improve our national ranks and reputation.

Gaber opened the floor to questions.

Q: Can you give us a budget update?

A: From the general fund we know what our budget is. That hasn't changed, other than some funding that is being used for COVID response. Lost some room and board monies with less students on campus; de-densifying. The condition of the state, local, and national economy means budget cuts will be needed.

Q: Fall Planning Advisory Group had discussed much of what was in the October 1 decision. We knew any decision would not please everyone. How much flexibility does a professor have who is teaching a top 40 course? Could a professor of a top 40 course choose to stay completely online if only a very few prefer face-to-face?

A: This question may best be answered by our Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Perhaps Joan will address this question now or during the report of the Provost.

Q: Did the health department give a way to quantify what is an unexpected or significant increase in COVID?

A: They did not set a specific number, but will be looking at clusters. A cluster is defined as five or more cases.

9. Report of the Provost. Provost Lorden gave the following report:

- Great enrollment numbers, which is important as we are depending on that fall enrollment for our funding.
- We have an 84.7% freshman retention rate and a 48% four-year graduation rate. Both are records. Over 1000 faculty members participated in the online workshops. I appreciate the commitment of the faculty. Unfortunately, we also have a record number of W's. The Board of Governors have given the campuses permission to make exemptions to the W limit through this academic year.
- We have greatly expanded our laptop loan and issuance programs.
- For Spring semester decisions, we are at the mercy of this virus. Spring may look similar to our Fall plan. We are prioritizing giving choices to first-year students for chances at face-to-face classes, while upper division classes remain online helping to keep density down on campus. Thinking about what the Spring calendar will look like. We need to consider an option to remove Spring break. This could impact Spring break study abroad courses. There is an idea to introduce mid-week one-day breaks that you can think of as mental health days. Discussions with deans group has the preferred approach starting on January 20th as planned and eliminating Spring break.
- Faculty committees have been asked to help with an equity audit. We need to do the best we can for our students, so every student has equal opportunities.

Lorden started the question and answer portion with answering the question posed earlier.

Q: How much flexibility does a professor have who is teaching a top 40 course? Could a professor of a top 40 course choose to stay completely online if only a very few students in the course prefer face-to-face and the vast majority prefer to stay online?

A: Some faculty have figured out ways to teach the course face-to-face and online. We want faculty to have some flexibility in how they teach the course, but we also want to maintain opportunities for some face-to-face courses which we identified. It is important to help those students that say they learn better face-to-face. We need to make a special effort to engage them. We encourage faculty to directly talk with students about options.

Q: Why is eliminating Spring break being discussed?

A: Often when people take a Spring break they travel and mix with people of other communities and then return to our community with the potential to increase COVID spread.

Q: Will the total mental health days throughout the Spring equal the number of days from the eliminated Spring break?

A: First, these options have not been decided on yet. The proposal being debated has only a couple mental health days and the elimination of the entire Spring break which lets us finish the Spring semester earlier.

10. **Report of the President-Elect.** President-Elect Harden chose to skip her report in the interest of time.

11. **Report of the President.** President Avrin chose to skip his report in the interest of time.

12. **New Business.** None.

Meeting adjourned at 2:31 P.M.

Minutes submitted by Matthew Wyse, Faculty Governance Assistant

(Attendance chart attached)

Unit/Title	Representative	Present (Initial)	Alternate	Present (Initial)
Faculty Executive Committee Members (ex-officio)				
Faculty President	Joel Avrin	X	n/a	
President-Elect	Susan Harden	X	n/a	
Secretary	Debra Smith	X	n/a	
Arts + Architecture	Chris Jarrett	X	Aspen Hochhalter	
Business	Dongsong Zhang		Xiuli He	
Computing & Informatics	Heather Lipford		Xi Niu	
Education	Dawson Hancock	X	Greg Wiggan	
Engineering	Jay Wu	X	Sukumar Kamalasan	
Health & Human Services	Susan McCarter		Travis Hales	X
Liberal Arts & Sciences	Anton Pujol	X	Lisa Rasmussen	
Liberal Arts & Sciences	Beth Whitaker	X	Dale Grote	
Liberal Arts & Sciences	James Tabor	X	<i>vacant</i>	
Library	Katie Howell	X	Marc Bess	
Chancellors and Deans (ex-officio)				
Chancellor	Sharon Gaber	X		
Provost and Vice Chancellor for AA	Joan Lorden	X		
Vice Chancellor for Research & Econ Dev	Rick Tankersley	X		
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs	Kevin Bailey			
Dean, College of Arts + Architecture	Brook Muller			
Dean, College of Business	Jennifer Troyer	X		
Dean, College of Computing & Informatics	Fatma Mili	X		
Dean, College of Education	Teresa Petty	X		
Dean, College of Engineering	Robert Keynton			
Dean, College of Health & Human Svcs.	Catrine Tudor-Locke		Susan Sell	X
Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences	Nancy Gutierrez	X		
Dean, Graduate School	Tom Reynolds			
Dean, Library	Anne Moore	X		
Dean, University College	John Smail	X		
Academic Unit Representatives				
Accountancy	Paul Tanyi		Hughlene Burton	
Aerospace Studies	Dustin Puett		Jacob Morton	
Africana Studies	Oscar de la Torre		Veronica Robinson	
Anthropology	Catherine Fuentes	X	Jon Marks	
Architecture	Thomas Forget	X	Mona Azarbayjani	
Art & Art History	Jeff Murphy	X	Bonnie Noble	
Bioinformatics & Genomics	Robert Reid	X	Wei Sha	
Biological Sciences	Melanie Harris	X	Matt Parrow	
Business Info. Systems & Oper. Mgmt.	Kexin Zhao	X	Ram Kumar	
Chemistry	Christopher Bejger	X	Jerry Troutman	
Civil & Environmental Engineering	Brett Tempest	X	Srinivas Pulugurtha	

Communication Studies	Melody Dixon	X	Craig Paddock	
Computer Science	Wenwen Dou	X	Jing Yang	
Counseling	Jack Culbreth	X	Pamela Lassiter	
Criminal Justice + Criminology	Sam Dewitt		Bruce Arrigo	
Dance	Delia Neil	X	Kim Jones	
Data Science	Doug Hague	X		
Economics	Krista Saral		Paul Gaggl	
Educational Leadership	Ayesha Sadaf	X	Stella Kim	
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Yong Zhang	X	Aba Ebong	
Engineering Tech. & Construction Mgmt.	Jack Smithwick	X	Carlos Orozco	
English	Juan Meneses	X	Ron Lunsford	
Finance	Yilei Zhang	X	Kiplan Womack	
Geography & Earth Sciences	Craig Allan	X	Larianne Collins	
Global Studies	Joyce Dalsheim	X	John Cox	
History	Ella Fratantouno	X	Jurgen Buchenau	
Kinesiology	David Verrill	X	Sarah Hess	
Languages & Culture Studies	David Boyd	X	Noha Ghali	
Library	Catherine Tingelstad	X	Nikki Thomas	
Management	Karen Ford-Eickhoff	X	Torsten Pieper	
Marketing	Charles Bodkin	X	Brian Whelan	
Mathematics & Statistics	Shaoyu Li	X	Qingning Zhou	
Mechanical Engineering & Engr. Sci.	Jerry Dahlberg	X	Brigid Mullany	
Middle, Secondary & K-12 Education	Warren DiBiase	X	Susan Harden	
Military Science	Caitlin Moore		Hayden Hoffman	
Music	Fred Spano	X	Dylan Savage	
Nursing	Florence Okoro	X	Teresa Gaston	
Performing Arts Services	Rick Moll		Beth Yoder	X
Philosophy	Lisa Rasmussen	X	Shannon Sullivan	
Physics & Optical Science	Menelaos Poutous	X	Vasily Astratov	
Political Science & Public Admin.	Tom Barth	X	Martha Kropf	
Psychology	Andrew Case	X	Alyssa McGonagle	
Public Health Sciences	Lauren Wallace	X	Crystal Piper	
Reading & Elementary Education	Tracy Rock	X	Amy Good	
Religious Studies	John Reeves	X	William Sherman	
Social Work	Travis Hales	X	Suzanne Boyd	
Sociology	Phil Rutledge	X	Webster Murray	
Software & Information Systems	Xi (Sunshine) Niu		Tonya Frevert	
Special Education & Child Development	Rob Pennington	X	Shawnee Wakeman	
Systems Engineering & Engr. Mgmt.	Ertunga Ozelkan		Gary Teng	
Theatre	Carlos Cruz		David Fillmore	
Writing, Rhetoric and Digital Studies	Amy Colombo	X	Mia Eaker	