**Faculty Council**

**Minutes of September 15, 2022 Meeting**

**Voting Members Present**

**(Ex Officio)**: Susan Harden (President); Xiaoxia Newton (President-Elect); Debra Smith (Secretary); Carlos Cruz (FEC, COAA); Elizabeth Sullivan (FEC, COAA Faculty Chair); Dongsong Zhang (FEC, COB); Heather Coffey (FEC, COED Faculty Chair); Aidan Browne (FEC, COE Faculty Chair); Jacqueline Chattopadhyay (FEC, CLAS); Allison McCulloch (FEC, CLAS); Randi Beem (FEC, Library Faculty President); Artie Zillante (on behalf of COB Dean); Bojan Cukic (Interim CCI Dean); Shanti Kulkarni (on behalf of CHHS Dean); Rich Leeman (on behalf of CLAS Dean); Johnna Watson (on behalf of Graduate School Dean); Jeffrey Leak (on behalf of Honors College Dean); Anne Cooper Moore (Library Dean); Lisa Slattery Walker (University College Dean)

**(Unit Representatives)**: Jacob Morton (AERO); Veronica Robinson (AFRS); Catherine Fuentes (ANTH); David Verrill (APHC); Thomas Forget (SOA); Jeff Murphy (ARTS); Rob Reid (BINF); Richard Chi (BIOL); Ram Kumar (BISOM); Christopher Bejger (CHEM); Craig Paddock (COMM); Phyllis Post (CSLG); Sam Dewitt (CJUS); E.E. Balcos (DANC); Stella Kim (EDLD); Liz Miller (ENGL); Kiplan Womack (FINN); Craig Allan (GYES); Joyce Dalsheim (GLBL); Peter Ferdinando (HIST); Jose Batista (LACS); Joseph Nicholson (LIB); Torsten Pieper (MGMT); Ming Chen (MKTG); Oleg Safranov (MATH); Kamia Smith (MEES); Adam Myers (MDSK); Willie Mae Abel (SON); Matthew Fraiser (PAS); Lisa Rasmussen (PHIL); Menelaos Poutous (PHYS); Jason Giersch (POLS); Lori Van Wallendael (PSYC); Lauren Wallace (PHS); Tracy Rock (REEL); Eric Hoenes (RELS); Jackie Garcia (SOWK); Manuel Perez Quinones (SIS); Chris O’Brien (SPCD); Suzanne Thomas (WRDS)

**Voting Members Absent**

**(Ex Officio)**: Rob Roy McGregor (FEC, COB Faculty Chair); Cynthia Gibas (FEC, CCI); Erik Saule (FEC, CCI Faculty Chair); Dawson Hancock (FEC, COED); Sukumar Kamalasadan (FEC, COE); Judy Cornelius (FEC, CHHS); Trudy Moore-Harrison (FEC, CHHS Faculty Chair); Alan Rauch (FEC, CLAS); Michael Walter (FEC, CLAS Faculty Chair); Amanda Binder (FEC, Library); Sharon Gaber (Chancellor); Joan Lorden (Provost); Rick Tankersley (V.C. for Research and Economic Dev.); Kevin Bailey (V.C. for Student Affairs); Brook Muller (COAA Dean); Malcolm Butler (COED Dean); Robert Keynton (COE Dean)

**(Unit Representatives)**: Paul Tanyi (ACCT); Wei Fan (CEGR); Zachary Wartell (CS); Monica Johar (DTSC); Krista Saral (ECON); Sukumar Kamalasadan (ECE); Jake Smithwick (ETCM); Anthony Hester (MSCI); Jeremy Marks (MUSC); Phil Rutledge (SOCY); SEEM Representative (SEEM); Mark Pizzato (THEA)

**Guests Present (Not Voting)**

Matthew Wyse (Academic Affairs); Cathy Blat (College of Engineering); Claire Kirby (Enrollment Management); Kimberly Laney (Enrollment Management); Kim Jones (Chair, Faculty Legacy Scholarship Committee); Jesh Humphrey (Legal Affairs, Counsel); Jon Reece (Registrar)

1. **Call to Order.** Faculty President Susan Harden welcomed everyone. She mentioned that this is the first in-person meeting of the Faculty Council since March 2020.
2. **Presentation on Enrollment (Claire Kirby, Associate Provost for Enrollment Management, and Johnna Watson, Associate Dean for Graduate Enrollment Management and Funding).** Kirby shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Faculty Council on Fall 2022 Enrollment. She said that there has been a slight decline in enrollment. Enrollment was 30,448 in Fall 2021 and 29,551 in Fall 2022. Kirby then showed enrollment numbers across many categories. Of the First-Time-in-College students 32% were first-generation college students, which is slightly higher than the 30.5% in 2021. The presentation showed the number of applications submitted and accepted by FTIC students across the universities in the UNC System. The percentage of students offered admission who choose to enroll (Yield) has declined among FTIC students. Kirby then showed the number of transfer applications submitted and accepted across the universities in the UNC System. UNC Charlotte received the most transfer applications in 2021 and the second most in 2022, behind NC State. The Yield among new transfers also declined. There was growth in out-of-state freshman enrollment. The College of Computing and Informatics also enrolled more freshman. We made a late push for enrollment and this resulted in increased retention. 366 registered last August, while 442 registered this August. Graduation rates continue to increase. Both the four-year graduation rate of 50% and six-year graduate rate of 70% are the highest ever and well above national averages. Kirby gave advice on how faculty can support enrollment: examine and adjust seat capacities in critical courses; encourage students to take 15 credit hours, and utilize summer and sec

Watson then gave an update on Graduate enrollment. She said that no two years are ever the same at the graduate level. We expected a small decline this year. Last year was our largest class of graduates ever. While the number of graduate students declined from 6,332 to 6,090, the total number of student credit hours increased from 45,253 to 45,605. Student credit hours is how we are funded now by the UNC System. We enrolled more international students this year. The number of 25 to 30-year-old graduate students enrolled is our lowest since 2014. Watson said that enrollment is everyone’s business, explained what faculty can do to support enrollment, and thanked the faculty for their efforts.

**[Agenda Modification]** Harden announced that the agenda order was being modified slightly. Agenda item #3 and #4 have been switched. The presentation on free speech will take place next followed by the introduction of the Faculty Legacy Scholarship recipients.

1. **Presentation on Free Expression on Campus (Jesh Humphrey, Vice Chancellor of Institutional Integrity and General Counsel).** Humphrey provided the Faculty Council with an update on free speech and free expression. The first amendment of the United States Constitution imbues us with freedom of speech. What are our obligations as a public institution? Humphrey highly recommends the book “Free Speech on Campus” by Erwin Chemerinsky. Speech can be weaponized, so why is it a primary right? There are three reasons: freedom of thought; democracy; and history. It is important to form independent thoughts. Democracy is more stable when people feel they have had an opportunity to be heard. Giving power to limit speech to the majority can silence the minority. History has shown over and over again, the power to punish speech has been used by those in the majority to punish and suppress minority views. Sources of law and policy include NCGS 116, Article 36: Campus Free Speech and Section 1300.8 of The UNC Policy Manual: Policy on Free Speech and Free Expression. How are we doing? We have a free speech website, [freespeech.charlotte.edu](https://freespeech.charlotte.edu/). We typically receive two or less complaints each year. There was a Faculty-led study, “Free Expression and Constructive Dialogue in the University of North Carolina System”, initiated at UNC Chapel Hill and expanded to eight UNC System institutions including UNC Charlotte. Finding 1 was that faculty generally do not push political agendas. Finding 2 was that campuses do not consistently achieve an atmosphere that promotes free expression as students worry about what classmates will think. Finding 3 was that students who identify as conservative face distinctive challenges as they worry more about student opinion, professor opinion, grades, social media, and therefore self-censor more. Finding 4 was that students across the political spectrum want more opportunities to engage with those who think differently.

**Q:** There was a question about the study using such broad categories of liberal, conservative, and independent.

**A:** Harden answered that we certainly can question the study.

Humphrey indicated that our Board of Trustees have voted and approved the idea of faculty adopting the “Chicago Statement” or a similar expression of support. The “Chicago Statement” has been endorsed by FIRE and adopted by the faculty governing bodies of UNC Chapel Hill, WSSU, and App. State. Humphrey said next steps could include:

* Consideration by the Faculty Council to adopt the “Chicago Statement” or provide its own expression of support for free speech principles.
* Continue to support academic freedom in the classroom.
* Continued focus on promotion of events and speakers bringing diverse viewpoints.
* Creation of a formal free speech policy.

Harden informed the Faculty Council that the Faculty Advisory Library Committee and Dean Moore have been tasked with forming a committee to come up with a program and thoughts on this important issue. What they produce will then come before us at the Faculty Executive Committee and Faculty Council for consideration.

1. **Introducing Faculty Legacy Scholarship Recipients (Dr. Kim Jones).** Two of the four recipients were able to attend today. Jones introduced Jayna Butler, Health Systems Management, and Grace Park, Elementary Education. Butler and Park both thanked the faculty and explained what this support means to them. Jones read statements written by the other two recipients April Godfrey, Social Work, and Bailey Justice, Spanish. The statements thanked faculty for their support. Jones referred the Faculty Council to the website [fls.charlotte.edu](https://fls.charlotte.edu/). This is an option for the Giving Green Campaign.
2. **Consent Agenda.** Harden noted to discuss an item, it needs to be removed from the Consent Agenda. There were no requests for item removals. Dewitt moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Balcos seconded the motion and the motion carried.

All of the following consent agenda items were approved:

* 1. Approved Minutes of the Faculty Council Meeting of April 28, 2022
  2. Received Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Exhibits
  3. Received UNC System 2022-23 Enrollment Comparison
  4. Received September 2022 Legislative Report

1. **Report of the President-Elect (Dr. Xiaoxia Newton).** Newton said her enclosed bio was provided to introduce herself to the Faculty Council.
2. **Report of the President (Dr. Susan Harden).** Harden provided the following report:
3. Review of the Provost’s Agenda for Faculty – Harden shared the Provost’s priorities and briefly mentioned the first five: (1) Strategic Plan Implementation: Harden asked everyone to please read the Strategic Plan; (2) Free Expression and Constructive Dialogue in the UNC System: We just heard from Jesh Humphrey today on this topic and FALC is working on this; (3) Mental Health First Aid (MHFA): MHFA exhibits were shared in the Consent Agenda of the Faculty Council; (4) Adding a violation to the Code of Student Academic Integrity: This is being considered by FAPSC; and (5) Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) Task Force: A new working group called the Joint Working Group on Equity has been formed and Dr. Newton will lead this group on this effort. Harden added that the Faculty Council will also be working on the new General Education Program refresh.
4. Provost Search Updates – Harden asked everyone to participate by sending your feedback. If you send a feedback email to Dean Keynton, please copy me.
5. Wear Green Wednesdays – Please wear green on Wednesdays.
6. Inefficient Processes – I’ve received emails of some processes that are inefficient. We are creating a digital suggestion box.
7. Promoted Faculty Exhibit showcased in Atkins Library through September – Our Library is awesome. Please see this exhibit.
8. Light rail service inconsistency – Your concerns have been elevated. The Chancellor is bringing concerns to CATS.
9. Call for Applications: Interim Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School – Please apply if you are interested in this opportunity.
10. Highlight membership in the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity – Today’s meeting agenda document includes a link to access membership login.
11. Faculty Review of the draft Inclusive Excellence Plan – There is a button on the website to submit your comments and feedback. Please participate.
12. Arts & Science Council + State Employees Combined Campaign (ASC + SECC) – September 28 the campaign kicks off.

Harden thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.

Minutes taken 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 | Susan Harden | **X** | n/a |  |
| President-Elect | Xiaoxia Newton | **X** | n/a |  |
| Secretary | Debra Smith | **X** | n/a |  |
| Arts + Architecture | Carlos Cruz | **X** | *vacant* |  |
| Arts + Architecture, Faculty Chair | Elizabeth Sullivan | **X** | *designee* |  |
| Business | Dongsong Zhang | **X** | Xiuli He |  |
| Business, Faculty Chair | Rob Roy McGregor |  | *designee* |  |
| Computing & Informatics | Cynthia Gibas |  | Mohamed Shehab |  |
| Computing & Informatics, Faculty Chair | Erik Saule |  | Gabriel Terejanu |  |
| Education | Dawson Hancock |  | Greg Wiggan |  |
| Education, Faculty Chair | Heather Coffey | **X** | *designee* |  |
| Engineering | Sukumar Kamalasadan |  | *vacant* |  |
| Engineering, Faculty Chair | Aidan Browne | **X** | *designee* |  |
| Health & Human Services | Judy Cornelius |  | Susan McCarter |  |
| Health & Human Services, Faculty Chair | Trudy Moore-Harrison |  | Susan McCarter |  |
| Liberal Arts & Sciences | Allison McCulloch | **X** | Jan Rieman |  |
| Liberal Arts & Sciences | J. Chattopadhyay | **X** | Loc Nguyen |  |
| Liberal Arts & Sciences | Alan Rauch |  | Joanna Krueger |  |
| Liberal Arts & Sciences, Faculty Chair | Michael Walter |  | *designee* |  |
| Library | Amanda Binder |  | Tyler Cline |  |
| Library, Faculty President | Randi Beem | **X** | Angel Truesdale |  |
| **Chancellors and Deans (ex-officio)** |  |  |  |  |
| Chancellor | Sharon Gaber |  |  |  |
| Provost and Vice Chancellor for AA | Joan Lorden |  |  |  |
| Vice Chancellor for Research & Econ Dev | Rick Tankersley |  |  |  |
| Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs | Kevin Bailey |  |  |  |
| Dean, College of Arts + Architecture | Brook Muller |  |  |  |
| Dean, College of Business | Jennifer Troyer |  | Artie Zillante | **X** |
| Dean, College of Computing & Informatics | Bojan Cukic |  |  |  |
| Dean, College of Education | Malcolm Butler |  |  |  |
| Dean, College of Engineering | Robert Keynton |  |  |  |
| Dean, College of Health & Human Svcs. | Catrine Tudor-Locke |  | Shanti Kulkarni | **X** |
| Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences | John Smail |  | Rich Leeman | **X** |
| Dean, Graduate School | Tom Reynolds |  | Johnna Watson | **X** |
| Dean, Honors College | Malin Pereira |  | Jeffrey Leak | **X** |
| Dean, Library | Anne Moore | **X** |  |  |
| Dean, University College | Lisa Slattery Walker | **X** |  |  |
| **Academic Unit Representatives** | | | | |
| Accountancy | Paul Tanyi |  | *vacant* |  |
| Aerospace Studies | Maj. Jacob Morton | **X** | Capt. Chloe Donoho |  |
| Africana Studies | Veronica Robinson | **X** | Crystal Eddins |  |
| Anthropology | Catherine Fuentes | **X** | Jon Marks |  |
| Applied Physiology, Health & Clinical Sci | Kim Clark |  | David Verrill | **X** |
| Architecture | Thomas Forget | **X** | Betsy West |  |
| Art & Art History | Jeff Murphy | **X** | Heather Freeman |  |
| Bioinformatics & Genomics | Rob Reid | **X** | Alex Dornburg |  |
| Biological Sciences | Richard Chi | **X** | Andrew Truman |  |
| Business Info. Systems & Oper. Mgmt. | Ram Kumar | **X** | Kexin Zhao |  |
| Chemistry | Christopher Bejger | **X** | Jerry Troutman |  |
| Civil & Environmental Engineering | Wei Fan |  | *vacant* |  |
| Communication Studies | Craig Paddock | **X** | Melody Dixon |  |
| Computer Science | Zachary Wartell |  | Mohsen Dorodchi |  |
| Counseling | Phyllis Post | **X** | Jack Culbreth |  |
| Criminal Justice + Criminology | Sam Dewitt | **X** | Bruce Arrigo |  |
| Dance | E.E. Balcos | **X** | Kaustavi Sarkar |  |
| Data Science | Monica Johar |  | George Shaw |  |
| Economics | Krista Saral |  | Paul Gaggl |  |
| Educational Leadership | Stella Kim | **X** | Ayesha Sadaf |  |
| Electrical & Computer Engineering | Sukumar Kamalasadan |  | *vacant* |  |
| Engineering Tech. & Construction Mgmt. | Jack Smithwick |  | *vacant* |  |
| English | Liz Miller | **X** | Janaka Lewis |  |
| Finance | Dolly King |  | Kiplan Womack | **X** |
| Geography & Earth Sciences | Craig Allan | **X** | David Vinson |  |
| Global Studies | Joyce Dalsheim | **X** | John Cox |  |
| History | Peter Ferdinando | **X** | Jurgen Buchenau |  |
| Languages & Culture Studies | Jose Batista | **X** | Michael Doyle |  |
| Library | Joseph Nicholson | **X** | Christin Lampkowski |  |
| Management | Karen Ford-Eickhoff |  | Torsten Pieper | **X** |
| Marketing | Ming Chen | **X** | Nima Jalali |  |
| Mathematics & Statistics | Oleg Safranov | **X** | Will Brian |  |
| Mechanical Engineering & Engr. Sci. | Kamia Smith | **X** | *vacant* |  |
| Middle, Secondary & K-12 Education | Adam Myers | **X** | Warren DiBiase |  |
| Military Science | Capt. Anthony Hester |  | Capt. Hayden Hoffman |  |
| Music | Jeremy Marks |  | Fred Spano |  |
| Nursing | Willie Mae Abel | **X** | Tonya Anderson |  |
| Performing Arts Services | Matthew Fraiser | **X** | Rachel Watkins |  |
| Philosophy | Shannon Sullivan |  | Lisa Rasmussen | **X** |
| Physics & Optical Science | Menelaos Poutous | **X** | Vasily Astratov |  |
| Political Science & Public Admin. | Jason Giersch | **X** | Eric Heberlig |  |
| Psychology | Lori Van Wallendael | **X** | George Demakis |  |
| Public Health Sciences | Lauren Wallace | **X** | Lorenzo Hopper |  |
| Reading & Elementary Education | Tracy Rock | **X** | Maddie Colonnese |  |
| Religious Studies | Eric Hoenes | **X** | Barbara Thiede |  |
| Social Work | Jackie Garcia | **X** | Travis Hales |  |
| Sociology | Phil Rutledge |  | Elizabeth Stearns |  |
| Software & Information Systems | M. Perez Quinones | **X** | David Wilson |  |
| Special Education & Child Development | Gloria Campbell-Whatley |  | Chris O’Brien | **X** |
| Systems Engineering & Engr. Mgmt. | *vacant* |  | *vacant* |  |
| Theatre | Mark Pizzato |  | *vacant* |  |
| Writing, Rhetoric and Digital Studies | Suzanne Thomas | **X** | Mia Eaker |  |