

# Faculty Council

## Minutes of November 21, 2024, Meeting

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### Voting Members Present

**(Ex Officio):** Xiaoxia Newton (President); Debra Smith (President-Elect); Denis Jacob Machado (Secretary); Beth Murray (FEC, COAA); Emily Makas (FEC, COAA Faculty Chair); Jack Cathey (FEC, COB); KR Subramanian (FEC, CCI); Jessica Schlueter (FEC, CCI Faculty Chair); John Nance (FEC, COED Faculty Chair); Aidan Browne (FEC, COE); Matthew Whelan (FEC, COE Faculty Chair); George Shaw, Jr. (FEC, CHHS); Matthew Mills (FEC, CHHS Faculty Chair designee); Heather Perry (FEC, CHESS Faculty Chair designee); Kevin McGoff (FEC, COS); Tonya Bates (FEC, COS Faculty Chair); Abby Moore (FEC, Library Faculty President); Sharon Gaber (Chancellor); Jennifer Troyer (Provost); Jose Gamez (COAA Dean); Bojan Cukic (CCI Dean); Malcolm Butler (COED Dean); Robert Keynton (COE Dean); Catrine Tudor-Locke (CHHS Dean); Christopher Boyer (CHESS Dean); Bernadette Donovan-Merkert (COS Dean); Malin Pereira (Honors College Dean)

**(Unit Representatives):** Hughlene Burton (ACCT); Dorothy Smith-Ruiz (AFRS); Ming-Chun Lee (SOA); Denis Jacob Machado (BINF); Melanie Harris (BIOL); Kexin Zhao (BISOM); Markus Etzkorn (CHEM); Bibi Reisdorf (COMM); Jack Culbreth (CSLG); Sungil Han (CJUS); Gang Chen (EEGS); Sukumar Kamalasadana (ECE); Maciej Noras (ETCM); Deborah Beete (ECH); Kiplan Womack (FINN); Karen Flint (HIST); Ertunga Ozelkan (ISE); Dawn Schmitz (LIB); Torsten Pieper (MGMT); Yinghao Pan (MATH); Regina Vrikkis (MEES); Hilary Dack (MDSK); Dylan Savage (MUSC); Tonya Anderson (SON); Hali Hutchison-Houk (PAS); Lisa Rasmussen (PHIL); Menelaos Poutous (PHYS); Lori Van Wallendael (PSYC); Erin Washburn (REEL); Kent Brintnall (RELS); Matthew Mills (SOWK); David Wilson (SIS); Chris O'Brien (SPCD); Carlos Cruz (THEA)

### Voting Members Absent

**(Ex Officio):** Barbara Knight (FEC, COB Faculty Chair); Ryan Miller (FEC, COED); Jan Rieman (FEC, CHESS); Elizabeth Stearns (FEC, CHESS); Catherine Tingelstad (FEC, Library); John Daniels (V.C. for Research); Kevin Bailey (V.C. for Student Affairs); Richard Buttimer (COB Dean); Pinku Mukherjee (Graduate School Dean); Stephen Weiter (Library Dean); Teresa Petty (University College Dean)

**(Unit Representatives):** Matt Flynn (AERO); Catherine Fuentes (ANTH); Mike Turner (APHC); JB Burke (ARTS); Wei Fan (CEGR); Taghi Mostafavi (CS); E.E. Balcos (DANC); Harish Cherukuri (DTSC); Paul Gaggl (ECON); Jamie Kudrats (EDLD); Melodye Gordon (ENGL); John Cox (GLBL); Elena Platonova (HMP); Olga Padilla-Falto (LANG); Alireza Golmohammadi (MKTG); Joseph Frederick (MSCI); Mel Atkinson (POLS); Jill Yavorsky (SOCY); Debarati Dutta (WRDS)

### Guests Present (Not Voting)

Matthew Wyse (Academic Affairs); Debbie Thorne (American Council on Education Fellow); Kim Bradley (Chancellor's Office); Claire Kirby (Enrollment Management); Victoria Yocum (Enrollment Management); Jesh Humphrey (Legal Affairs, General Counsel & V.C. for Institutional Integrity); Adrienne Merriott (Legal Affairs); Tehia Glass (Reading and Elementary Education)

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1. **Call to Order.** Faculty President Xiaoxia Newton called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.
  2. **Roll Call/Quorum Check.** Members and guests used the Google form to record their attendance or the paper sign-in sheet. A quorum was pronounced at 1:02 P.M. when the live Google form results reached the quorum threshold.
  3. **Adoption of Agenda.** A member moved to adopt the agenda, and that motion was seconded by another member. The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.
  4. **Report of the Chancellor (Dr. Sharon Gaber).** Gaber gave the following report:
    - When the new policy on equality passed the Board of Governors, we then knew a September date for certifying our compliance even though we still didn't have all the details. We now know we did not have to change our mission statement. However, we will need modifications to the strategic plan due to newly identified limitations on implementing certain actions. We will put together a committee on updating the Strategic Plan. This is not a comprehensive update. We are committed to diversity, but we cannot have an office of diversity. We are required to follow the policy, but we can still help students, staff and faculty feel welcome and provide a sense of belonging. We will continue to mentor, assist, connect, but the formal structure of office and deans are not allowed.

**Q:** How do we think through this and address for the future?

**A:** Tricky as this happened during the summer. The System decided if they got in front of the State Legislature it would be better. The System has said if it is part of your research, it is fine. We still have academic freedom.

**Q:** Who is on this committee?

**A:** Faculty Council representative, Student Government Association representative, Graduate student representative, Institutional Research representative, Communications representative, Student Affairs representative, and more. Kim Bradley is chairing the committee.

**Q:** Words will matter – the word “equity” may be flagged, but “equality” will be fine.

**A:** I agree. I am saddened we are in this situation, but we will keep pushing forward for our students and staff.

**Q:** Will the mission statement be changed back?

**A:** No, because it has gone through the Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors. It was changed by two words. These two words can and will be put in other places. We are a diverse campus.

**Q:** Can we have talking points to share in our classes to help with misinformation?

**A:** Humphrey – We have a FAQ on Legal Affairs website.

- Fundraising campaign kicked off. We are now at \$270 M of \$500M goal. This already surpassed our largest ever. The campaign has a focus on expanding endowments to support professorships, scholarships, and other initiatives.

**5. Report of the Provost (Dr. Jennifer Troyer).** Troyer's report covered the following:

- Naming of the College of Science building
- New endowments
- Scholarship development – Reinforced the importance of scholarships for supporting student success. Scholarships make a difference for students – to work less and focus on school more.
- Dean searches – We have Graduate Dean finalists. Campus visits began last week. I encourage you to participate and promote involvement among colleagues. We read all the feedback, so please submit feedback.
- APR policy – Christine Robinson is working on procedures to go along with this policy. We are going to de-couple the self-study from this process based on concerns we received.
- The pace of higher education changes increased during the pandemic.
- We are looking at how we can speed along the Curriculog process. Reminders, workflow steps, form questions that remained the same when transitioning from paper forms to electronic forms, and more.
- Thank you to everyone for all your hard work. I hope you get a rest this break.

**Q:** Supporting international faculty too?

**A:** I will circle back to you.

**6. Reports of Officers.**

a) Faculty President (Dr. Xiaoxia Newton):

- Timeline on APR policy was rushed and happened during the summer. It is preferable for these policy changes to be discussed during the academic year with the full Faculty Council.
- Jack Cathey is serving as our parliamentarian for this meeting. I'm hoping to make this an elected position in our faculty governance structure.
- My presentation to the Board of Governors focused on Faculty research contributions to the University.

**7. Bookstore Presentation (Rachel Skipworth, Bookstore and Licensing Program Manager; Cheri Griffith, Barnes & Noble Charlotte Manager; and Jody Thompson, Director of Auxiliary Services).** Rich Amon introduced Griffith, Skipworth, and Thompson and said their presentation will be about the Niner Course Pack. It was created to focus on student affordability. Griffith talked about

student perspectives and shared student pulse survey results. The Niner Course pack was first introduced in Fall 2023. Students should understand it more now than when it first debuted. 89% of students rated their bookstore experience as good. Students expressed a preference for material costs to be integrated into tuition. The fixed-price model per credit hour offers significant savings, with 83% of students noting time-saving benefits. We are marketing the Niner Course Packs to help students understand. We email timelines. Shared the total enrollment (31,203) versus the total opted-in (21,184) and opted-out (9,918). Discussed some challenges – such as unopened emails, uncollected orders, and first-day pick-up delays – and highlighted areas for process improvements.

**Q:** Could you separate graduate and undergraduate students in the satisfaction survey next time?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** What happens when a book does not arrive on time or at all?

**A:** We communicate this with the faculty member and the students.

**Q:** Described issues with cross-listed courses and with “contact” button.

**A:** Thanks for this information. We’ll look into this.

8. **Dining Options Presentation (Jody Thompson, Director of Auxiliary Services, and Rich Amon, Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs).** Amon stated that the Gold Room had financial problems and the pandemic then exasperated the issues. When the Student Union Building was built, we added many of the faculty dining experiences there in the Bistro. Thompson said there are renovations planned for Prospector. This December we are closing it. Shared project schedule plans. The goal is to be able to keep the dining area open even when the restaurants are closed. We are going to have a food truck operation too.

Highlights included:

- Faculty Socialization Space - Efforts are underway to establish a dedicated space for faculty gatherings.
- New Dining Concepts – Four new options (Qdoba, Panda Express, The Halal Shack, and The Oasis) – are being introduced.
- Upper Prospector Renovation – Scheduled to close on December 6, 2024, and reopen on August 1, 2025, featuring a food truck village during the interim.
- The Bistro – Operating from 11 AM to 2 PM at \$14.75 per person, with monthly special events (contact: 704-687-7056).
- Five Block Feast Plan – A value meal plan offering five meals for \$40, redeemable at SoVi during Fall/Spring. Available through the My UNC Charlotte portal.

Please forward your questions to us. Thank you.

**New Business.**

9. **Consent Agenda.** Newton asked if there were any requests to remove an item(s) from the consent agenda for further discussion. There were no requests for removal.

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- a) Minutes of the Faculty Council meeting of October 24, 2024
- b) Request to award a Degree in Memoriam to Rafael S. Cruz

10. **Request to establish Ad Hoc committee on reviewing standing committee structure.** Jacob Machado moved to approve. The motion was seconded. Newton gave background on the request. The motion to approve was then voted on with unanimous approval. The Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Council Standing Committee Structure and Governance Documents was established.

11. **Consultation: Revisions to the Bylaws of the Graduate Faculty.** Concepcion Godev, Chair of the Graduate Council, gave background. The bylaws have not been revised in nine years. CLAS splitting into two colleges meant the document would need to be updated and this prompted a review of the entire document. Most are cosmetic revisions. One change of note was changing the eligibility of the Chair of the Graduate Council to require previous experience serving on the Graduate Council. The Graduate Council recommended this change and felt strongly about it. Any questions? No questions or comments were raised regarding the proposed revisions.

12. **Announcements.** Newton stated that there are University branded T-shirts at the front for all the faculty representatives of the Faculty Council as a token of appreciation.

13. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 P.M.

Minutes taken by Matthew Wyse, Faculty Governance Assistant, with assistance from Faculty Secretary Denis Jacob Machado.