

Faculty Council

Minutes of January 23, 2025, Meeting

Voting Members Present

(Ex Officio): Xiaoxia Newton (President); Debra Smith (President-Elect); Denis Jacob Machado (Secretary); Emily Makas (FEC, COAA Faculty Chair); Jack Cathey (FEC, COB); Barbara Knight (FEC, COB Faculty Chair); KR Subramanian (FEC, CCI); Jessica Schlueter (FEC, CCI Faculty Chair); John Nance (FEC, COED Faculty Chair); Elizabeth Stearns (FEC, CHESS); 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); Richard Buttimer (COB Dean); Bojan Cukic (CCI Dean); Malcolm Butler (COED Dean); Catrine Tudor-Locke (CHHS Dean); Christopher Boyer (CHESS Dean); Bernadette Donovan-Merkert (COS Dean); William Tolone (Graduate School Dean); Malin Pereira (Honors College Dean)

(Unit Representatives): Pat Mynatt (ACCT); Dorothy Smith-Ruiz (AFRS); Catherine Fuentes (ANTH); Mike Turner (APHC); Ming-Chun Lee (SOA); Denis Jacob Machado (BINF); Melanie Harris (BIOL); Antonis Stylianou (BISOM); Jordan Poler (CHEM); Justin Grandinetti (COMM); Jack Culbreth (CSLG); Harish Cherukuri (DTSC); Scott Hippensteel (EEGS); Sukumar Kamalasadana (ECE); Maciej Noras (ETCM); Deborah Beete (ECH); Kiplan Womack (FINN); Karen Flint (HIST); Ertunga Ozelkan (ISE); Olga Padilla-Falco (LANG); Dawn Schmitz (LIB); Karen Ford-Eickhoff (MGMT); Alireza Golmohammadi (MKTG); Oleg Safronov (MATH); Regina Vrikkis (MEES); Dylan Savage (MUSC); Tonya Anderson (SON); Hali Hutchison-Houk (PAS); Lisa Rasmussen (PHIL); Menelaos Poutous (PHYS); Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling (PSYC); Erin Washburn (REEL); Kent Brintnall (RELS); Vaughn Schmutz (SOCY); David Wilson (SIS); Chris O'Brien (SPCD); Debarati Dutta (WRDS)

Voting Members Absent

(Ex Officio): Beth Murray (FEC, COAA); Ryan Miller (FEC, COED); Aidan Browne (FEC, COE); Matthew Whelan (FEC, COE Faculty Chair); George Shaw, Jr. (FEC, CHHS); Katryna McCoy (FEC, CHHS Faculty Chair designee); David Dalton (FEC, CHESS); Catherine Tingelstad (FEC, Library); John Daniels (V.C. for Research); Kevin Bailey (V.C. for Student Affairs); Jose Gamez (COAA Dean); Robert Keynton (COE Dean); Lee Gray (Library Dean); Teresa Petty (University College Dean)

(Unit Representatives): Matt Flynn (AERO); JB Burke (ARTS); Wei Fan (CEGR); Taghi Mostafavi (CS); John Stogner (CJUS); E.E. Balcos (DANC); Paul Gaggl (ECON); Jamie Kudlats (EDLD); Melodye Gordon (ENGL); John Cox (GLBL); Elena Platonova (HMP); Hilary Dack (MDSK); Joseph Frederick (MSCI); Mel Atkinson (POLS); Matthew Mills (SOWK); Carlos Cruz (THEA)

Guests Present (Not Voting)

Matthew Wyse (Academic Affairs); Leslie Zenk (Academic Affairs, Associate Provost); Antonis Stylianou (BISOM); Kiran Budhrani (CTL); Kim Bradley (Chancellor's Office); Greg Weeks (CHESS, Associate Dean); Claire Kirby (Enrollment Management); Jamie Sheppard (Enrollment Management); Sarah Edwards (Legal Affairs); Jesh Humphrey (Legal Affairs, General Counsel & V.C. for Institutional Integrity); Beth Rugg (OneIT); Asher Haines (School of Professional Studies, Associate Provost)

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 1:04 P.M. when the live Google form results reached the quorum threshold. [Attendance notes: 61 members and 11 guests.]
3. **Adoption of Agenda.** Cathey moved to adopt the agenda, and that motion was seconded by Ford-Eickhoff. The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.
4. **Report of the Chancellor (Dr. Sharon Gaber).** Gaber gave the following report:
 - Enrollment is over 600 students higher than this time last year. However, cancellation for non-payment begins today. We are working on ways to use unused scholarship funds to help students who lack payment, but we may lose around 100 students. Graduate student enrollment is down, largely with international students. We are on the lookout for potential collaborations to bring in Graduate students. We are following the changing landscape of visas.
 - We are about to receive R1 status (mid-February) and anticipate having a campus celebration of reaching R1 status.
 - Energy Forum planned for Valentine's Day. There is a chance that it may not happen, so be on the lookout for confirmation.
 - We purchased apartments at the edge of campus. This gives us apartment style housing and 720 more beds. This should help us with graduate students' housing issues.
 - Prospector is undergoing renovations and in Fall 2025 will have new restaurants.
 - Sanford Hall is being demolished after commencement in May. This building has reached the end of its life cycle.
 - We have work in progress on Rowe (windows), Reese (windows), Burson (renovations and expansion), Woodward (modernization), Cameron (window and roof replacement), Fretwell (HVAC upgrade), Friday (HVAC upgrade), and Atkins (tower renovation). I have asked Facilities Management to put this information on the web and provide proper signage so that the campus knows.
 - Questions?

No questions were raised.

5. **Report of the Provost (Dr. Jennifer Troyer).** Troyer's report covered the following:
 - Charlotte ranks number three in nation for online bachelor's degrees by U.S. News & World Report's 2025 Best Online Bachelor's Degrees list. Number one in the state of North Carolina. We are looking to maintain the quality and add to online offerings.
 - As we move into R1, the Provost's Office looks into our administration structure.
 - New leaders - Bill Tolone, new Dean of the Graduate School, has been meeting with groups. Michael Putman was named Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Space

and will start that position on July 1. The new Dean of the Library comes from NC State and will join us in March.

- Policy – Newton forwarded feedback opportunity to the faculty on changes at the UNC System with Academic Program Planning and Chapter VI of the Code regarding full-time non-tenure track faculty (changing name to continuing faculty). Please take a look at those and share with colleagues. Send feedback to Matt Wyse. The Office of the Provost is collecting feedback from Deans and Chairs and that feedback will be sent to the UNC System Office.
- On today's agenda is a revised Commencement and New Student Convocation Faculty Attendance Policy. Currently under this policy, faculty are expected at minimum to attend one Commencement or New Student Convocation ceremony annually. As New Student Convocation has been rebranded to New Student Welcome and now resides under Student Affairs, the policy revisions include eliminating New Student Convocation from the policy. In addition, the policy has been edited to remove specific mention of the frequency of commencement ceremonies and instead states that faculty are expected to attend one ceremony per year.

Q: Coffee with the Provost?

A: We will likely add another session since this one is already over the limit. We'll schedule as many as people want to come to.

6. Reports of Officers.

a) Faculty President (Dr. Xiaoxia Newton):

- Rob McGregor has volunteered to serve as Parliamentarian for Faculty Council for this semester. Thank you for volunteering.
- Please send your feedback on the changes to Section 400.1.1 (Regulations for Academic Program Planning) and Chapter VI of The Code (regarding Special Faculty Appointments). The deadline is early February. This feedback will be forwarded to Faculty Assembly. Faculty Assembly will then provide a consolidated response to the UNC System. Like other review requests, please share with your unit faculty colleagues and ask them to send their feedback on the Google Doc or via email to Matt Wyse.
- Last year my reports to the Board of Trustees, advocating for faculty, focused on teaching. This year, I will be focusing on research and starting by using CIPHER as an example.
- I invited the Chair of Faculty Assembly, Wade Maki, to the Faculty Council meeting in February. He'll share what he is hearing that will affect faculty.
- Beth Crigler, Vice Chancellor for Advancement, and Natalie Huie, Assistant Director for Annual Giving, will present in March with respect to the campaign called *For the Love of Charlotte*
- Lee Gray, College of Arts + Architecture Interim Dean, and Jon Reece, Registrar, have been invited to share about classroom space in March.

b) President-Elect (Dr. Debra Smith) & Faculty Secretary (Dr. Denis Jacob Machado):

- The Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Committee Structure and Governing Documents is now at 6 members, have at least one from CHESS, CCI, COED, and COAA. Others have been invited. Its mandate is to review the current Faculty Council Standing Committee Structure and associated governance documents and make recommendations for improvement. This initiative responds to uneven workload distribution among standing committees and aims to enhance the meaningfulness and efficiency of faculty committee service.
- We are still open to volunteers. We have sent invites to the chairs of the standing committees and made an announcement in the NinerInsider on January 16.
- While we are looking for more members we have begun to work. We'll be meeting monthly on the second Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Our deliverable will consist of a list of informed suggestions and the data to support them.
- Email your questions or request to join us to Denis Jacob Machado.

Q: Where does work/recommendations from standing committees of the Faculty Council go?

A: In general, recommendations from a standing committee are forwarded by the Chair of the committee to the Faculty President, who can take that recommendation to the Faculty Executive Committee and then to Faculty Council.

New Business.

7. **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 November 21, 2024
- b) Revisions to Commencement and New Student Convocation Faculty Attendance Policy

8. **Announcements.** Provost Troyer stated that she met Dr. Byker and several students about the Charlotte Undergraduate Research Conference (URC). This is a university-wide showcase of research projects completed by undergraduate students of all levels from all colleges and departments in the university. Last year we had over 300 students participate.

9. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 P.M.

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