

Academic Faculty Senate (2025-2026) Meeting MINUTES 05/7/26; 1:30-3:56 p.m.

Academic Senate	Call to order at 1:30 pm	ZOOM
Members Present	Eric York (Chair)	Present
	Jessica Rowe (Vice Chair)	Present
	Jaspreet Gill (Senator Carson); Proxy Scott Morrison	Present
	Brigitte Dillet (Senator Fallon/Douglas)	Present
	Vacant (NAH Senator)	Absent
	Curtis Kupferschmid (Senator LA 1)	Present
	Christian Copley Salem (Senator LA 2)	Present
	Mary Gillespie (Senator LA 3)	Present
	Patrick Bell (Senator WCTE/Recorder)	Present
	Jacob Council (Senator Adjunct Carson)	Absent
	Kelsey Penrose (Senator Adjunct Fallon/Douglas)	Absent
	Martin Schmidt (Past Chair)	Absent
	Members Absent	NAH senator position vacant.
Guests	J. Downs, R. Bassen, S. Priest, E. Tattersall, R. Gates. J.W. Lazzari, Amber Price	
	2026-27 New Senators in attendance • Carson Campus Senator: Winnie Kortemeier • Fallon/Douglas Senator: Jolene Coverston • LAS Senators: Brigitte Dillet and Scott Morrison • NAH Senator: Michael Coudriet • WCTE Senator: James Spiker	

Agenda Topic	1. Call to Order
Action Taken	Time: 1:35 pm

Agenda Topic	2. Roll Call
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Agenda Topic	3. Executive Updates (K. Dalpe)
Action Taken	Info
	Discussion: • Dr. Dalpe discussed issue with CANVAS data breach. WNC IT notified WNC that CANVAS is backed up by vendor, WNC will implement a local back up as well to address potential issues in the future. • Thanks to faculty for participating with staff appreciation week.

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Agenda Topic	4. Concurrent Enrollment Program (JW Lazzari)
Action Taken	Discussion:
Summary of Discussion	Discussion: - JW L. discussed efforts to formalize concurrent enrollment practices in alignment with NACEP standards, including the development and review of a concurrent enrollment manual. Coconcurrent enrollment committee members met bimonthly throughout the 2025–26 academic year, with participants noting the collaborative nature of the process and the strong experience level of faculty and staff involved in dual/concurrent enrollment. - Significant discussion focused on instructor qualifications, particularly balancing accreditation standards with the staffing realities of rural schools. Members emphasized that degree requirements and subject matter expertise are both important, while also acknowledging the need for flexibility in rural areas and additional faculty liaison support for instructors without master’s degrees. - The faculty liaison process, including assignment procedures and compensation models, was reviewed, with several members noting that hourly compensation and tracking systems have been effective. - Participants expressed appreciation for the extensive work invested in creating the manual and recognized the importance of maintaining instructional quality while meeting rural community needs. - It was noted that the process and manual are unique within NSHE and may serve as a model for other institutions. - Additional discussion centered on expanding faculty involvement in concurrent enrollment teaching opportunities and concerns about the long-term impact of increasing high school enrollment on traditional college enrollment. - In response, members emphasized that concurrent enrollment is intended to encourage early college participation and build future enrollment pathways

	rather than simply increasing student numbers. Overall, the senate agreed that the rapid growth of concurrent enrollment at WNC made the development of a more formalized and structured process necessary to support quality practices moving forward.
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Agenda Topic	5. Approval of Minutes (April Minutes)
Action Taken	Action
Summary of Discussion	Discussion: One correction. NFA update given by Rachelle B., not Heather R. Motion: Approval of April 2026 meeting minutes Motion to Approve: Curtis K. Second: J. Rowe Approval: Unanimously Abstained: None

Agenda Topic	6. PEC Report (S Priest)
Action Taken	Info
Summary of Discussion	- PEC reports on what peer evaluation groups met over the academic year. Tenure and full-time faculty (5 year) evaluations. Discussed a list of current faculty who went through the evaluation process. - Some corrections made to table headers as to whether faculty in tenured or just full-time faculty is an instructor or professor.

Agenda Topic	7. Senate Web Page (P. Bell, J. Rowe)
Action Taken	Discussion/Possible Action
Summary of Discussion	- Patrick B. share work on the Faculty Senate webpage, format, and design. - Senate discussed having majority of Faculty Senate documents on a SharePoint for better organization with links to files from webpage. - Senate discussed making minutes into summaries rather than full minutes for ease of public reading as they can my pages long. Recognized that institution and committee have different strategies for minutes.

	• Suggestions that Faculty Senate committees also have links on the webpage as possible links to additional committee webpages. Discussion of the need to define what goes on the webpage and what goes on in the Share Point. No Action
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Agenda Topic	8. Faculty Senate Climate Survey (All)
Action Taken	Discussion/Possible Action
Summary of Discussion	• A two-page summary of the Faculty Senate climate survey was presented and discussed as an initial draft intended to serve as a starting point for a more comprehensive document. Several members expressed concerns that the summary did not fully capture the depth and nature of faculty concerns reflected in the survey comments. It was noted that the survey had been distributed to all full-time faculty, and discussion emphasized the importance of accurately representing faculty perspectives in any final report. • Members also discussed the possibility of comparing or combining the Faculty Senate survey results with the broader college-wide survey conducted by administration to provide a more comprehensive analysis and larger sample size. • Some participants noted that perceptions within departments, particularly within LAS, may have shifted since the Faculty Senate survey was first conducted. • Suggestions were made to provide faculty access to survey results through SharePoint; however, concerns were also raised regarding confidentiality and the potential risks associated with sharing sensitive information. • Overall, the group agreed that key issues identified in the survey should ultimately be communicated to administration in a thoughtful and constructive manner. Motion: Seek additional data from strategic planning climate survey, senate creates an ad hoc committee to develop a summary in the Fall for discussion by the faculty senate as action points. Motion to Approve: J. Rowe

	Second: Scott M. Approval: Unanimously Abstained: None
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Agenda Topic	9. NFA Updates (R. Bassen)
Action Taken	Info
Summary of Discussion	Discussion: • Faculty were informed via email about the current status of contract negotiations, with discussion noting that WNC negotiations have stalled primarily around salary and workload articles. Negotiations are expected to continue, and while a memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been proposed to extend the current contract terms, it had not yet been signed at the time of the discussion. Members expressed concerns about negotiations continuing into the summer period, which may conflict with contract timelines and limit opportunities for meaningful faculty input. • It was noted that if an MOU is not finalized, we would not have a contract in place and academic faculty workload would default to WNC Policy (last revised in 2008) and the NSHE Handbook. • Faculty were encouraged to participate in the upcoming Board of Regents meeting during the first week of June, either in person, virtually, or through public comment submissions, to demonstrate faculty engagement and support. • The overall goal discussed was to secure the MOU before the current contract period ends. Participants also clarified that the collective bargaining agreement falls under NSHE governance rather than broader state oversight.

Agenda Topic	10. Chair Report (E. York)
Action Taken	Info/Discussion
Summary of Discussion	• Eric Y. discussed recent updates regarding proposed reduced-credit bachelor's degrees consisting of approximately 90 units. It was noted that a recent

	webinar on the topic provided limited useful information and expressed concern that there appears to be a system-level assumption that implementation will move forward regardless of faculty input. Participants emphasized the need for broader discussion and additional information gathering before major decisions are finalized. • Discussion also focused on how these degrees should be identified and structured. One suggestion was to distinguish them from traditional bachelor's degrees by using a title such as "Bachelor of Applied Practice" or a similar designation to clearly indicate the reduced-credit format. • Concerns were raised that some graduate programs at other institutions may require students with lower-credit bachelor's degrees to complete additional coursework before admission. • Members noted that many of the proposed programs appear to be targeted toward career and technical education fields, such as nursing, where students could build upon an existing two-year degree with additional coursework to earn a bachelor's credential. • It was also clarified that no changes are currently being proposed to general education requirements for associate degree programs.
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Agenda Topic	11. Old Business
Action Taken	Discussion: None
Summary of Discussion	• None

Agenda Topic	15. Faculty Open Discussion
Action Taken	Faculty are welcome to openly discuss issues involving the institution.
Summary of Discussion	• Faculty discussed concerns regarding the affiliate and concurrent enrollment program, particularly the potential impact on existing faculty workload and long-term staffing. • Concerns were raised that expanding the use of adjuncts and high school instructors to teach college-level courses

	could eventually lead to reduced reliance on full-time college faculty, despite acknowledgment that current efforts are focused on maintaining academic quality and oversight. • Suggestions were made that WNC faculty could remain more directly involved in instruction, with high school teachers serving in more supportive or facilitative roles. • Discussion also focused on broader enrollment and financial trends affecting the college. Members noted concerns about declining traditional college student populations alongside increasing high school enrollment and questioned how weighted student credit hours are being calculated within the concurrent enrollment model. • Participants reflected that earlier concurrent enrollment efforts within LAS involved stronger faculty participation and more meaningful compensation incentives. • Concerns were expressed that the current overload structure and compensation rates, such as approximately \$50 per hour for affiliate work, may not be sufficient to encourage continued faculty involvement. • The discussion concluded with a brief discussion regarding sabbatical recipients, with confirmation that a list of faculty awarded sabbaticals could be provided.
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Agenda Topic	16. New Business
Action Taken	Discussion
Summary of Discussion	• None

Agenda Topic	17. Public Comment
Action Taken	Info
Summary of Discussion	• None

Agenda Topic	Adjournment
Action Taken	Motion: Adjourn meeting Motion to adjourn: Second: Unanimously Adjourned at 3:56 pm
Comments/Information	Submitted by Patrick Bell, Recorder

