

Academic Faculty Senate (2024-2025) Meeting MINUTES 09/13/24; 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Academic Senate	Call to order at 1:30 pm	ZOOM
Members Present	Jessica Rowe, Tim Mayo, Curtis Kupferschmid, John Duerk, Mary Gillespie, Patrick Bell, Rachelle Bassen, Martin Schmidt, Robin Eppard	
Members Absent	Jaspreet Gill, Heather Reardon	
Guests	Jeff Downs	

Agenda Topic	1. Approval of Minutes for MM/DD/YY
Action Taken	Action
Summary of Discussion	Tim May – move to approve Curtis Kupferschmid – second Discussion: Small correction made to change “Board or Regents” to “Board Of Regents” Passed unanimously

Agenda Topic	2. Senate Chair Report (Schmidt)
Action Taken	Info
Summary of Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief discussion of dual credit courses at WNC (high school enrollment) • Discussion of adjunct faculty. Are they being heard and valued? It is important that we value our adjunct faculty as important members of the WNC community. What is the course cancelation policy for adjuncts? According to Dr. Ryan the policy for course cancellation for adjuncts is same as full time faculty. • Jeff Downs two talking points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giving students option to enroll in other NSHE institutions if a class is full or canceled without necessarily being enrolled in that institution. Conceivable student can be enrolled anywhere in NSHE is the strategy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are their assurances if full time faculty has a full load if their class is canceled? Concerns with obligation to tenure from institution. Kyle D. responded WNC is committed to meeting faculty loads. Concerns where talk is coming that policy is not being met (rumor). Kyle reiterated provision that faculty will get a meaningful assignment if course load is not met. 15 Fall 15 Spring or 18 Fall and 12 Spring are options or other relevant assignment. Faculty are required to teach 30 units per year. - Overload scenarios. Some faculty are over 20 units per semester. Concerns with time for student advisement, committees, etc... Making sure full time tenured and tenure track faculty has opportunities for meaningful engagement at WNC if they have overloads. - Discussion of reduction in pay if faculty load is not met. Rachelle B: Policy is not reducing faculty pay if load is not met. Tenured faculty should never have an underload according to board policy (30 instructional hours per year), although proportion loads can be requested and agreed upon.
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Agenda Topic	3. Executive updates (Dalpe)
Action Taken	Info
Summary of Discussion	<p><u>NSHE Board of Regents Meeting at WNC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome back and board meeting, help from faculty is appreciated. Feedback is board meeting at WNC was one of the best meetings they've attended (WNC attention to detail appreciated). Can cost campus money, but we did it well <p><u>WNC Accreditation Visit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2, 3, 4 is WNC accreditation visit. Two full days of review. WNC submits 7-year accreditation report to meet standards. Honest report for strengths and areas for improvement. Kyle is experienced as an accreditation evaluator. Report is ~ 100 pages in general at most institutions. Report is submitted in February and reviewed prior to visit. • There will be faculty and leadership forums during the accreditation visit • Year 6 report was submitted in Spring (finance and government report)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic plan expires in 2025. Accreditation report and visit can be a starting point for building the strategic plan <p><u>WNC Enrollment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are up ~3% in enrollment, goal is to get students who are currently enrolled to finish line. <p><u>Legislative Session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative session this Spring. Governor's budget and impact on WNC. WNC is trying to diversify enrollment (more adult enrollment, keep high school enrollment steady). Funding formula adjustments (21 million dollar price tag). 1.5 million ask to finish cafeteria building, 1 million for observatory, and other projects. COLAs need to be rolled into next budget. A lot of money is being asked for, goal is for WNC to get what it needs.
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Agenda Topic	4. NFA Updates (Rachelle Bassen)
Action Taken	Info
Summary of Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide and NFA chapter meeting. Chapter meeting updated bylaws, will be sent out to members to vote on. Attorney options (will share attorney support with CSN) to create boiler plate documents for arbitration, workloads, etc. Went with northern and southern attorney group. 25-30 shared attorney hours. Creating a newsletter to send out to members. Check out calendar for NFA forum discussions. Schedule: Negotiations start in November. Faculty surveys will be sent out via email as well as open Zoom forums (contract issues, different topics). Question by Tim Mayo: Two law firms put to a vote? Rachelle: State Board voted and chose the attorney group (done because it is a fiscal decision, state cost, not WNC).

Agenda Topic	5. Proposed Faculty Senate Committee Structure Change (Martin Schmidt)
Action Taken	Info
Summary of Discussion	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 43 tenure track faculty positions. Committees typical 2-3 people. 27 committee openings (37 faculty members in total).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be some redundancy between committees. Some committees are just small task to complete. Other issues is turn over (i.e. if a member leaves), sometimes lack of transfer of knowledge on how committee runs. More members means more transferable knowledge theoretically. • Proposal is to up to 5-7 members to reduce overlapping responsibilities. Move committees from many (10) to 4 larger committees. Changes would be looked at by an ad hoc committee as well as sent to faculty via email for review and comment. <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John D. supports the idea of having an online archive (institutional memory) and is more than happy to help with online achieve maintenance. • Rachele: Do we really only have 43 faculty to serve on committees? Martin: Yes ~43 tenure and tenure track faculty. The 43 tenure and tenure track are the ones who typical ones to serve on committees. <p>Summation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 4-committee structure would get more members, better transfer of knowledge, more balanced committee work. Senate members generally approve of this.
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Agenda Topic	Public Comment
Action Taken	Info
Summary of Discussion	Jeff Downs: As full-time tenured faculty we need to understand and promote the value of tenure. Concerns with the perception of tenure (things like proportional pay) need to always be addressed in a clear and informative manner. Tenure is a process of continual improvement following standardized processes to ensure quality and it is important to be recognized as such.

Agenda Topic	Adjournment
Action Taken	Curtis Kupferschmid – move to approve Patrick Bell – second Unanimously Adjourned at 2:33 pm

Summary of Discussion	N/A
Assignments/Potential Agenda Items	N/A
Comments/Information	Submitted by Patrick Bell, Recorder