

The General Meeting of the Full Faculty Senate

Minutes

November 14, 2023

Present: Robert Perkins,

- I. Robert Perkins, Faculty Senate President, welcomed everyone and submitted the August, September, and October minutes for approval. It was agreed to delay the approval to the end of the meeting in order that everyone could have a chance to read them. Perkins then reiterated the Senate's approved foci for 2023-24, stressing transparency and accountability in all of our capacities and processes.
- II. Perkins then turned to Old Business, commenting on the Abora Group's long-awaited report on faculty workloads. Even though the Report's recommendations were not that much different from the status quo, Perkins promised to work with the administration to achieve much needed adjustments and hirings to accommodate faculty research and service demands. In addition, there had been no progress made on the issue of having full-time adjuncts teach five classes without their prior approval.
- III. Perkins reported that all University Committees have been fully staffed and approved. He was looking forward to their hard work in addressing campus problems and opportunities.
- IV. Perkins then mentioned he and Vice President Anderson planned to meet with faculty members by rank sometime in the new year, perhaps at Opening Session. The generalist/administrative assistant hired to help the Senate, though, will be starting her work in December.
- V. The ongoing collaboration with Student Affairs was then discussed with the NSU Inaugural Black Male Symposium highlighted.
- VI. Perkins then showed how the Senate was trying to avoid last semester's Extended Learning overreach into the Blackboard shells of NSU faculty. He and Secretary Charles Ford had a meeting with Dorothy Jones and other relevant administrators to let it up to faculty members to open their own shells on the first day of classes for that specific section. Jones explained the Financial Aid reasons behind the overreach, but she eventually agreed to allow the option of faculty doing the opening themselves. The Senate then voted unanimously for the opening of shells by faculty themselves.
- VII. Perkins then lamented about the problems that faculty and students were having with the OIT Help Desk. The outsourcing of the Desk was not helping with tickets not addressed for weeks. He suggested that these problems were getting worse.

- VIII. Perkins then stated that he had planned to have a Senate budget presented to the meeting, but that Treasurer John Kamiru had just lost his mother. Accordingly, that will delay the presentation of the budget. In a related matter, he had hoped to have a Thanksgiving dinner for the Senators but he could not secure the funding in time. Thus, today's refreshments were a worthy substitute for such an appreciative feast.
- IX. Senator Tony Atwater then asked for more clarity regarding the Aora Group's recommendations, suggesting that the Senate should define appropriate workloads for a standard framework across all Colleges and Schools.
- X. Bernadette Holmes then questioned how the University could upgrade its classification to Research 2 if our graduation rate was below 50%.
- XI. New Business began with a surprise and deserved recognition of two retiring and effective administrators – Associate Vice president Anton Kashiri and Dean Michelle Marable.
- XII. All Departments now have duly-elected Senators – 100% participation.
- XIII. Perkins promised to have a campus security training and summit scheduled for the Opening Session. Vanessa Jenkins then gave an update from the Campus Wellness Committee, highlighting various efforts to improve the wellness of both students and faculty members.
- XIV. Perkins then reiterated the Senate's desire to reinvigorate the Distinguished Faculty Awards program, and he also mentioned the need for the Senate to select a Commencement Marshall for May 2024.
- XV. The ongoing problems with HR1 processing have been routinely addressed with the administration. There is some hope that the administration's step in making the process all-digital may improve payment schedules.
- XVI. Cathy Jackson then discussed the Handbook Committee's progress and suggestions in revising the wording and procedures of that governing document. It was also that the Senate's by-laws could also be revised to reflect the current Handbook.
- XVII. The Committee reports then began with updates from the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The terms of elected officers, it was suggested, should probably match those of elected Senators to provide sustained leadership. The Evaluation Committee gave no formal report, but members from that Committee discussed their attempts to streamline both the Bylaws and Handbook. They also discussed their attempts to establish some instrument for faculty members to evaluate their Deans. A discussion about the credentials and processes of the current Deans of the Graduate School and of the College of Liberal Arts then ensued.

- XVIII. Batrina Martin, Chair of the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee, then presented her written report about the productive October 18 meeting between Student Affairs and Faculty Senators.
- XIX. Colita Fairfax, Chair of the Grievance Committee, reported the successful settlement of all grievances before her Committee. She hoped, though, that departments and programs should have clearer guidelines for tenure and promotion.
- XX. Timothy Goler, Graduate School Representative, then talked about admissions to the graduate school and criminal history of applicants. He also noted the discrepancy between limited graduate program budgets and the University's stated desire to become a Research 2 institution.
- XXI. The Minutes then for August, September, and October were then resubmitted for approval. Jocelyn Heath made the correction that she be counted present for the October meeting. Then, she made the resolution to approve. Timothy Goler seconded it. The minutes then were approved unanimously.