

The General Meeting of the Full Faculty Senate

Minutes

September 19, 2023

Present: Robert Perkins, Charles Ford, Claude Turner, Sharon Alston, Kamel A. Alboaouh, Evelyn Thomas, Sam Hughes, Cynthia Burwell, Audrey Douglas-Cooke, Marie St. Rose, Ronald White, John Kamiru, Jill Ardley, Felisa Smith, Batrina Martin, Thomas Lewis, Sandra Williamson-Ashe, Bernadette Holmes, Cathy Jackson, Joy Cooley-Doles, Ariane Hardaway, and Tanya White.

- I. Robert Perkins, President of the Faculty Senate, welcomed everyone and had everyone to introduce themselves. He tabled the adoption of the Minutes for August pending their distribution. He reiterated the stated foci for 2023-24: creation of a Faculty Senate Strategic Plan, rebuilding a long-lasting Faculty Senate infrastructure, reinvigorate and strengthen relationships and collaboration with entities across the University, and transparency and accountability.
- II. Robert Perkins then turned to Old Business. He first mentioned the Faculty Workload Report, which apparently has not been completed yet. In addition, he mentioned the issue from last year of adding courses to the workloads of full-time adjuncts without their approval. He then gave a summary of the Faculty Senate activities during this semester so far – (1) the Vice-Presidential meetings, (2) had the Senate’s first initiation program, (3) held a meeting with the University President, (4) working on updating the Teams folder and the website, (5) all Departments are now in compliance with the elections of Senators, (6) secured a graduate student, Ariane Hardaway, to assist the Faculty Senate, and (7) the staffing of University Committees.
- III. Robert Perkins then turned to New Business. He first mentioned the assignment of the replacement for Isabel Herman in Academic Affairs to the Faculty Senate. The generalist administrative assistant will also help with accreditation and the General Education Council. He announced the creation and membership of the ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee chaired by George Miller. He then deferred to Charles Ford, who proposed the creation of another ad hoc Committee, Open Educational Resources Committee, that would, among other things, raise awareness of free textbooks and other materials available for adoption. Shaun Anderson made the resolution to create such an ad hoc OER Committee and Thomas Lewis seconded it. The members voted 11 ayes with one abstention; the resolution thereby passed.
- IV. Robert Perkins then reminded those present of his intent to hold two separate special meetings during the fall semester – one with tenure-track faculty and one with tenured faculty.
- V. Robert Perkins mentioned the partnering with Student Affairs to put on the NSU Inaugural Black Male Symposium. He also went on to talk about block scheduling for athletes, an issue that came out of the August meeting with the Athletic Director and her staff.

- VI. Robert Perkins then addressed continuing concerns/problems with Business and Finance as well as with Extended Learning. He talked about the many instances of inappropriate delays in getting faculty members paid for grants and extra classes. He also said that these delays have adversely affected the payments to graduate students. Travel reimbursements seem to be getting better, but they still suffer from bureaucratic neglect and inertia. Furthermore, he criticized Extended Learning's unannounced intrusions into the Blackboard shells of faculty members in August. He said he is working with Dorothy Jones to have a smoother start to the spring semester.
- VII. Robert Perkins then discussed the Faculty Senate and its assistance/participation with the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet to be held on Saturday, October 14. The theme of the event is "We Won't Turn Back: Our History is American History."
- VIII. Some of the Chairs of the Standing Committees gave the same reports that they had at the Executive Committee meeting on September 12: Cynthia Burwell (Faculty Evaluation Policies and Procedures), Cassandra Newby-Alexander in writing (Faculty Handbook Revision), Batrina Martin (Faculty Status and Welfare), Colita Fairfax (State Representative; Grievance Advisory), and Timothy Goler (Graduate School Representative.)
- IX. The floor then was open to the concerns of individual members and/or rank-and-file faculty present. Ronald White suggested that the Presidential meetings with faculty members also include full-time contingent faculty members. He also thought the title of the Black Male Symposium was too exclusive and might alienate men who might like to participate who were not African American. He also hoped the Symposium would not push a toxic form of Black masculinity. Robert Perkins assured White that the title was not intended to be offensive and that the Symposium was open to all Black men, regardless of sexuality or gender expression. Thomas Lewis also thought that the title was not offensive.
- X. Cathy Jackson mentioned that she had to steer her paperwork to certain staff members, such as Dawn Cole, to get her paperwork processes completed by Business and Finance. Robert Perkins said that the processes should not be determined by the whims or talents of individual staff members.
- XI. Bernadette Holmes raised two issues: (1) the University Bookstore routinely orders fewer books than the classes need, (2) the University lacks a coherent gun safety/catastrophic event plan, and there has been no training for faculty and staff regarding what to do in a mass casualty/active shooter event.
- XII. Joy Cooley-Doles inquired about tuition discounts for employees and their families. She wanted that issue placed on upcoming Faculty Senate agendas.
- XIII. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.