

Faculty Senate Meeting

Minutes

February 20, 2024

Senators Present: Robert K. Perkins, Shaun Andersen, Charles Ford, Sam Hughes, Tim Goler, Arthur Bowman, Stephen Magu, Audrey Douglas-Cooke, Ronald White, Sharon Alston, Evelyn Thomas, Bidhu Mohanty, Kamel Alboaouh. Jill Ardley, John Kamiru, Carl Bonner.

Others Present: Pernel Bartlett, Josephine Stanley-Brown, Michael Parker, Stephanie Howard, Cassandra Newby-Alexander, Michele Rozga, Stephen Nkansah-Amankra, Carlene B. Turner, Khiera Williams, D’Nita Andrews Graham, Dorothy Jones, Cathy Jackson, Tassew Gizzaw, and Bernadette Holmes.

- I. The President, Robert K. Perkins, welcomed those present and asked them to read the distributed minutes from the January meeting. Audrey Douglas-Cooke made the resolution to approve the minutes and Sam Hughes seconded it. The minutes from January 23 were then approved unanimously. Perkins then reminded everyone of the Faculty Senate’s stated foci for 2023-24, noting the progress on each of the four points – (1) Create and institute a Faculty Senate Strategic Plan, (2) Rebuild a long-lasting Faculty Senate infrastructure, (3) Reinvigorate relationships and collaborations with entities across the University, and (4) Transparency and Accountability.
- II. Perkins then turned to Old Business. He noted that Felicia Barnes, the administrative specialist tasked with assisting the Senate, finally has access and has begun to update and revise the website and Teams folder.
- III. Perkins then commented on the delay in launching University-wide Committees. He said the president had approved of the membership of the Committees, but that the Provost’s office had not launched them yet. He stressed that this was a serious breach of shared governance, if not addressed immediately.
- IV. The date and times for the “listening tour” meetings with faculty members by ranks and the President and Vice-President of the Senate were set for February 27 at 12:30 and at 1:00.
- V. Perkins said that the Senate’s budget for next year is in process of being drafted and should be ready for the march meeting.
- VI. The Senate then considered the nomination of Rod Taylor, a faculty emeritus, as Commencement Marshall for the spring 2024 ceremonies. The nomination moved by Sam Hughes and seconded by Bidhu Mohanty. The resolution was approved unanimously.
- VII. The Faculty Senate’s Faculty Workload Committee was constituted with membership from each of the five Colleges and Schools.
- VIII. Perkins then led a robust discussion about the necessity and wording of the Attestation Forms signed by the University Review Committee and certain Tenure and Promotion Committees. He questioned the idea of faculty members being legally liable (as implied by the Attestation Forms) for their decisions in these capacities. Senators suggested that the wording be revised, and Bernadette Holmes pointed out that the forms were not legally unenforceable.
- IX. Perkins then turned to New Business, soliciting ideas and themes for his March 7 Board of Visitors presentation.

- X. He reported that the University President still had not read the Faculty Senate's Sabbatical Report, which had been completed and submitted to her last year.
- XI. The biggest issue, though, had to be the missed pay cycle in February that impacted adjuncts and teachers of overloads. Perkins promised to alert the Board to this egregious lapse of basic operations.
- XII. An end of year colloquium for faculty, sponsored by the Senate, is still planned for April.
- XIII. Cassandra Newby-Alexander then gave the Handbook Revision Committee Report, noting the recommended change in the University Property Policy. She hoped to have an electronic vote to approve all the recommended additions and revisions by the next meeting in March.
- XIV. Perkins then addressed the lack of Faculty Senate office space, lamenting the loss of our conference room on NGE's second floor.
- XV. Dorothy Jones from Extended Learning then gave an invited Blackboard Ultra presentation about technological updates and further faculty training.
- XVI. After the presentation, Perkins announced that nominations for Executive Committee positions were open and, if one was interested in being nominated or wanted to nominate themselves, then indicate so to Michael Parker.
- XVII. Colita Fairfax, the State Representative, reported the progress of the legislation in the General Assembly that would allow for both a faculty member and a staff member on the Board of Visitors in the Commonwealth.
- XVIII. Cassandra Newby-Alexander questioned why there was no credentialed head of Human Resources – she suggested that this may be affecting faculty payment and reimbursement.
- XIX. Bernadette Holmes then questioned the necessity and purpose of the 5th Week grading period – noting the added burden for faculty members teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses. She said that no data had been presented to show the utility of the 5th Week Grading.
- XX. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.