

## Faculty Senate Meeting

### Minutes

January 23, 2024

Present: Robert K. Perkins, Shaun Anderson, Charles H. Ford, Sharon Alston, Colita Fairfax, Jill Audley, Priscilla Spencer, Sherrie Mitchell, Sam Hughes, Tony Atwater, Audrey Douglas-Cooke, Claude turner, John Kamiru, Bidhu Mohanty, Thomas Lewis, Jocelyn Heath, Michael Parker, Evelyn Thomas, Stephen Magu, Tassew Gizaw, Cynthia Burwell, Sandra Williamson-Ashe, Felicia Barnes, Liyun Wu, Kamel Alboceouh, Carl Bonner, Cassandra Newby-Alexander, Shelia A. Ward, Joy Cooley-Doles.

- I. Robert Perkins as President convened the meeting – apologizing for the impromptu change in venue. The minutes for December were tabled, pending the addition of the attendance.
- II. Perkins reminded the Senators present of their Foci for 2023-24: the creation of a Strategic Plan, the rebuilding of Senate infrastructure, the reinvigoration of collaborations University-wide, and transparency and accountability for administrators, staff, and faculty members.
- III. Perkins then introduced Felicia Barnes as the generalist administrative assistant who will provide support for the Senate – especially in terms of organizing our documents and updating our website.
- IV. The University Committees have been staffed, but they have not been launched yet. This is problematic because these committees are the essence of shared governance, Perkins noted.
- V. The President and Vice-President of the Senate still plan to meet with the rank-and-file faculty members by rank; these would be closed meeting only for invitees to allow free and frank discussions.
- VI. Perkins announced the tabling of the Inaugural Black Male Symposium due to overlapping and conflicting events sponsored by the City of Norfolk and the NAACP. Nevertheless, Perkins mentioned that he would be a guest speaker at a similar symposium at Chrysler Museum on February 1.
- VII. Perkins noted the problems with the opening day and week – bookstore delays in getting the Blackboard loaded with the correct materials, shorting the number of hard copy books available for upper-level major courses, etc. Despite the SAIL program, books were not ready on the first day. With Extended Learning, there were fewer problems regarding syllabus agreements and course shell activations – thanks to the intervention of the Senate last semester. He also announced that Dr. Dorothy Jones of Extended Learning would be coming to the next general meeting of the Senate in February to discuss changes in Blackboard Ultra and other important IT matters for faculty members.
- VIII. John Kamiru, the Treasurer of the Senate, and Robert Perkins are working on a budget for the Senate that will greatly expand the scope and size of our endeavors from the current designation of \$1,000 per annum. They noted the support from the administration and Board of Visitors for such an upgrade.
- IX. Shaun Anderson, the Vice-President of the Senate, has agreed to serve in the University-wide Campus Wellness Committee.
- X. Perkins then asked for the names of appropriate candidate to the mace-bearer for the May commencement to be given to him by the end of the next week. A vigorous discussion then ensued over the possible reimposition of faculty members marching by rank at the

- commencement ceremony. Perkins suggested that going back to this practice would restore some of the deference and respect traditionally give to associate and full professors. Others believed that such a explicit showing of rank might be hard to maintain, or that it was not necessary to do so. The motion to recommend restoring this tradition passed by one vote.
- XI. Turning to New Business, Perkins noted the support and appreciation coming from the Board of Visitors in December in reference to the new agenda and efforts of the Senate. Perkins then praised the overwhelming success of the Campus Security Workshop at the Opening Session put together by the Senate in conjunction with relevant administrators. Over 300 faculty and staff members attended—he said it should have been recorded, but that he will insist on further workshops being recorded.
- XII. Perkins then announced the members of the Faculty Workload Committee, which will address the continuing issue of the appropriate teaching and service obligations for a potential move to being a Research 2 institution. The members included Shaun Anderson, Ashley Haines, Tony Atwater, Bidhu Mohanty, Claude Turner, Solomon Isekeije, Josphine Stanley-Brown, Shand Sharon Alston, Stephanie Howard agreed to join as well. Leon Rouson was suggested as a potential member, too, because of his expertise.
- XIII. Perkins said that the Senate’s Sabbatical Report had not been considered by the administration as of the meeting, even though the Report had been completed and approved by the Senate last year.
- XIV. Cassandra Newby-Alexander, the Chair of the Faculty Handbook Revision Committee, then presented the recommendations of her Handbook Committee to the full Senate, asking for further suggestions from each senator over the next month. Many of the changes involved including job descriptions of administrative positions not found in the Handbook.
- XV. Thomas Lewis, the Chair of the Constitution and By-laws Committee, then presented two important changes to the By-laws: one provision recommended extending the terms of elected officers from one year to two years to enhance stability of leadership and to match the terms of elected Senators, and the second provision would allow for recently elected Senators to become officers. A motion was made to approve them both – Audrey Douglas-Cooke seconded it – the motion passed unanimously.
- XVI. Cynthia Burwell, Chair of the Faculty Evaluation Policies and Procedures Committee, mentioned the efforts to secure a faculty evaluation process of academic Deans stimulate the Provost’s Office to distribute an impromptu survey about the Deans’ performance right before Christmas break.
- XVII. Charles Ford, Chair of the Open Educational Resources (OER) Committee, noted the availability of faculty stipends to review and to adopt OER materials for the summer and fall of 2024.
- XVIII. The Senate then adjourned at 1:30 pm.