

Minutes

Faculty Senate Monthly Meeting

February 18, 2025

Senators Present: Robert K. Perkins, Shaun Anderson, Charles H. Ford, Stephen Magu, Felisa Smith, Aylin Marz, Sam Hughes, Bidhu Mohanty, Kamel Alboaouh, Proshot Kalami, Audrey Douglas-Cooke, Jocelyn Heath, and Claude Turner.

Others Present: Devanna Fulton, Colita Fairfax, Tim Goler, Kimberly Hutson, Cathy M. Jackson, Bernadette Holmes, Batrina Martin, Stephanie Howard, Michael Parker.

- I. Robert K. Perkins, the President of the Faculty Senate, reminded everyone to conduct their departmental elections for the Senate, if appropriate. He then asked for members to consider and adopt the distributed agenda for today's meeting. Shaun Anderson made the motion and Proshot Kalami seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.
- II. Robert Perkins then asked for a respectful pause for the long-time service of the late Milton Ferguson of Physics to the Senate and the Norfolk State community. He also noted the wonderful University commemoration of the life and works of the late Carol Pretlow of Political Science, another stalwart supporter of the Senate and its work.
- III. Perkins then asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the January 28 meeting. Sam Hughes made the motion, and Stephen Magu seconded it. The motion passed unanimously, with the correction of two members noting their attendance at the meeting.
- IV. Perkins then turned to Old Business. The Faculty Handbook revisions had been formally accepted with the tenure and promotion process being decoupled from the annual evaluation protocol, but Perkins was concerned about the exact language being the same as the revisions went to the Board of Visitors – he did not want any late-minute surprises. The Digital Evaluation Portal is still having problems in adding files for evidence – which, of course, was the reason why it was adopted. Perkins delegated this matter to the Senate Evaluation Committee to review recommendations for the planned implementation next year. Faculty Senate office space has been identified in Brooks Library, and the Faculty Emeritus selection process is up and running with the selection of tenured

Committee members. The Sabbatical application recommendations also seemed to bear fruit, as applications for the process were promised to be up and ready by this April.

- V. Perkins then moved to New Business. He addressed the continuing problems with both Accounts Payable and the technical support staff of OIT. He urged departments not to hold meetings or to have programming that conflicted with the scheduled meetings of the Senate. He also relayed, to the Provost's Office, the Senate's criticisms of the sample syllabus template, a construct done without much faculty input and one that seemed unwieldy, verbose, and juvenile.
- VI. Perkins discussed at length the details of and responses to a recent and horrific example of student violence at the Brambleton Center. Members largely agreed that the University's responses were not appropriate and were not reflective of the University's alleged "Culture of Care."
- VII. The only Committee report was from Graduate School Representative Tim Goler who talked about the needs of the University as a whole and the Graduate School in particular to adjust to the extreme policies of the new federal government regarding grants and DEI. This dovetailed into a discussion of a town hall with the president addressing these draconian changes and their consequences on our campus.
- VIII. Several members complained about the scope and publicity of Black History Month programming this year, and they wondered if the relative dearth of programming and its advertisement were the result of the unfortunate political climate in both Washington and Richmond.
- IX. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.