

Minutes

Faculty Senate Monthly Meeting

October 15, 2024

Senators Present: Shaun Anderson, Charles Ford, Arthur Bowman, Ronald White, Tony Atwater, Stephen Magu, Adem H. Ibrahim, Sam Hughes, Audrey Douglas-Cooke, Felisa Smith, Aylin Marz, John Kamiru, Carl Bonner, Bidhu Mohanty, Jocelyn Heath, Claude Turner, and Evelyn Thomas.

Others Present: James Walke, Stephanie Howard, Kimberly Hutson, Desh Nendze, Tassew Gizaw, Stephen Nkanjah-Amankra, Corasha L. Dent, Michael Parker, Michele Rozga, D. Andrews, Cassandra Newby-Alexander, Sherrie Mitchell, Isaac Needell.

- I. Shaun Anderson, the Vice-President of the Senate, welcomed the Senators and guests present; Robert K. Perkins, the President of the Senate was out of town.
- II. The Minutes from April 16, 2024 and from September 24, 2024 were reviewed. Audrey Douglas-Cooke made a motion to adopt both sets of Minutes as distributed. Sam Hughes seconded the motion, which passed unanimously and without abstentions.
- III. Shaun Anderson then introduced James Walke, the new Associate Vice-President for Institutional Effectiveness and Planning, who gave an overview of Norfolk State University's Data Governance Initiative. The purpose of this effort is to leverage data to inform decisions to improve student performance and graduation. Charles Ford asked if Walke had the necessary number of expert staff to carry this off – Walke replied that he hoped that more help was coming; for years, the University's Institutional Research staff was one person – Ephraim Bennett. Cassandra Newby-Alexander, Tony Atwater, and Audrey Douglas-Cooke all questioned the viability of this Initiative from above in helping individual faculty members in their classrooms. Ronald White volunteered to be the faculty Senate's representative on any potential standing committee of Data Governance.
- IV. Cassandra Newby-Alexander presented the Provost's latest feedback to the Handbook Committee's revisions. She said that the decoupling of tenure and promotion from the annual evaluation process still posed scheduling problems for faculty and Department Chairs; a discussion of

how new deadlines did not mesh with teaching and grading schedules ensued. The lack of responses from the administration on the Senate's Sabbatical Report has prompted the Committee to include the Senate Taskforce's language into the revision process. The Provost seems to agree with the Committee on having a majority of tenured faculty to agree to remove a Department Chair. But she still does not agree on including the Handbook Committee's descriptions of "non-academic" administrative positions such as that of the Dean of the Library that interact with faculty members.

- V. The office space for the Faculty Senate is still pending.
- VI. The Academic Calendar Committee has been constituted with Charles Ford as the Faculty Senate's representative.
- VII. There was no update on the Faculty Workload Report, but Charles Ford did indicate that the President of the University, Javonne Adams-Gaston, had finally agreed to new language in the general education core reform documents that would pass muster in Richmond. This new language will be sent back to the General Education Council this month for approval.
- VIII. Claude Turner announced that the University-wide Committee on Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy would be meeting very soon; interested Senators could email Turner about joining the Committee.
- IX. Aurelia Williams, Vice-Provost, is scheduled to give a presentation on the new digital evaluation at the November meeting.
- X. Batrina Martin, Chair of Faculty Status and Welfare Committee, has agreed to relaunch the dormant Norfolk State chapter of the Association of American University Professors (AAUP). She has also organized the now-annual meeting of the leadership of Student Affairs with that of the Senate for a time to be announced on November.
- XI. The standing committees had no formal reports, but Charles Ford did suggest the scope of the Open Educational Resources (OER) Committee be expanded to include all University Bookstore issues.
- XII. Felisa Smith brought the concern about term faculty members not being included in the faculty workload process. She also indicated that the Provost seemed suddenly indifferent to the suggestions from term faculty with which she seemed to agree previously. These suggestions included multi-year contracts and smoother transitions to tenure-track status in high-demand areas such as nursing.
- XIII. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.

