

# FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** 3/5/21 via WebEx Events

<https://nccu.webex.com/nccu/onstage/g.php?MTID=e12b43eac4fd3dea1f617432dad84351e>

**Time:** 2:00 pm

**Minutes Submitted by:** Leslie Johnson, Faculty Senate Secretary

## **Attending Senators, Alternates:**

Amy Linder, Asherah Allen, Brian Horton, Bruce Lapenson, CE Davis, Catherine Dorwart, Charles Johnson, Deborah Swain, Erma Smith-King, Frank Rodriguez, Gail Hollowell, Garrett Johnson, Jennifer Barrow, Josh Nadel, Kellyn Hall, Kenneth Hinton, Kimberly Chavis, Kimberly Powell, Kimberly Weems, Kwame Hawkins, LaHoma Romocki, Lakisha Rice, Larrisha McGill-Youngblood, Leslie Johnson, Levette Scott, Lisa Paulin, Maureen Scott, Mohammad Ahmed, Monique Holsey-Hyman, Omar Christain, Rakesh Malhotra, Ralph Barrett, Regina Alston, Sean Tikkun, Sujayalakshmi Devarayasamudram, Tamara Slenn, Tanisha Burford, Tina Scott, Tirupapuliyur Damodaran, Tonya Gerald-Goins, Tracie Locklear

## **Attending Guests:**

Akua Materhson, Al Zow, Angela Coleman, Audrey Beard, Ayana Hernandez, Blenda Crayton, Calleen Herbert, Carlton Wilson, EK Park, Fenita Morris-Shepard, Jaleh Rezaie, Janice Dargan, Jeff Warren, Jerome Goodwin, Johnson Akinleye, Joseph Green, Karen Jackson, Kimberly Phifer-McGhee, Kristin Long-Witter, Kwesi Aggrey, La'Toria Jallah, Laverne Reid, Leah Kraus, Malissa Evans-Hall, Michael Hill, Michelle Mayo, Monica Leach, Olivia Jones, Rosa Anderson, Russell Robinson, Sarah Carrigan, Sean Colbert-Lewis, Sonya Harris, Tanja Zatezalo, Yolanda Anderson, Yolanda Keller-Bell, Yolanda VanRiel

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>
2:03	<b>Meeting called to order by FS Parliamentarian, Dr. Sean Tikkun</b>	
2:03	<b>Welcoming Remarks by FS Chair, Dr. Ralph Barrett</b>	
2:04	<b>Motion to Adopt Agenda</b> Motion to approve the agenda was made by Dr. K. Weems, and seconded by Dr. L. Rice. Vote (via the Q&A section) was called by the Chair and the agenda was approved by simple majority.	
2:06	<b>Motion to Approve Minutes</b> Motion to approve the minutes from the 2/5/21 FS meeting was made by Dr. K. Hall, and seconded by Dr. L. Rice. Vote (via the Q&A section) was called by the Chair and the minutes from the 2/5/21 meeting and were approved by simple majority.	
2:09	<b>Chancellor's Report by Chancellor Johnson Akinleye</b> Welcome to all. We are wrapping up Week 8 of this semester, we are approximately halfway through. NCCU currently has a 1.4% positivity rate- this is well below the system average. Our quarantine and isolation unit has minimal student- ~1-2 students on campus.	

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	<p>Please take note of the Governor’s recent executive order – all faculty and staff who are considered frontline workers can be vaccinated as of March 3. He strongly encourages you to get vaccinated when you can as we look for a recovery towards the fall. Our campus has been approved as a vaccination center and will open up to the public for current Vaccine Groups starting March 9-11. The Chancellor cannot overstate the importance of faculty and staff getting vaccinated to help move back to some increased level of face to face course delivery. The Provost’s Office is looking at how we can recover some of our hybrid/online courses back to F2F. We of course will still need to follow all COVID-19 guidelines, but we are beginning to look at how we can safely return to campus – the first step is to get vaccinated.</p> <p>Regarding the most recent BOG meeting: There is not a lot to report re: the budget, which includes a budget proposal for the increase in faculty salary. We are hoping to know more by April. Looking for equity with other state agencies related to faculty salary equity. We are thankful to federal government- we have just received \$14.4 million from the Second Care Act Relief funds. In the next round, there are again dollars to be had for higher education.</p> <p>We remain in a strong position. Applications for the fall look good. We have admitted a number of students and the numbers look higher than where we were last year. Housing applications are up as well- these are good indications that things are improving, more students coming back to campus, more activity, all of which are good signs for the fall.</p> <p>This has been a difficult time for everyone and the only reason we have done well with COVID-19 management is that we have all worked together very well.</p>	
2:23	<p><b>Faculty Senate Chair Report by Dr. Ralph Barrett</b>          Summer and Fall schedules coming up- please continue to work with your department chairs.</p> <p>Related to FA representative elections- they will happen in the Fall, the FS Chair will resubmit this announcement calling for nominations in the summer with elections in 1<sup>st</sup> university faculty meeting in August.</p> <p>The FA has put together a Diversity Inclusion report submitted to BOG- the FS Chair has sent this out to faculty. The FS EC has discussed diversity at our institution and feel that inclusion may look different at NCCU than at other institutions. We need to think how we can advise administration on what diversity looks like on our campus. We will seek input from faculty, Staff Senate, and student government and will likely make this part of our committee work. Consider making this a mission of the upcoming year. We could potentially become national leaders in this area.</p>	
2:28	<p><b>Faculty Assembly Report by Dr. Sean Colbert- Lewis and Dr. W. Russell Robinson</b>          Dr. Colbert-Lewis: Echoes what Dr. Barrett said about diversity and adds that there remains a culture of unwillingness to address the systemic racism and other forms of discrimination within the state, especially related to including it within educational systems. Working closely with other institutions on a whitepaper about addressing systemic racism within the educational guidelines. Also discussed the COVID vaccination- information has been sent out about NCCU as a vaccination site and please note the change in the date for frontline workers.</p>	

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	<p>Dr. Robinson: 2 items that have recently received our attention: Concerns re: appointment of the Chancellor at Fayetteville State- this is ongoing with concerns with the new Chancellor search policy. FA is looking at this closely and believes it remains a FSU issue at this time, though FA will intervene if it comes to that. FA is encouraging FSU to find out all information needed from all parties.</p> <p>Racial Equity Task Force: EDI efforts- a current challenge is that the optic is not looking good re: executive leadership of system and of the BOG- some of this is out of our control, but this is essential if we want to recruit and retain faculty from diverse backgrounds. Inclusivity encompasses a wide range of things here at NCCU. Faculty welfare sub-committee is engaged with writing a whitepaper on the university and system level regarding Diversity and Inclusion Officers. These need to be a high admin position sitting at the Chancellor’s level. We need to establish benchmarks and metrics of how to measure diversity. Will meet again in likely April.</p>	
2:38	<p><b>COVID-19 Update by Dr. Kristen Long-Witter</b></p> <p>We continue to do a good job on campus related to our COVID-19 efforts. We are testing students at a high rate per week and had 9 positives in the month of Feb. What we’re doing is working. We are not changing our on campus gathering limits even though the state raised those limits. Most of us have become eligible for the vaccine. We have become a vaccine administration site- will be offering J&amp;J vaccines Tue, Wed, Thurs next week and likely for the upcoming weeks as supplied. An email was sent out- from that you will indicate your interest by a form and then you will be contacted to set up an appointment on a first come, first serve basis. Dr. Long-Witter echoes what the Chancellor said- these are good vaccines, we don’t know how long they will last but we know that we need them to get back to normal. We currently have the J&amp;J vaccine and we will get weekly allocations after that, but we won’t know which vaccine we will get until the Thursday the week before administration. It will be a walk in clinic. Vaccine groups change frequently it seems, keep checking back. We are not sure when we will be able to vaccinate students- goal would be before they leave campus, but it is unknown at this time given the vaccine availability and groups. Our vaccine clinic will host 6 appointments every 60 minutes initially.</p>	
2:53	<p><b>Committee Reports</b></p> <p>FS Vice Chair Dr. C. Johnson is very appreciative of all the committee meetings and updates that have been provided.</p> <p><b>Governance Committee (Dr. Josh Nadel, presenting):</b></p> <p>The Governance Committee will submit suggested revisions to the FS Constitution and Bylaws for all Senators to review and discuss with their department for feedback. Senators should poll their departments for how to vote on the changes, and to raise any issues for discussion.</p> <p>Please note that, according to the Bylaws, the Governance Committee must provide the General Faculty with the revised document at least 10 days before any vote, and the Faculty Senate Secretary must keep records of the vote.</p> <p>Finally, I’d like to thank the members of the Governance Committee. Regina Alston, Jessica Davis-Ganao, Maureen Short, and Deborah Swain have all worked diligently to revise the Constitution and Bylaws and bring them into harmony with one another. I believe that we have been open and</p>	

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transparent with each other about the process, and that we have all operated in good faith for the interests of the Faculty Senate and shared governance.

**Academic Policy Committee (Dr. Kellyn Hall, Chair, presenting):**

The Academic Policies Committee (Kellyn Hall, Jessica Davis-Ganao, Tonya Gerald-Goins, Tamara Slenn) has developed a process by which changes to the academic policy manual will be submitted and reviewed by Faculty Senate:

- i) Submissions for requests for changes to the Academic Policy Manual must be made via the link provided on the Faculty Senate Webpage.
- ii) Submissions received by the third Friday of each month will be reviewed and forwarded for the next faculty senate meeting or returned for revisions with comments.
- iii) The chair of the Academic Policy committee will be responsible for monitoring the submitted requests for review by the Academic Policy committee.
- iv) After review by the AP committee, feedback the cover sheet will forwarded to the Chair/vice chair of faculty senate.
- v) The faculty senate chair will bring requests to the senate at the next faculty senate meeting and then forward the packet/cover sheet onto UAPC.

This process will allow Faculty Senate an opportunity to provide feedback regarding proposed academic policy changes before they are voted on at UAPC. We are developing the submission form and will work with IT to create a link to it on the Faculty Senate webpage.

We are the step between undergraduate curriculum committee and graduate council before it goes to UAPC. So, once it's gone through department, college, it will now come to FS before going to UAPC. When we see the proposal it is for information (because it's already been vetted) so we know what's going on and concur and ask questions. It's not to turn something back. We are in the process of tweaking the cover sheet to add the signature for the chair of faculty senate and creating a Google form to automate the process.

**Campus Relations Committee (Dr. Tracie Locklear, Chair, presenting):**

The Campus Relations committee has completed our most recent meeting. Through our discussion we came to the realization that several issues are arriving to the Senate floor without coming through our committee. Campus well-being is one of our enumerated issues. The mental health initiative, the 3/3 workload, and mentorship issues have a firm place within our constitutional mandate. We have been struggling to discover what our work entails, but realized during our most recent meeting that many administrative announcements like security, laptops, wellness programs, all get routed directly to the floor rather than getting more robust committee time. The committee is looking to use a Bb tool to track student engagement during this time of virtual learning. Upcoming TechnoPalooza event announcement coming soon.

**Curriculum and Academic Programs Committee (Dr. Kimberly Powell, Chair, presenting):**

Vote on programs (full detail has been sent out to FS and is posted to the FS Bb site) entailing several new courses and course modifications. Committee has recommended to accept these changes The committee motions to adopt these course changes as indicated in their report. This motion is seconded by Dr. T. Gerald-Goins and passed by simple majority.

3:10

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3:14

**Awards and Honorary Degrees Committee (Dr. Kimberly Powell, Chair, presenting):**

Report was given on merits of Dr. George P. Wilson. Committee has recommended to give Emeritus Status to Dr. Wilson. The committee motions to give Emeritus Status to Dr. George P. Wilson, which was seconded by Dr. F. Rodriguez and passed by simple majority.

**Intellectual Climate (Dr. Gail Hollowell, presenting):**

The Intellectual Climate Committee have been meeting 1-2 times per month since November 2020. Our latest meeting was on March 3rd, 2021. Here is an update of our activities.

We worked on the tasks given to us by Dr. Barrett and on one additional project we think is appropriate.

1) Campus wide virtual “Brown-Bag” seminar series.

- We have some questions regarding, for example, projected attendance rate and faculty participation. We also want to know something about what topics faculty would like to see covered by the seminar speakers. Therefore, we put together a Qualtrics survey that will be sent out to all faculty at the beginning of next week. We will keep the survey open for two weeks with reminders going out a regularly to get a high response rate.

2) Develop a TEDX series for NCCU. The earliest we would be able to arrange an in-person TedX on campus will probably be spring 2022. We would need a theme for the Ted Talk series before we begin writing proposals and thinking about potential speakers.

To address possible legal issues that might arise we contacted Dr. Morris-Shepard (the university attorney) to. Based on the information provided (downloads from the TedX website) she didn’t see any unsurmountable legal obstacles arranging a TEDx on campus. There are some problems though, the license agreement being one of them. We will invite Dr. Morris-Shepard to our next meeting for further discussion of legal issues associated with this project.

3) Reviving the Soaring Magazine. The soaring magazine was intended to be an annual(?) publication highlighting faculty accomplishment in teaching, advising, scholarship and other relevant activities. We think that this publication would be an excellent way to showcase NCCU faculty accomplishments in one location that can also be accessed by interested parties off campus (students, parents, alumni, potential donors, other universities). To start collecting data for a future issue of the Soaring Magazine we will need 5-8 volunteers to help us comb through the responses, verify the information and edit the material to get it ready for publication. We do have a close-to-finalized electronic form for data collection. The form still needs some work, but we are confident that data collection can start at the beginning of April 2021 and include the years 2019-2020.

**International Affairs Committee (Dr. Lisa Paulin, Chair, presenting):**

Gave report during previous meeting with no additional report. Dr. Paulin attended a COIL workshop that has various opportunities available for in person and online learning; students and faculty work collaborative with an international counterpart- she hopes to share more soon.

**Other committees deferred updates at the present**

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	<p>Chair added for Senators to consider staying on their committees for next year to keep up with continuity. Of course, if you wish to serve on another committee, that is fine and please let us know.</p>	
3:24	<p><b>Input from Senators</b>                  Leah Kraus mentioned an announcement from ITS is in upcoming weeks providing instructions on how to set up NCCU official zoom license, staff and students to follow afterwards.</p> <p>Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> is the date of the upcoming General Faculty meeting.</p>	
3:29	<p>Dr. Barrow noted that the NCCU Graduate Council has voted to approve a name change from the Department of Allied Professions to the Department of Counseling and Higher Education. This needs approval from the FS as well. Dr. J. Barrow made a motion for the FS to approve this name change, which was seconded by Dr. S. Tikkun and passed by simple majority</p> <p>March 11<sup>th</sup> is the next scheduled Reading Day.</p>	
3:33	<p><b>Motion to adjourn meeting</b> made by Dr. F. Rodriguez, and seconded by Dr. K. Hall. Vote (via the Q&amp;A section) was called by the Chair and motion was approved by simple majority.</p> <p><b>Meeting adjourned by Dr. Barrett</b></p>	