FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

MINUTES: September 17, 2009

Attendance: Kassem Abdelmajid, Trela Anderson, Daniel Autrey, Sambit Bhattacharya, Michelle Darnell, David Gray, Heather Griffiths, Wu Jing, Joseph Johnson, Oliver Johnson, Stanley Johnson, Modibo Kadalie, Baeyong Lee, Khalid Lodhi, Priscilla Manarino-Leggett, Soni Martin, Gary McConnell, Valentin Milanov, Maurice Mongkuo, Subir Nagdas, Don Okhoma, Deepthika Senaratne, Garistine Simmons, Charles Tryon, Maxwell Twum-Asante, Stan Waring, Jimmie Williams, Thomas Williams, Bing Wu, Jianshi Wu, Judy Fowler, Faren Wolter, Ji Young Kim, Sam Heastie, Gloria Elliott, Derwin Sheppard, Kelly Charles, Paula Wood, Jon Young (Ex Officio)


Total Present: 39

1. CALL TO ORDER. Dr. Joseph Johnson.

2. CHAIR’S REPORT. Dr. Joseph Johnson.
   a. Faculty Senate members participated in a group photo for the Senate webpage.
   b. Dr. Joseph Johnson suggested that Faculty Senate Committee meetings should be listed on the Senate webpage.
   c. The agendas of upcoming Faculty Senate meetings will be posted on the Senate webpage three days in advance.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

   Following a brief discussion, the motion to approve the agenda was offered by Dr. Trela Anderson. The motion was seconded by Dr. Modibo Kadalie. The agenda was passed by unanimous acclamation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

   Dr. Daniel Autrey moved to approve the minutes pending corrections. The motion was seconded by Dr. Modibo Kadalie.

5. PROVOST’S REPORT.
a. FSU Provost, Dr. Jon Young, addressed the Senate regarding the Administrative Drop Policy. Universities with students who fail to attend may be audited, resulting in the mandate to return financial aid. If this occurs at FSU, the cost could total $500,000 (the equivalent of approximately eight faculty positions).

b. University Policy states the following: If a student has four consecutive absences, the teacher should enter an EA (excessive absences) and note the last date of attendance. The grade triggers automatic messages to the student regarding the importance of their attendance.

c. If a student on the roster does not attend any classes, the teacher should enter an FN (failure due to non-attendance) and note the last date of attendance.

d. Entering the last date of attendance gives documentation to help the University identify students whose status necessitates the return of financial aid.

e. Dr. Daniel Autrey suggested that installing a card swipe may identify student attendance rates. Dr. Young answered that it may not be necessary for a university with classes of our size. Universities with 200+ students in a class may need to use this function. However, many of FSU’s classes have a size that should allow the teacher to be aware of student absences.

f. Dr. Kelly Charles asked whether the Administrative Drop Policy applied to graduate students. Dr. Young stated that, indeed, the policy does apply to any student who receives financial aid.

g. Dr. Judy Fowler asked for clarification for those who teach night classes. University policy calls for a teacher to enter an EA grade when a student misses four consecutive hours of class. Since one night class can run for two or three hours, this could occur if a student misses only two classes. Dr. Young mentioned that faculty discretion may be used if a student misses classes. However, the absences should not be consecutive.

h. Dr. Maurice Mongkuo stated that the use of the EA grade automatically generates warnings to students, which may be helpful in improving attendance. Teachers don’t have to wait for four consecutive absences to use this measure.

i. Dr. Priscilla Manarino-Leggett addressed online courses. If a student does not interact with the online course (discussion posts, e-mails, drop-box assignments, etc.), a teacher may give the X grade, for no-shows.

j. FN grades in multiple classes, in addition to the last date of attendance, may trigger an automatic WU (withdrawal from the university). The identification of
multiple FN grades is one way that the university can document problems with a student’s eligibility for financial aid.

k. Dr. Young mentioned that the potential to face audits for financial aid is a problem potentially faced by universities across the UNC system. It is not unique to one institution.

l. Dr. Maurice Mongkuo commended the Provost for improved student attendance. Dr. Young answered that the students are being held to a higher standard.

m. Dr. Young mentioned that loan limits have been increased and many students take the maximum amount, possibly incurring more debt than necessary to cover educational expenses. Some students’ lack of financial savvy may result in eventual default rates (for which FSU is held accountable). If FSU yields a loan default rate of 20% for two or three years in a row, the University’s right to give Federal Aid may be challenged.

n. Dr. Joseph Johnson suggested that the Senate should share faculty feedback on the Administrative Drop Policy with the Provost.

6. OLD BUSINESS.

a. Dr. Joseph Johnson stated his belief that the work of the Faculty Senate occurs in the committees (discussion, vetting, etc.). Colleagues must select committee chairs before October 8, 2009, the date of the next Executive Committee meeting.

b. Although the committee chairs have not been officially selected, Dr. Johnson asked the following Senators to convene committee meetings:

   i. Dr. Thomas Williams – Budget and Planning
   ii. Dr. Chet Dilday – Information Technology
   iii. Dr. Bonnie Grohe – Grievance
   iv. Dr. Maurice Mongkuo – Governance
   v. Dr. Modibo Kadalie – Hearing and Reconsideration
   vi. Prof. Soni Martin – Faculty Evaluation
   vii. Dr. Kelly Charles – Student Affairs

c. Rules allow any faculty member to sit on any Faculty Senate committee, but only Senators can be chairs.
d. Dr. Joseph Johnson invited Senators to join an Ad Hoc Handbook committee. Dr. Maurice Mongkuo observed that the Faculty Handbook has not been revised in many years. He believed that this could leave faculty vulnerable because the outdated document does not address many contemporary problems.

e. Dr. Joseph Johnson suggested a day long retreat to be held at the PWC location on Eastern Boulevard (Hwy 301).

f. Dr. Joseph Johnson stated that the new University Mission Statement had been approved as a part of the SACS Reaffirmation process. He suggested that the new Mission could be printed on the back of faculty ID cards.

g. Dr. Maurice Mongkuo has been asked to help revise the Governance Document.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

    a. Dr. Chuck Tryon suggested that faculty spotlights (lectures, interviews, or campus events) could be videotaped for YouTube, to advertise the University. (FSU now has a YouTube account.) They will be posted online by Susan Hesseltine.

    b. Dr. Modibo Kadalie reiterated an earlier suggestion regarding a four-day workweek, which could alleviate financial pressures on the University. He proposed this as an economically efficient and environmentally friendly alternative that has been explored by other U.S. universities. Dr. Joseph Johnson suggested that a committee should draft a white paper on the topic.

8. MEETING ADJOURNED.