

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY-approved version
Staff Senate Meeting
Faculty Senate Chambers, D.H. Hill Library
Wednesday April 5, 2006

Attending: Shelia Ange, Valerie Ball, Jon Barnwell, JC Boykin, Bob Brinson, Tracy Brown, Corrie Cadwallader, Barbara Carroll, Randy Colby, Debbie Douglas, Kathy Fuller, Nicole Harrell, Janet Harris, Michelle Healey, Willie Healy, Pat Hill, Miriam Hines, Carol Horne, Debbie Hunt, Thomas Hunter, Carrie Levow, Carina Lockley, Lucy Mabry, Felicia Mangum, Todd Marcks, Laura Massengill, Tom Mease, Sherry Mosher, Samantha Parrett, Richard Palmer, Terry Price, Sara Reese, Phyllis Royal, Valerie Sameshima, Christy Scheid, David Serxner, David Setser, Brenda Shelton, Rob Stevenson, Mel Stoss, Lee Thayne, Corrinna Watkins, Melissa Watkins, Gail Willis and Sandee Zechman

Absent: Angie Chiatello, Albert Genovesi, Cathy Harvey, Patty Routh, Rodney Vinson and Leroy Wilkins

Guests: Chad Austin, News Services; Julie Garrison, Chancellor's Office; Joseph Goodrow, Campus Police; Dave Rainer, Environmental Health and Safety; Dianne Sortini and Joe Williams, Human Resources

Call to Order: The 9th meeting of the 11th session was called to order at 10:07am.

Guest Speaker: Mike Harwood, University Architect

Mr. Harwood expressed gratitude for the opportunity to address the Staff Senate and review the University's Physical Master Plan. He defined the Master Plan as a decision-making tool for implementing change based on a shared vision of beautifying the campus. The Master Plan was derived from ideas gathered from campus workshops, advisory team members, task forces and focus group participants; the plan incorporates ideas from campus, local community and city of Raleigh members. The vision statement of the plan involves building places where individuals can form a lasting personal connection to the campus.

Mr. Harwood reviewed guiding principles and aspirations of this project and stated an extremely high standard has been set in order to stretch as an Institution. Plan design guidelines and standards incorporate physical architecture, landscape and natural ecosystems. He reviewed the plan acreage which increased 130 acres by a decree from former Governor Hunt. In sum, core campus contains approximately 2,200 acres; 5,000 acres in Wake County and over 100,000 acres state-wide.

The Physical Master plan continues to be revised and updated. Individuals interested in joining a task force can signup online. Mr. Harwood stressed the importance of having an array of task force members in order to receive a wide variety of ideas. The impact issues currently under consideration are Transportation issues (namely parking), increased enrollment of students, capital plan (bond projects), campus appearance and sustainability of implemented ideas.

Mr. Harwood gave a synopsis of current projects and included the website address for detailed plan information:

www.ncsu.edu/facilities/univ_arch/

- Minor changes to the Brickyard
- Gallery space in the East Wing of D.H. Hill Library
- Courtyard space at the new Sciences compound
- Transformation of Riddick Stadium Area, to include the Math and Statistics Building
- Hillsborough Street Transformation (partnership with the City of Raleigh)
- Rocky Branch Restoration and Greenway projects
- Cates Chiller Plant Expansion
- McKimmon Center Courtyard and Visitor's Center
- Biomanufacturing Training and Education Center on Centennial Campus
- Landscaping changes to areas adjacent to Fountain Dining Hall
- Renovation to the Free Expression Tunnel to allow full-range accessibility and enhance area beautification

The floor was opened for questions or comments.

A query was raised about plans for replacement parking spaces when spaces are lost due to construction; in response it was noted that net expansion of the Coliseum deck and Centennial campus parking will total 2,500 spaces.

A concern was raised that parking spaces no longer are proximate to buildings. Mr. Harwood recommended those concerned about this issue join the transportation task force of the Master Plan. He did relay the plan's pedestrian-focus future of this campus and that level of public transit will increase to offset convenient parking for employees. He included that service access and handicapped issues are considered in the parking decision-making process.

A concern was raised about transportation restrictions and lack of public space in the Western Boulevard corridor. Mr. Harwood admitted this area does need attention and could greatly benefit from a courtyard area.

In response to a query, Mr. Harwood stated that the Free Expression Tunnel project is still on track and should reopen on schedule this month. He included that access plans for an all-campus pedestrian pathway are still under discussion.

Mr. Harwood again expressed gratitude for the opportunity to share this information and urged Senate members to share it with their constituents. Questions about the Master Plan and campus participation may be addressed to Staff Senator Tom Hunter.

Guest Speaker: Andy Willis, Assistant to the Chancellor for External Affairs

Mr. Willis expressed gratitude for the opportunity to give a Legislative update to the Staff Senate. He announced the Legislature returns to session on May 9th and reviewed the upcoming election cycle. In sum, there are approximately 30 House primaries statewide with the unusual fact of being mostly Republican-to-Republican ballots. Mr. Willis expects little change in members and for Democrats to remain in control of the House following the election. He bases this prediction on two factors: only one Democrat is included in the eight members that are retiring and 70 members have no opposition in their re-election bids and 50 members are in strong party performing districts. He also expects little change in membership and for Democrats to remain in control in the Senate where they possess an 8-member margin. Upon being asked, Mr. Willis relayed his uncertainty whether current Speaker of the House Black will resign but does believe he will nonetheless lose his role for the 2007 session as Speaker if re-elected. He reported that this upcoming short legislative session will be streamlined and focus on the budget, campaign finance, and lobbying reform. He predicts extensive media coverage of this short session especially in light of lobbying reform that has not been addressed in sixty years.

Mr. Willis gave an overview of the budget timeline; Governor Easley will wait until after April 15th to complete composition of his budget. There is expected to be at least a \$300-350 million surplus above revenue projections, figures could be well above this. The Senate Appropriations Staff has been charged by Senator Basnight to begin work on the state budget. Mr. Willis expressed his opinion that state workers may receive a 3-4% salary increase.

Mr. Willis reported that Erskine Bowles announced these two priorities to begin his tenure as UNC System President:

1. Addressing salary and benefits issues for staff and faculty members
2. Ensuring that enrollment funding continues to be built into the state budget

It was also reported that NCSU provided these two capital projects upon President Bowles' request for a list of priority projects for each UNC System institution:

1. Engineering Building #3
2. New library on Centennial Campus

The floor was opened for questions.

A query was raised about whether the input of lottery monies will free up legislative dollars; the response was even with lottery revenue input, legislative monies will not be freed up largely due to the fact that lottery revenue is designated for grades K-12 dollars. It is not seen as a stable source of revenue and revenue income will decrease in ensuing years.

A query was raised about the new PPO Health plan and its' predicted savings to the State for health coverage for its employees. Mr. Willis agreed that the State will save a considerable amount of money upon implementation of this health plan but forewarned that without extensive lobbying efforts the saved monies will not be directed back into the health plan to help reduce employees' premiums, but rather will be spent elsewhere.

Mr. Willis again expressed gratitude for the invitation to address the Staff Senate and commended Legislative Liaison Co-Chairs Jon Barnwell and Valerie Ball for their dedication to legislative causes and their efforts to enact positive changes for state employees.

Guest Speaker: Janet Boisvert, Assistant Director, HR Systems

Ms. Boisvert expressed gratitude for the opportunity to announce recent authentication changes in the NCSU Administrative Systems and distributed hard copies which outlined the changes. The applications effected are Administrative Portal, Financial and Human Resources. Changes were enacted to offer ease of login, ease of system maneuverability, increased security, and reduction in username/passwords to remember. She announced that users who experience difficulties with log-ins or changing passwords should contact the NC State Help Desk at 515-4357 or The Solutions Center at 513-1178.

Roll Call: A roll call was performed by Debbie Hunt to ensure accurate attendance records.

Approval of March 1, 2006 Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved as written.

Budget Report: Corrinda Watkins, Executive Assistant to the Associate Vice Chancellor of Human

Resources:

Ms. Watkins reported there is a \$308 outstanding commitment to University Graphics and a balance of \$3,884.93 remains. Ms. Watkins is working to correct an accounting problem with two local businesses.

Administrative Report: Joe Williams, Assistant Director of Benefits:

Mr. Williams announced the enrollment period for the new PPO health plan option is May 22nd through June 30th. Campus workshops are planned in order to advertise and inform campus community members about the new health plan option; the Administrative Secretary was charged to distribute the workshop schedule to Staff Senators. PPO information booklets will be mailed to each enrollee of the current State Health plan. The new health care plan option goes into effect on October 1st 2006.

Committee Reports:

Chair:

Hard copies of a proposed Campus Security/Personal Identification regulation were distributed. Senators were asked by Associate Vice Chancellor for Environmental Health and Public Safety David Rainer to review and offer feedback. He opened the floor for questions or concerns.

A query was raised whether this proposal was set. Mr. Rainer replied that some of the proposals have been in place with little-to-no inconvenience to most campus community members. He stated that the Faculty Senate has not advised him of any necessary changes to the proposal and that he would like to obtain feedback from staff members.

A query was raised about signage on entry doors. Mr. Rainer replied that no additional signage on door entries was currently under consideration and that signage is already posted where entry is restricted or identification is necessary.

Mr. Rainer stated that he believed Staff Senate endorsement would be beneficial. To this end, The Chair recommended this proposal be addressed by the Resources and Environment Committee and charged the committee to compose a resolution in support of it.

The Chair announced her participation in rebuilding efforts for hurricane victims and reported the volunteers' efforts were both successful and greatly appreciated by the residents. She grimly reported there was still a considerable amount of clean-up and rebuilding work needed in the Gulf Coast area.

The Chair moderated the March 9th Open Forum. She expressed her appreciation to Public Relations Committee members for their planning and advertising efforts. She reported there were approximately 141 attendees and the dialogue between the panelists and attendees was both respectful and mutually informative.

The Chair was interviewed by a Technician reporter regarding the Staff Senate's Open Forum and campus parking issues and was interviewed by a Bulletin reporter about the hurricane relief trip to Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

The Chair was able to participate in the monthly UNC-System staff assembly videoconference and acknowledged planning efforts by former Staff Senator Dan Tucker were critical for this inaugural on-campus videoconference.

The Chair and Chair Elect attended the University Budget Advisory Committee meeting. The Chair reported dialogue focused on elimination of incentives or campus programs in order to channel monetary funds back into salaries.

The Chair attended the annual forum of UNC System Staff Senate Chairs held at North Carolina Central University on March 17th and reported strong communication and cohesiveness amongst attendees. Staff Chairs will submit a formal request to UNC System President Erskine Bowles to be recognized as a staff assembly, similar to those already in place for faculty and students.

The Chair attended the Chancellor's Liaison meeting on March 22nd. There was nothing specific reported.

The Chair and Chair Elect attended the University Council meeting on March 27th. The Chair was the only dissenting vote cast against the proposed parking permit rate increases.

The Chair distributed hard copies of a draft letter opposing the annual raise of parking permit rates in order to pay back fine monies. She asked Senators to review the letter and provide feedback and editing suggestions prior to submittal to Chancellor Oblinger before the next Board of Trustees meeting. A resolution which formally opposes these permit price increases is being composed and will be brought before the entire Staff Senate for vote at the May meeting.

The Chair announced the Guest Speakers at the May 3rd meeting.

Vice Chair:

The Vice Chair received an Issue of Concern regarding the political climate in Thailand that included a request for prayer. The Vice Chair contacted Vice Chancellor Tom Stafford and Vice Provost for Equal Opportunity and Equity Joanne Woodard for advice on her response.

Governance:

There are 11 districts involved in this current election. Nominees have been checked for eligibility and were contacted. Nomination responses are due back on April 12th.

A concern was raised about wording of the nominee-seeking ballots; in particular that Alternates are listed as current Senate members and thus gave the impression that they could not be nominated to serve as Staff Senator.

A concern was raised about lack of election materials received by Extension personnel within District 14. The Governance Co-Chair explained that District 14 ballots for Extension personnel was handled electronically via the e-mail account of Extension Services Executive Assistant Vicki Pettit following a return of the hard copy ballots

from campus mail services. It was reported that the Southwest District (and possibly other locales) did not receive their electronic nomination form from Ms. Pettit's e-mail account. Discussions ensued about filters which may have blocked e-mail delivery, ways to bypass e-mail filters, whether or not the full list of extension personnel were included, in particular CSPA employees, and whether a link to the Staff Senate website would help off-campus staff members fully participate in the election process. Governance Committee members were charged to review the delivery hindrances in order to enact changes to have more complete constituent coverage for subsequent elections.

Human Resources:

Committee members remain dedicated to bring the textbook voucher program to fruition and will continue their efforts. A letter from Chancellor Oblinger was received which suggested the program be included in the Combined Campaign.

NC State University has agreed to participate in a Phase I pilot program for the Administrative Support Banding Project. This project which will be completed by June 30, 2006 will evaluate the competencies developed for the Admin Support Bands by the Office of State Personnel.

Diversity:

The Committee Chair announced Debbie Douglas has joined this committee.

Committee members are working with the Office of Diversity and African American Affairs to enact diversity-related training changes in the University's New Hire Orientation.

Public Relations:

The 2005-2006 Staff Senate group photo will be taken at the conclusion of this meeting.

Attendance at the March 9th Open Forum doubled last year's attendance figure. Evaluation forms submitted by attendees are under review. Overall it was an extremely successful event! All panelists will be given a list of feedback received that pertained to their address or topic.

Committee members have begun assisting the Chair Elect with planning the June 7th Annual Retreat.

Resources & Environment:

Committee members continue their efforts regarding increasing recognition and awareness of building liaisons. To this end, a letter was drafted and will be sent to Chancellor Oblinger.

Committee members discussed energy conservation ideas. Contractors at construction/renovation sites must be notified and encouraged to conserve energy especially during non-working hours.

Committee members are reviewing feedback regarding the resolution for Computer Access for Staff Members.

Legislation Liaison:

Committee members will meet with Andy Willis on April 20th to discuss and begin to schedule upcoming round table campus meetings with local legislators. There have been two discussions held thus far with local legislators.

Ad Hoc Committee:

Senator Tom Hunter reported committee members are drafting a letter to Transportation which includes viable constituent suggestions about how the University could pay back fine monies. A list of suggestions was reviewed and discussed by Senator Hunter and Staff Senate Officers at the April Executive Committee meeting. In sum, other campus initiatives must be seriously considered before enacting the substantial and multi-year proposed parking permit rate increases.

Old Senate Business:

The Chair Elect acknowledged and praised Public Relations Committee members for their successful planning of this year's Open Forum. He also acknowledged that incorporating prior feedback was critical in the overwhelming success and increased attendance of this event.

It was suggested the Chancellor contact College Deans and Department Heads and officially endorse staff members' attendance at the annual Staff Senate Open Forum. This endorsement combined with Staff Senators encouragement should dramatically increase constituent attendance and participation at the forum.

New Senate Business:

There was no New Senate Business raised.

Announcements:

Senator David Serxner is a point of contact for information regarding these two announcements: volunteers are needed for the upcoming regional Special Olympics and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Run is June 9th.

Remarks:

2005-2006 Staff Senate group photos will be taken in the Brickyard following this meeting.

Adjournment:

The 9th meeting of the 11th session was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Next Staff Senate Meeting:

Wednesday May 3, 2006
10:00am-12:00pm
Faculty Senate Chambers
D.H. Hill Library

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Wednesday April 19, 2006
10:00am-12:00pm
Room 1115, Administrative Services I Bldg

Submitted by: Judith Strickland, Administrative Secretary

Debbie Hunt, Secretary
Staff Senate