

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY-approved version
Staff Senate Meeting
Faculty Senate Chambers, DH Hill Library
Wednesday August 2, 2006

Attending: Kay Anderson, Valerie Ball, Jon Barnwell, JC Boykin, Bob Brinson, Tracy Brown, Bessie Bukhay, Barbara Carroll, Shannon Carter, Randy Colby, Judy Daniels, Debbie Douglas, Kathy Fuller, Pat Gaddy, Joe Goodrow, Joe Gulick, Nicole Harrell, Janet Harris, Cathy Harvey, Michelle Healey, Willie Healy, Pat Hill, Miriam Hines, Carol Horne, Cheryl Howard, Debbie Hunt, Thomas Hunter, Greg Jarvis, DJ Lane, Carrie Levow, Felicia Mangum, Todd Marcks, Laura Massengill, Ginger McGlamery, Jannette Mina, Marty Moody, Richard Palmer, Samantha Parrett, Bill Piper, Sara Reese, Patty Routh, Valerie Sameshima, Carlos Sanford, David Serxner, Brenda Shelton, Jean Sigmon, Patty Spears, Melanie Storey, Lee Thayne, Brendan Thompson, Elbert Turner, Amanda Tuten, Rodney Vinson, E'very Ware, Thomas Young, Corrinda Watkins, Melissa Watkins, Floyd Williams, Gail Willis, Sandee Zechman, Kimberly Zugay

Absent: Gwen Bell, Diane Harper

Guests: Lauren Gregg, News Services; Yvette Griffin, Terree Kuiper, Franki Senter, Human Resources; Dr. Marcia Gumpertz, Office of Diversity and African American Affairs; Tom Mease, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Frances Milks, Odessa Montgomery, Chancellor's Office; Andy Willis, External Affairs; Past Staff Senate Chairs Art Anthony, Joan Little, Harry Nicholas, Bill Padgett, Rosalind Thomas.

Call to Order: The 1st meeting of the 12th session was called to order at 10:00am.

Guest Speaker: Chancellor James Oblinger

Chancellor Oblinger expressed gratitude for the invitation to address the Staff Senate. He began by thanking and honoring outgoing Chair Melissa Watkins for her superb representation and service as Staff Senate Chair then proceeded to express his support of and optimism to work with incoming Chair JC Boykin. He expressed his view that the Staff Senate is a highly valued and important organization in this university and thanked the Staff Senators for their service. He introduced his Assistants Odessa Montgomery and Frances Milks and noted Ms. Milks' role as the bridge between this Senate group and his office.

Chancellor Oblinger acknowledged and honored Andy Willis for his dedicated efforts and outstanding service to this university. He stated his belief that Mr. Willis deserves the majority of the credit for the recent favorable legislative outcomes pertaining to pay increases and procurement of funds for NC State. Mr. Willis is joining UNC System President Erskine Bowles' office next month where he will continue his efforts to enhance this and other Universities.

Chancellor Oblinger remarked on numerous topics and gave an extensive legislative update. In sum,

- He reviewed the backgrounds on recent hires; College of Humanities and Social Sciences Dean Toby Parcel, College of Engineering Dean Louis Martin-Vega, College of Natural Resources Dean Bob Brown and Graduate School Dean Terry Lomax.
- He proudly reported numerous positive remarks regarding staff members were expressed by attendees at recent New Student Orientations. Chancellor Oblinger expressed great pride in the staff at NC State and recognized them for their valuable contributions to the success of this university. There will be a record number of new freshmen this upcoming semester; total student population is approximately 31,000. He reported the top-notch student recruits to this University are reflective of NCSU's reputation for achieving excellence.
- He reported on the extensive work by appointees on the Blue Ribbon Committee on the Future of Wake County to research and review major challenges which coincide with large increases in populous and the financial ways to deal with steady growth patterns.
- He reviewed the recent UNC System PACE Study (Presidents' Advisory Committee on Efficiency and Effectiveness) and noted its effect upon elimination of some upper Administrative personnel positions. He

expressed his intent to monitor further PACE study reports with keen interest regarding core University functions, teaching, research and extension.

- A professional planner has been hired to work on the Hillsborough Street renewal project. He reported NCSU and the City of Raleigh have a good working relationship and will stay committed to bringing positive changes to this area.
- The NCSU website is the midst of being redesigned by an outside firm which has experience with other large universities' website redesign. He recognized the importance of presenting a first-rate website to prospective students, current campus community members, prospective financial donors and local community members. Chancellor Oblinger recognized and thanked Harry Nicholas for his efforts with the website redesign.
- Chancellor Oblinger recognized Andy Willis as instrumental in obtaining considerable monetary sums for NCSU in the recently approved state budget. He spoke about the support for state employees by legislators as well as for funding of capital budget and ways to maintain it. The Legislature approved pay increases of 6% for faculty and administration and 5.5% for state employees. He reviewed the breakdown of the 23 ½ million dollars awarded for operational, construction, repair and renovation expenses, and student aid; the 2 ½ million dollars for student aid was approved as recurring dollars. Chancellor Oblinger again recognized Andy Willis' instrumental efforts in obtaining full funding for the Engineering Building project. With this project now off the capital improvement list, another project possibility arises.
- New UNC System President Erskine Bowles was instrumental in getting enrollment funding approved as a capital appropriation.
- The tuition waiver program has been increased to three courses per academic year.
- There has been some flexibility in the restrictions governing rehiring of recent state employee retirees.
- Associate Vice Chancellor of Human Resources Barbara Carroll was recognized for her efforts in obtaining reduced cost child care for university employees at a Bright Horizons facility; this program has the apt moniker of "Wolfpup".

Chancellor Oblinger again expressed his gratitude to outgoing Chair Melissa Watkins for her outstanding leadership and thanked incoming Chair JC Boykin for his welcoming position for the inclusion of non-faculty EPA staff members in the Staff Senate.

He concluded his remarks by expressing tremendous pride in the "incredible strides" and "wonderful work" employees have accomplished to enhance the functioning and aesthetic beauty of this campus.

Ceremonial Passing of the Gavel:

Melissa Watkins expressed gratitude to the Staff Senators for their tremendous efforts and outstanding representation and expressed confidence in the new Senators' abilities to also properly represent and work hard for their constituents. She expressed great pride in the achievements and goals obtained during her tenure as Chair. She expressed great confidence in the leadership abilities of incoming Chair JC Boykin then passed him the Staff Senate gavel.

Chair JC Boykin thanked Ms. Watkins for her leadership and expressed his belief that this upcoming Senate year will be both productive and memorable. He individually introduced the prior Staff Senate Chairs in attendance and graciously thanked them for attending this meeting. He announced that many of the past Chairs were able to attend this afternoon's picnic and encouraged Senate members to introduce themselves and invoke conversation. The Chair proceeded to acknowledge and welcome each of the new Senate members. New Senators were presented with a Staff Senate pin and welcomed by the Administrative Secretary.

The Chair introduced and welcomed Dr. Marcia Gumpertz as a new Ex-Officio Staff Senate member.

Guest Speakers: Keith Nichols and Jason Simon, NCSU and News Services Website Redesign:

Jason Simon, Director of Marketing, reported there are approximately 80,000 daily or 2 ½ million monthly "hits" to the NCSU website. He reiterated Chancellor Oblinger's statements regarding the importance of a high-quality website to the various user groups and noted the importance of first impressions. He reviewed the redesign process thus far and noted the diverse make-up of the 30-member committee who are working in tandem with an outside

contractor. He reviewed Ripple Effects' professional resume of university website redesign experiences and expressed his confidence in the work thus far.

The goals of the NCSU website redesign are:

1. to embody the unique character of NCSU as a leader in teaching, research and public service
2. to improve the structure and navigation for site visitors
3. to improve the visual design
4. to create a sense of community by becoming an active website fueled in part by user contributions

The creation of a new news site for the university is in conjunction with the NCSU website redesign initiative. Keith Nichols, Director of News and Communication, detailed the new news web homepage and went over the numerous site changes; specifically the flexibility of the number and kinds of stories made available, a new "did you know" feature of university highlights, new interactive user polls, daily rotation of photographs and an extensive calendar of events featuring campus events and all academic-related dates. He reviewed the schedule for the redesign, beginning with the August 22nd launch. Mr. Nichols distributed hard copies of the test page and asked Senators to review and send suggestions and comments to his attention. Mr. Nichols opened the floor to questions or comments.

A query was raised about how additions to the calendar of events will be generated; department representatives and administrators will advise as well as open submissions from campus community members. There will be public and private versions of the events calendar.

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

Approval of July 5, 2006 Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved as written.

Administrative Report: Barbara Carroll, Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources

Ms. Carroll announced that the employee tuition waiver program has been increased from two to three classes per academic year. She expressed hope in registration flexibility; program details have not been finalized. [The legislation and policy no longer limit employees to one course per semester; however, with such short notice of the change, Fall '06 will continue to be limited to one course while the University makes necessary structural adjustments to accommodate multi-course enrollments in future semesters.]

Ms. Carroll asked the Senate to acknowledge the efforts of HR, Payroll, and RMIS staff members who worked diligently to get the legislative pay increases into the July payroll of SPA employees with little advance notice. She reminded the group that direct deposit of payroll funds for all employees, including students and temps, becomes mandatory on October 1st.

The career banding project for administrative support positions on campus continues to progress; 15 of 17 training sessions have been completed. Career banding of research positions, skilled trades, and institutional services positions are also targeted for implementation by February 2007.

An agreement has been reached with a local Bright Horizons Child Care Center to offer reduced rates to full-time NCSU faculty and staff members; the program has the apt moniker of "Wolfpups". Studies of employees by demographic characteristics like home zip codes were done to help narrow the search for a high quality child care center that would be a convenient locale for employees. Ms. Carroll acknowledged the efforts of Yvette Griffin, Director of University Benefits, for coordinating program particulars. There will be approximately twenty slots available at reduced rates in the first year, increasing in the second and third years of the agreement. The long-term goal is to build a high-quality child care facility on campus. A question was raised about other means of offering assistance for child care costs; the implementation of scholarships and pricing models to offset high child care costs to lower paid employees will continue to be reviewed.

Budget Report: Corrinda Watkins, Advisor

Ms. Watkins reported that \$8,000 has been allocated for the 2006-2007 session. There have been no expenditures yet posted to this session's budget.

Committee Reports:

Chair:

Chair JC Boykin reviewed the 2006-2007 session goals.

The Chair will send personal thank you notes to Chancellor Oblinger, Andy Willis and Board of Trustees members for their supportive efforts in the obtainment of a 5.5% pay increase for staff members.

Vice Chair:

Miriam Hines reviewed the committee assignments for this new session. She announced the schedule for the August 9th orientation committee meetings; The Chair will meet with each committee on this day and review procedures, moderate election of committee officers and assist with goal setting and the development of work plans. Hard copies of the committee assignments and meeting times were distributed.

She deferred appointments to university standing committees to the Vice Chair elected for the 2006-2007 session.

Old Senate Business:

Tom Mease reported on the efforts of the ad hoc committee that reviewed the division of District 14. He announced 27 units/departments will compose the on-campus designation of District 14A and 118 units/departments will compose the off-campus designation of District 14B. The committee's working notes and proposal draft will be given to the Governance Committee for review and further action.

The Chair expressed gratitude to the members of the ad hoc committee for their efforts.

New Senate Business:

Officer elections for the 2006-2007 session were held:

Chair-Elect: Gail Willis, District 5

Vice Chair: Debbie Hunt, District 16

Parliamentarian: Thomas Hunter, Jr., District 10B

Secretary: Laura Massengill, District 14

The Chair congratulated the newly elected Staff Senate Officers and thanked them for their willingness to serve an additional role.

The Chair again welcomed Dr. Marcia Gumpertz to the Staff Senate as an Ex-Officio member and invited her to address the Senate. She was recently hired as Assistant Vice Provost for Faculty and Staff Diversity in the Office of Diversity and African American Affairs. Dr. Gumpertz thanked the Chair for his welcome and invitation to speak. She briefly reviewed her professional background and expressed optimism that this newly created position will help foster a welcoming environment for all campus community members. She expressed her role as Ex-Officio is one of a bridge between the Staff Senate and Administration and expressed her willingness to work with the Senate, and in particular the Diversity committee, for mutual goal achievement.

Announcements:

The Alumni Relations hosted picnic luncheon will be held immediately following this meeting in the Talley Ballroom.

Remarks:

The Chair invited each of the past Staff Senate Chairs to address the Senate.

Adjournment:

The 1st meeting of the 12th session was adjourned at 12:00pm.

Next Staff Senate Meeting:

Wednesday September 6, 2006
10:00am-12:00pm
Faculty Senate Chambers
DH Hill Library

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Wednesday August 23, 2006
1:00pm-3:00pm
Room 101, Administrative Services III Bldg

Submitted by: Judith Strickland, Administrative Secretary

Laura Massengill, Secretary
Staff Senate