AGENDA
UNC Faculty Assembly Meeting Summary
Friday, September 11, 2020, 9:00 - 11:00 AM
VIA ZOOM

Theme: Taking Care of Each Other During These Troubling Times


Welcome, and approval of the minutes of the August 7, 2020 meeting (Tim Ives)
Chair Ives welcomed all attendees. He noted that a lot was happening nationally and that today was about updates and supporting everyone. The August 7, 2020 Faculty Assembly meeting summary was approved (view here).

UNC System Update (President Peter Hans)
President Hans noted that today was September 11th and to remember the survivors of the 9/11 tragedy. The System is facing a number of challenges and uncertainties. He reaffirmed how much he values faculty input and keeping open lines of communication. He looks forward to feedback and thoughts on what is working and not working and how we can work closer together. In the COVID-19 environment, he needs our help in anticipating and innovatively addressing problems and challenges; what do faculty need to ensure success of our students? Mental health for students, staff, and faculty is a high priority.

At the state level, COVID emergency funds have just been approved by the Governor and $13 million has been allocated for PPE and the UNC System. An additional $5 million has been allocated for testing. At the national level, the US Senate has proposed a $29 billion budget for higher education which is twice as much as the CARES ACT. This would mean direct aid to help all UNC System institutions. In terms of the revisions to 200.8 and the chancellor search policy, the BOG will move forward with the recommended revisions. The changes would apply to future searches and not to current searches. The primary rationale for the revision is that the hiring process should include the manager’s ability to recruit a talent pool and the President takes this seriously; the ability to identify top flight candidates will only help the institution (view proposed revisions).

Update on UNC System Racial Equity Task Force (Governor Darrell Allison, Shun Robertson) - View Slides
The Racial Equity Task Force was formed on June 9th (view memo here) and its charge consists of four parts: 1) Meet with student, faculty, and staff groups to discuss issues of race and equity in the UNC System and all tangible steps that can be taken across the UNC System in pursuit of equity and understanding; 2) Gather, explore, and develop recommendations, suggestions, and feedback; 3) Prepare a report to the Board of Governors, to include a list of recommendations and action steps in priority order; and 4) Present the report to the Chair of the Board of Governors and the President by October 2 (extended now to December 16th).
The original membership has been expanded from 6-13 members (see slide 3). The three focus areas of the task force are: 1) Equity in Student Recruitment, Enrollment, and Success Outcomes; 2) Recruiting and Retaining Diverse and Equity-Minded Practitioners and Leaders; and 3) Supporting Safe and Inclusive Campuses. Their next steps are to hold key stakeholder discussions across the system and their system wide survey for faculty, staff, and students (take the survey here). The task force will continue to have conversations with the Faculty Assembly and will be holding a series of town halls.

Update from Academic Affairs (Kim van Noort)
Dr. Kim van Noort provided general system updates.

Updates on the Digital Course Enhancement Initiative, and the Designing Effective Online Courses Program (Michelle Solér, Jim Ptaszynski) - View Dr. Ptaszynski Slides | View Dr. Solér’s Slides
The Digital Course Enhancement Initiative has currently served 2,000 faculty and staff impacting 253,239 students across all 17 institutions. The website is located at dli4faculty.northcarolina.edu and the next workshops on Designing Effective Online Courses are scheduled for October 5, 2020 and November 30, 2020 (register here). The UNC System Digital Learning Fellows for 2020-21 remain Dr. Ellen Pearson (UNCA), Dr. Ben Powell (ASU), and Dr. Katherine Saul (NCSU). The Digital Learning Webinar series continues and takes place on the fourth Friday of each month and all recorded webinars and schedules can be found at https://myapps.northcarolina.edu/digitallearning/webinarseries1/.

Available Mental Health Resources for Surviving in these Turbulent Times (Russell Robinson, Bethany Meighen, Toya Corbett, Matthew Brody) - View Slides
Dr. Robinson provided an update on an upcoming mental health symposium.

Drs. Corbett and Meighen presented System wide work around mental health. They presented some sobering statistics for college students in general: 40% of students fail to seek help, 30% reported having problems with school work due to mental health issues, 80% feel overwhelmed by their responsibilities, 50% rated their mental health below average or poor, 50% struggled from anxiety, and only 7% of parents felt their students suffer from mental health issues in college.

In terms of COVID-19 response: Counseling Centers are using telebehavioral health to support students. Student Health Services are offering weekend hours. Campus Recreation departments are implementing innovative programming in an attempt to support students during COVID-19. Deans of Students are using a case management methodology to identify and provide wrap around services for students. Student Organizations are offering recovery programs. Special programming is being offered for Military & Veterans Services.

Examples include the TAO Connect program at FSU, which is a digital platform designed to assist students with “anxiety, depression, stress, substance abuse, relationship problems and resiliency.” UNCG has a Culture of Care Initiative, which offers a “... multi-tiered approach for suicide prevention training, Ask. Listen. Refer. An on-line training designed to help faculty, staff and students prevent suicide.” UNCP and WSSU has a Mental Health First Aid Training, which provides “training for faculty, staff and students to learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in a crisis, and where to turn for help.” ECU
and UNCSA have collaborated to provide Grief and Loss Counseling Training to, “(i)ncrease awareness about the impact of grief and loss on the campus community and improve skills in offering non-clinical support to students in need.” Contact information for Dr. Toya Corbett, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, tgcorbett@northcarolina.edu, and Dr. Bethany Meighen, Vice President for Student Affairs, bdmeighen@northcarolina.edu.

Matt Brody provided an HR update.

Virtual Assembly & FA Listserv Etiquette (Kacey DiGiacinto, Anthony Chow) - Communications Committee Co-Chairs. View Zoom Procedures | View Listserv Etiquette Dr. DiGiacinto highlighted the Faculty Assembly’s new Zoom meeting protocol including muting the microphone when not speaking, adding affiliations to displayed names, and using the raise hand feature in Zoom. Dr. Chow went over basic listserv etiquette, highlighting the fact that recipients of a listserv can only send emails to that listserv and not any other listserv. In addition, the listserv is not to be used as a place for a “call to action” but rather a place for discussion and information. Calls to action should be vetted by the Faculty Assembly Chair.

Chair’s Report (Tim Ives) - View Slides Chair Ives reaffirmed how important it was that the Faculty Assembly play a significant role on the Budget Committee/Task Force on every campus as budget cuts on each campus is expected. The next Board of Governors meetings are September 16 (committee meetings) and 17 (Board meeting) and can be viewed at https://www.unctv.org/watch/live-stream/bog/. The next Designing Effective Online Courses workshops start October 5 and November 30 and for more information go to https://dli4faculty.northcarolina.edu. The Equity Task Force will meet with all 17 Senate Chairs on September 24. The October FA meeting will likely be used as a working meeting for its eight committees (view here). The November meeting focus will be on a report from Military and Veterans Affairs and Advocacy training.

A resolution honoring Henry Ferrell (1934-2020), ECU History Professor Emeritus and the second UNC System Faculty Assembly Chair (1974-76), passed unanimously.

Adjournment