

# **Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting**

## **September 17, 2014**

*Submitted by Senate Secretary, Catherine Seta, Professor of Psychology  
Prepared by Amalia Wagner and Catherine Seta, Ph.D.*

Comments recorded are not necessarily verbatim. In order to facilitate open discussion, the identity of most Senators making comments or questions are not recorded. The identity of comments from Senate Officers and Senate *Ad Hoc* and Standing Committee Chairs are given, as is the identity of persons commenting in their official administrative capacity (e.g., CFO, Provost and College Dean.)

In attendance: Martha Alexander-Miller, Edward Allen, Sarah Bodin, Susan Borwick, Daniel Bourland, James Cotter, Larry Daniel, Will Fleeson, Michele Gillespie, Samuel Gladding, Dwayne Godwin, Derrik Hiatt, Simeon Illesanmi, Tim Janke, Kevin Jung, Claudia Kairoff, Leslie Kammire, Hank Kennedy, Rogan Kersh, Nina Lucas, Emmanuel Opara, Wilson Parker, John Parks, Paul Pauca, John Pickel, Cathy Seta, Peter Siavelis, Gale Sigal, Kathy Smith, Michelle Steward, Lynn Sutton, Rosalind Tedford, Mark Welker.

There were 29 Senators present, a quorum.

### **Welcome from President Gale Sigal and discussion of May, 2014 senate meeting minutes**

President Sigal called the meeting to order. A vote to accept the minutes of the May, 2014 special senate meeting was tabled pending a review of the Senate By-laws by a special ad hoc committee on the by-laws. A question emerged over the summer as to whether all of business conducted in the May meeting was in order, given the lack of a quorum of voting senators present at that meeting. The by-laws have not been reviewed in recent years and appear to be inconsistent regarding the necessity of a quorum vote for changes in the by-laws, such as the creation of standing committees (which was an order of business in the May meeting).

President Sigal made a correction to the May 7, 2014 Faculty Senate Meeting minutes regarding the list of attendees: she added Mike Hughes to the list of attendees. A lively discussion ensued regarding whether or not the business conducted at the May meeting was official or not because of the apparent lack of a quorum. Wilson Parker suggested that this discussion could take place within the new ad hoc committee on the by-laws, and then they could report to the senate with a recommendation regarding the status of this meeting.

Ed Allen made a motion to postpone approval of the May 7, 2014 meeting minutes until the next meeting on October 15, 2014 if the ad hoc committee is ready with its report and recommendation at that time. Wilson Parker seconded the motion. A vote was carried out by a show of hands, and it was unanimously decided to delay the approval of the May 7, 2014 meeting minutes until after a review of the by-laws by the Ad hoc By-laws Review Committee.

### **Ratification of Senate Officers**

President Gale Sigal put forward a motion in favor of ratification of senate officers for the 2014-15 term, which was duly seconded. [Background information: A vote was taken on the 2014-15 term senate officers by senators present in the May, 2014, but given questions arising from the apparent lack of a voting quorum at that meeting, Senators Allen and Gladding called for a vote of ratification. This suggestion was discussed at the September EXCOM meeting. The EXCOM

felt that there should be no question concerning the legitimacy of senate officers and placed a ratification vote on this meeting's agenda.]

*Discussion: The fact that senate president nominee is the prior year's senate VP was noted and questioned. Past president Kennedy noted that this has been common practice for many years in the senate and is an accepted practice consistent with the guidelines of Roberts Rules of Order.*

*Senate officer nominations are made by the Nominations Committee of the Senate and put forth for a senate vote. Senate secretary Seta noted that any senator is welcome to submit officer nominations (including self-nominations) either to the Nominations Committee or to any member of the Excom, and that nominations from the senate floor are also welcome.*

Blank ballots were distributed and Senators voted, yes or no, in favor of a motion to ratify the slate of officers put forth in the May, 2014 meeting. The senate was unanimous in favor of the motion made to ratify the previous vote; 27 votes were cast by anon ballot.

**The Faculty Senate officers for the 2014-15 term are:**

**Gale Sigal – President**

**Wilson Parker – Vice President**

**Catherine Seta – Secretary**

**Jeff Wiener – Member at Large**

#### **New Ad Hoc Committee on the By-laws**

In consultation of the Executive Committee, along with other members of the Senate, President Sigal announced the formation of a new *ad hoc* committee to review the by-laws. The chair of the committee is Senator VP Wilson Parker (a legal expert in constitutional law). Members of this committee were appointed by President Sigal.

President Sigal reminded all Senators to attend Senate meetings, and to be sure to sign in at every meeting. This is critical in establishing the necessary quorum to conduct senate business and is the responsibility of elected members of the senate.

#### **Introduction of Senate Officers and Committee Chairpersons (review of committee functions and recent activities)**

President Sigal introduced the Senate Officers, followed by Committee Chairs, who spoke about their committee activities past and planned. All committees are actively recruiting members and senators were asked to submit their names to President Sigal or to the chairs of the committees of interest.

*Introductions:*

She introduced Cathy Seta, Senate Secretary, and Amalia Wagner, who provides administrative support to the faculty senate.

**Wilson Parker – Chair of Senior Appointments Committee:**

This committee functions on a yearly basis for honorary degrees and participates in the hiring of heads of academic units. Currently there are numerous searches being conducted for the following: Dean of the Library, CIO, Dean of the College and Dean of the Law School.

**Peter Siavelis – Chair of the Fringe Benefits Committee:**

This is a joint committee with the Staff Advisory Council Fringe Benefits Committee and serves as a conduit of information from the University faculties to the administration on benefit issues, among other activities. The committee also serves as an advocacy group for improving benefits and has the informational function of reporting to the Senate regarding any concerns about benefits. Issues regarding changes in Reynolda faculty health benefits were spotlighted by last year's committee, also chaired by Senator Siavelis.

**John Parks - Chair of The University Integration Committee:**

The primary goal of this committee is to look for ways to improve communication and foster cooperation between various schools, including the Medical School and Reynolda Campus. There has been a particular emphasis in bridging “cultural” gap between the two campuses and in recommending changes in several obstructive rules and regulations at the Medical School that have, for example, delayed the onboarding of Reynolda undergraduate students in research internships . Some of the unfinished business we will continue to work on is the Med School onboarding process - a top priority for this committee.

*Discussion: It was noted that Dean Godwin has an idea on facilitating this through the graduate school.*

**James Cotter – Chair of The Resources Committee:**

Professor Cotter is also serving his second term as Chair of this committee and his objective this year is to concentrate the committee's work on issues regarding finances, athletics, staffing, admissions, and OPCD.

**Kathy Smith – Chair of The Senate Committee on Athletics and member of COIA:**

WFU has been a member of COIA for a number of years. COIA suggests more faculty involvement in oversight and involvement on academic issues related to the athletic program.

*Q: (Interim Co-Dean Rebecca Thomas) How does this committee interface with the College Athletic Committee?*

*A: They work as a joint unit to avoid duplication.*

**Hank Kennedy – Chair of The Senate Committee on Compensation:**

This committee will gather current and past information regarding compensation (salary, fringe benefits, and bonus income). It will make use of existing public information including but not limited to the annual information provided by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and other relevant data routinely made available to federal and state governmental entities as required by respective regulations and law. The committee will make regular reports to the Senate regarding their findings and will be encouraged to contextualize their findings by comparison with other institutions of higher education.

*Q: (EA) Robert's Rules of Order is clear that members of an assembly can serve as a committee chair; since Professor Kennedy is no longer a Senator, will there be a vote from this body regarding this?*

*A: (WP) ....that is something the new ad-hoc committee on By-Laws can address.*

*Comment: (DB) .....Suggested that the Ad hoc By-Laws committee review the current rules and consider making the past senate president a member of the Senate in the event his (or her) term has expired. This would help in the continuity of leadership.*

**Election of the Chair of the Committee of the Collegiate Senators:**

The membership of this committee consists of the elected faculty senate members who represent Wake Forest College. The chair of this committee is elected by the Collegiate Senators. Several weeks ago, President Sigal solicited nominations for this position via email; nominees were Ed Allen, Will Fleeson and Sam Gladding. Ballots presenting these candidates were distributed via email on Sept 4<sup>th</sup>. Amalia Wagner counted the votes and announced that the majority were cast in favor of Senator Fleeson, who will serve as Chair of the Committee of the Collegiate Senate for the 2014-15 term.

**Introduction of recently hired administrators:**

President Sigal introduced two recently hired members of the University administration: Adam Goldstein, Associate Vice President of Campus Life, and Dean of Students. Prior to his arrival to Wake Forest University, Associate VP Goldstein was Associate Dean of Students at Florida State prior to coming to WFU.

Dr. Goldstein stated that he has advised student governments for many years and believes that our students want to be involved, and are capable of being involved, with the problems of living in a pluralistic society. There are several new initiatives going on in his area, including responding to concerns regarding potential incidents of racial bias. All are concerned about this issues and the manner in which the university responds to this bias is important. Dr. Goldstein's office has a system which allows us to track those concerns and coordinate the responses. The system allows the office to study each incident as it occurs and express care, discover and make recommendations about things that can be done to reduce the likelihood of future bias.

President Sigal gave a brief introduction of Lynn Sutton, Vice Provost, and Dean of the ZSR Library.

LS has been a member of the Senate for all ten years of her tenure at WFU. She will remain as Dean of the Library for the next academic year, until a new Dean is hired. As Vice Provost, her role is to be a “thought partner” to Provost Kersh and to work with faculty development across all units of Reynolda Campus. Additionally she has a collection of Academic Units that report to her, Humanities Institute, Pro Humanitate Institute, Teaching and Learning Center, Online Education, PDC, WFDD, Reynolda House, The Art Collections, Start Gallery, Secrest, LGBTQ, Women’s Center and Title IX Coordinator.

### **Update on current searches:**

Provost Kersh gave an update of the various searches taking place. He mentioned that several roles have been filled in recent months, for example that of the Vice Provost and Dean of Students. The Title IX search was just completed. The CIO search is under way and close to an end.

Provost Kersh described the College Dean search process: *Wake spends a lot of time with the constituency involved; many of you have participated in the forums we have had for the search of the Dean of the College. We try to break these conversations into what things are going well, what we would like to preserve, what are the challenges and opportunities, and what qualities are we seeking in this role. From this, we put together a prospectus that is richly detailed. As a result, we go out and find candidates much more actively than is the case with other institutions. The Dean of the College Search committee met today and they are ready to finalize the prospectus and then begin the sourcing process.*

*In addition, we are conducting a search for a Dean of the Law School and Dean of the ZSR Library. Provost Kersh thanked the Co-Interim Deans of the College, Rebecca Thomas, and Randy Rogan and the Interim Dean of the Law School, Suzanne Reynolds.*

### **Review of uncompleted issues and concerns:**

President Sigal noted the new chair of CAFR is Paul Escot.

She brought up the medical school resolution that was put before the senate in May 2014 and asked if the senate wanted to move forward with this. After some discussion, it was decided that this still needs work and is not ready for a vote. A suggestion was made to work with other medical school senators and create this resolution.

President Sigal mentioned the creation of two new ad hoc committees, the By-Laws, and Best Practices Committee of the Senate.

A Senator pointed out that the Sexual Harassment Policy is still pending and needs to be resolved. He recommended checking with Mike Green on the status of this policy.

One other important unresolved matter is the Protection of Minors Policy. Provost Kersh offered to check with legal on the status of this issue and to let the senate know its status.

President Sigal asked if there were any other matters to be brought before the senate at this time. There were not. She then announced that there would be a wine and cheese immediately following in the lobby and invited all to attend.

Adjourned: 5:20pm