

Wake Forest University Senate  
Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting  
Feb 5, 2003

The University Senate held its third meeting of the 2002-2003 year in E 24 of the Hanes Building on the Bowman-Gray campus.

Larry Daniel called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM. The minutes of the meeting of 11/13/02 were approved as posted on the Senate web page.

Larry Daniel began by noting an increase in communication between the Senate and the administration and Board of Trustees this year. He reported that his own discussions with Dr. Hearn indicate that Dr. Hearn is sensitive to the faculty salary issue, and was supportive of a plan for regularly evaluating administrators.

Provost Bill Gordon then spoke to the Senate about the difficult choices WFU faces in the future. He noted the precarious set of balances (teaching and research commitments) that have made Wake Forest into the excellent institution that it is, and also noted the difficulties the institution faces in maintaining those balances while trying to move forward in any direction. Examples of these dilemmas included bringing in faculty “superstars” to enhance our academic reputation, but at the potential cost of the loss of teaching focus, and a loss of the sense of community among faculty. Increasing the diversity of the institution is likewise desirable, but also poses a possible threat to that sense of community. Enhanced research productivity is important, but again could negatively affect the commitment to teaching and to the institution.

In the ensuing question and answer session, Provost Gordon indicated a need to look at where time was now being spent in order to assess priorities about what things might be tweaked in the future. In response to a question about promoting interaction between the campuses, he noted that the possible expansion of the bioethics program to a professional ethics program, and the possibility of providing further incentives beyond internal funding.

Senate committee reports were then heard.

Allin Cottrell reported that the University Oversight Committee had received a request to look into the issue of installing lights at the baseball stadium. This is opposed by many residents of Faculty Drive.

Jim Flynn reported that the University Operations Committee is developing a questionnaire to be used in the evaluation of administrators, and is trying to work out the details of such an evaluation process.

Dale Dagenbach reported that the Fringe Benefits Committee’s subcommittees have been comparing dental and vision, tuition concession, retirement, and health care benefits at WFU with those at the cross-admit institutions. A report on dental coverage was provided in the previous issue of the Senator. The tuition concession committee had met with Ralph Peterson and the retirement committee was gathering data. He reported on behalf of Gloria Muday that the Health Affairs subcommittee is continuing to closely monitor the first year of self-insurance in health care benefits.

John Butterworth reported that the University Appointments committee had selected honorary degree recipients. These included Martha Barnett, attorney; Eric Olson, molecular biologist; M. E. Marty, theologian; Richard Carmona, U.S. Surgeon General, and “a player to be named later” pending publicity releases.

The Senate meeting concluded with a discussion of possible new business. Larry Daniel reported that he'd been contacted by Senates from other institutions regarding support for moves to limit the increasing professionalization of college athletics, and suggested that we might want to discuss providing our support for this initiative.

The meeting concluded at 4:50 PM.