

Faculty Senate Minutes – August 29, 2012

In attendance: Umit Akinc, Ed Allen, Sharon Andrews, Sarah Bodin, Dan Bourland, Sheri Bridges, Carole Browne, Kevin Cox, Carol Cramer, Sonia Crandall, Mary DeShazer, Jacques Fetrow, Candelas Gala, Michele Gillespie, Sam Gladding, Michael Green, Laura Graham, Nathan Hatch, Duncan Hite, Michael Hughes, Brad Jones, Sarah Jones, Kevin Jung, Judy Kem, Rogan Kersh, David Levy, Dale Martin, Jack Meredith, Ken Middaugh, Gail O’Day, James Schirillo, Cathy Seta, Gale Sigal, Omari Simmons, Susan Smith, Michelle Steward, Lynn Sutton, Alan Townsend, Lynne Wagenknecht.

President Bourland opened the meeting by extending a welcome and recognizing the new senators.

He discussed the vision for the Senate and stressed the importance of collaboration between the Reynolda and Medical School campuses. He discussed the Senate website, meeting format, and announced the guest speakers for the next two meetings: Dean Abraham, School of Medicine, on September 19, and Rick Matthews, Associate Provost for Information Systems, on October 17. Discussion of the Graduate School will most likely take place at that meeting as well. President Bourland then discussed Senate membership and standing committees. Chairs are needed for the Resources, University Integration, and Fringe Benefits Committees. He also presented the list of Senate officers for 2012-13.

He then reviewed the topics the Senate hopes to address during the 2012-13 academic year, including GPA ‘deflation’ at Wake Forest, credit hours/course loads for undergraduates, integration of the two campuses, medical-school faculty pay cut policies and the impact on tenure, the graduate school’s future, and financial planning.

The possibility of a new meeting place was discussed: ZSR Library Auditorium and Byrum Welcome Center were mentioned.

President Bourland then recognized Provost Rogan Kersh.

Provost Kersh began his remarks by saying he appreciates deeply the importance of the Faculty Senate, having served on the Senate at previous institutions, and by embracing the mission, values, and traditions of Wake Forest, initially absorbed during his undergraduate career here. He outlined the non-binding ‘Memorandum of Understanding’ (MOU) that he recently signed with a ‘planning consortium’ of other elite colleges and universities, organized by 2Tor; this MOU does not commit Wake Forest to any definitive steps, or even membership in, the ‘Semester Online’ program—instead, he will have the opportunity to explore with provosts of the other nine or ten planning-consortium members how this program might be shaped...as well as how they are conceiving online education as part of their mission and values.

Dr. Kersh expressed a hope that Wake Forest’s faculty would affirm the benefits of exploring online-education possibilities in this limited/private forum, and of returning to this faculty for further frank, open deliberation about the wisdom of offering a limited number of courses through Semester Online (or other routes). A lively question/discussion session followed, with

faculty offering a range of comments and suggestions to help Dr. Kersh frame conversations with fellow planning-consortium provosts and 2Tor representatives.

President Bourland closed by reiterating the call for chairs on three open Senate committees, and the meeting was adjourned.