#665

MINUTES FOR THE MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026,
FACULTY SENATE MEETING AT 4:00 P.M. IN UC COUNCIL ROOM

Present: Brown, Dietz, Elias, Garrett, Gershwin, Haddad, Hall, Han, Klein, Karlin, Kyle, Lee, Levin, Stewart, Mannello, Marchand- Martella, Murza, Newman, Schuttler, Senbet, Shafie, Trask (Blodgett), Wieben
Zoom: Alcantar, Bailey, Chapin, DeKrey, Lindillo, McDuffie, Schaberl, Taylor
Absent: Elkins, Etheridge-Woodson, Henderson, Humphrey, Kang, Leonard, Manshad, Muller, Tian

1. Call to Order 4:00pm
2. Approval of the October 12, 2026 Agenda approved with LAC changes
3. Approval of the September 28, 2026 Faculty Senate Minutes approved without objection
4. Chair's Report (Newman) – UNC Forward is in its fourth week, with hopes that faculty are participating through the multiple opportunities available. The Board of Trustees held its retreat last week. The State of the University address is scheduled for October 20, with the time moved to 2:00pm. The link has been sent to register, if interested in attending. Catalyst will take place January 15–17 in Estes Park. The experience is highly rewarding, and faculty are encouraged to attend and share this opportunity with students. Applications are due Saturday, October 17, contact Newman for the application link.

5. Administrative Reports

   Interim President (Haddad) – The Board of Trustees held a retreat on Thursday, which included the Foundation, to discuss UNC Forward. On Friday, the full Board had an opportunity to share perspectives on the initiative. Discussions focused on leveraging the College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) and other health-related programs, developing three-year degree pathways to position UNC at the forefront, and fostering entrepreneurship through both short-term initiatives and transformative change. Enrollment management also remains a key priority, with an emphasis on expanding recruitment along I-25 and re-engaging adult learners interested in returning to higher education. Overall, the discussions were engaging and well received. Today's Extended Cabinet meeting focused on identifying processes to stop, improve, or leverage. These conversations will continue through task forces, with priorities discussed at upcoming Cabinet meetings. One final open forum with PVA is planned, previous forums that have provided valuable information and feedback. UNC remains focused on enrollment and fiscal health. Cabinet members also attended the State of Weld County event and the Weld Trust Gala. Upcoming events include the Faculty and Staff Game on October 17 and the State of the University address on October 20.

   - It was clarified that the three-year degrees would not be traditional bachelor's degrees but rather alternative pathways like associate degrees,
   - Discussions with provosts across Colorado could help gauge interest in the proposal.

    - Marchand-Martella volunteered to serve on the state board and raised the topic with the Board of Trustees.
    - Significant conversations are needed to determine the specific structure and implementation timeline.
- Members asked how quickly the initiative could be implemented.
    - The goal is to pilot select programs and move toward broader implementation once approval is received, while following the guidance provided.
- There has not been an estimate of the preliminary budget impact available yet, but programs would include approximately 90-120 credits.
- Members asked whether the programs would compete with Aims Community College or Front Range Community College.
    - The Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) would determine the appropriate scope, as these institutions cannot offer bachelor's degrees.
- There were concerns about ensuring the program's stackability and maintaining financial aid eligibility for students who might need additional time to complete the degree.
- Those interested in the initiative can begin discussing potential processes in smaller groups.

Provost (Marchand-Martella) – Last week, Provost Marchand-Martella had a discussion with the Professor Emeritus group. The group was well informed and expressed interest in UNC Forward. At the Board of Trustees retreat she shared a strategic enrollment management presentation that focused on identifying processes that may be hindering progress. Discussions highlighted that other institutions are responding more quickly than UNC, prompting a closer look at key touchpoints, deadlines, and opportunities to streamline processes. The Board of Trustees showed strong enthusiasm for the initiative and was highly engaged in the discussions.

- Members asked whether there would be greater transparency regarding travel funding.
    - It was explained that travel funding remains under consideration and has not yet been addressed. She will share more information as it becomes available.
    - Members emphasized the importance of tracking how much faculty spend out of pocket on work-related travel to inform future budgeting.
- Members asked how the AI designation was developed, how decisions were made, and what the designation means for curriculum.
    - Kim Black gathered real-world examples of AI use across colleges and faculty were invited to submit examples through an open call, which served as the primary opportunity for faculty input. However, there was no formal approval process involving the faculty body.
    - Concerns were noted that it could create expectations for how instructors incorporate AI into their classrooms.
        - It was clarified that the process was simply an inventory of current AI activities rather than requiring new requirements.
    - The timing of the communication may have limited awareness and participation.

- There is an appetite in developing university-wide AI literacy.
  - Blodgett shared that the University Libraries have AI resources in that will continue to be expanded.
- Members suggested the possibility of establishing a campus-wide goal focused on advanced technology and its interpretation and application.

Dean's Representative (Elias) – No report.

- Dean Elias shared challenges with the transfer portal, especially for athletes, noting that prospective students may choose another institution if their transcripts are not processed within 24–48 hours. UNC's current processing times may be causing students to look elsewhere.
  - Members questioned whether the extensive review process is resulting in students being turned away.
  - It was noted that expediting processes can require significant financial resources.
  - Members emphasized that initial barriers may discourage prospective students from enrolling at UNC.

Board of Trustees (Kyle) – The Board of Trustees and the Foundation met on Thursday to discuss gifts, endowment growth, and an additional $2 million for scholarships, along with the budget and UNC Forward. Interim President Haddad highlighted UNC's community engagement, instructional modalities, and current initiatives. The Board also discussed expanding online offerings, although this topic may not have received as much attention as intended. Friday's meeting began with an update on the presidential search, followed by further discussion and feedback on UNC Forward. Topics included experiential learning, high-flex learning, and opportunities to right-size the university. Board members expressed both support for and skepticism about experiential learning while showing interest in expanding online offerings and exploring three-year degree pathways. McDuffie emphasized the need to improve recruitment processes and ensure meaningful faculty engagement during UNC Days. Members also discussed potential requirements and opportunities to expand UNC's presence across the state, creating more opportunities for prospective students in other regions to connect with the university.

6. Staff Council Reports

Classified Staff Council (Henderson) – CSC is excited and thankful to have Laura joining us Wednesday and the bake sale is planned for the 29 of October
Professional Administrative Staff Council (Lindillo) – No report

7. Standing Committee Reports

Academic Policies (Mannello) – Academic Policies approved catalog additions incorporating AI-related language and a resolution that will accompany the additions, using encouraging language to address expectations for AI use. The committee continues to revise the Academic Appeals Board policy and has two items up for a vote today.
Codification (Schuttler) – Codification revised catalog additions incorporating AI-related from APC and the M. Lucile Harrison Committee policy.
Elections (Schuttler) – There are a few appointments that need to be made under Special Orders.

Faculty Welfare (Brown) – Faculty Welfare is revising the amours relationships and nepotism policy and has an item under new business.
Salary Equity (Senbet) – Salary Equity continued reviewing the peer group model, noting differences between UNC's 2021 and 2026 peer groups. The committee learned that UNC paid NCHEMS about $4,500 in 2021 to develop the peer group and have requested a new quote. They also discussed whether to use the existing DOC-ALL group or develop a new peer group.

8. Student Government Association Report (TBD) – No report

9. Special Orders
    - Confirmation of LAC Curriculum Committee Appointments (2026-2029)
        i. Written Comm & World Language
            1. Melinda Kisling (EBS)
        ii. History, Literature, & Humanities
            1. Michael Oravitz (PVA)
            2. Yavanna Brownlee – 2026-2028 (HSS)
        iii. Philosophy & the Arts
            1. Brian Casey (PVA)
            2. Bailie Peterson (HSS)
            3. Kim McManus – 2026-2028 (MCB)
        iv. **MOTION:** Brown moves to approve the LAC Curriculum Committee members, seconded by Schuttler
        v. **VOTE:** Motion approved unanimously

10. Unfinished Business
    - Internship Definition and the Awarding of Academic Credits Proposal (Mannello)
        i. **MOTION:** Schuttler moves to approve the Internship Definition and the Awarding of Academic Credits Proposal, seconded by Gershwin
        ii. DISCUSSION:
            1. It was clarified that internship requirements are defined by academic credit and determined by the course or program.
            2. This policy is to provide information that internships must be completed in the semester registered.
            3. The specific catalog placement was requested in the proposal cover.
        iii. **VOTE**: Motion approved unanimously
    - S/U Grading Option Proposal (Mannello)
        i. **MOTION**: Schuttler moves to approve the S/U Grading Option proposal, seconded by Gershwin
        ii. DISCUSSION:
            1. Use of S/U Graded as Prerequisites:
                a. For clarification condition 1, is rewritten as
                    i. "Since an S is awarded for all letter grades of C or higher, it satisfies prerequisites where a minimum grade of C is required."
            2. Application of S/U Grades to Program of Study:

a. Rewriting the application 2 as,
    i. "An S satisfies grade requirements of C- or lower" will make the statement true.
3. It was explained that the sentence "An S/U grade will not be applied to a program requirement if the course requires a minimum grade C or higher." was added for redundancy on purpose

iii. **VOTE:** Motion approved with one abstention

11. New Business
- M. Lucile Harrison Award Committee Policy (Brown)
    i. Further discussion and a vote will take place at the next meeting.

12. Special Reports

13. Comments to the Good of the Order

14. Adjournment 5:16pm