

**MINUTES FOR MONDAY APRIL 28, 2025, FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:00 P.M. IN CAMPUS COMMONS 2200**

Present: Almquist, Brown, DeKrey, Doerner, Fleming, Kyle, Landry, Senbet, Schuttler
Absent: Feinstein, Fischer, Newman

Call to Order: 4:01pm

Approval of the Agenda: approved without objection

Approval of the Minutes from April 14, 2025: approved without objection

Announcements

Chair's Report (Kyle) – Today was last meeting with Hanover in Salary Equity, last week they met with Faculty Senate. We are very happy with Chevons work and their understanding of this project. The vice-chair elections will be held via Qualtrics, we are waiting for one more statement.

Senate Committee Reports

Academic Policies (Newman) – No report

Codification (Schuttler) – Codification will be looking at the items sent from Faculty Welfare and continue reviewing Senate Actions.

Elections (Newman) – No report

Faculty Welfare (DeKrey) – Faculty Welfare completed two parts of the Board Policy Manual involving faculty evaluations. The committee began discussion on distinguished professors and will continue discussions on the different titles of distinguished professors.

DISCUSSION:

- The distinguished professors discussion went in different directions.
 - Some institutions manage it at the college level (broader criteria), while others handle it at the university level (more selective).
- Questions to consider:
 - What is the goal?
 - What is the purpose of this designation?
 - What is appropriate here at UNC?
 - Should there be a university wide level? Should this be endowed?
 - Will there be a limit?
 - Who will select/approve the designations?
- There was some confusion about the president's approach
 - If this is used as a base builder and is highly selective, this won't solve financial constraints of the university.
- The primary goal should be recognizing and rewarding faculty achievement, not solving salary related issues.
- A challenge will be ensuring equitable evaluations across colleges.
- It is important that those not selected receive some feedback and understand how they can qualify in the future.
 - Doerner suggests a university-wide evaluation committee

Salary Equity (Senbet) – The Salary Equity Committee elected Dawit Senbet the new Chair and Joe Elkins the new Vice-Chair. The committee brainstormed agenda items for next year. They had an excellent conversation with Chevon today and it seems like she is on the same page with everything.

Standing Reports

Board of Trustees (Fischer) – No report. F&A meeting next week

President (Feinstein) – No report

Provost (Fleming) – There were 3 applicants for the interim Vice Provost for Academic Resources and Faculty Affairs position.

Dean's Representative (Doerner) – No report

Unfinished Business

New Business

- Discussion of letter in support of higher education (DeKrey)
 - DeKrey was contacted by some people in NHS about communicating to university communities
 - It involved a letter from AACU that President Feinstein has not signed
 - It was noted that some institutions have taken preemptive steps and signed the letter.
 - From DeKrey's perspective, the president is a representative of the university and would prefer input from university before taking stand.
 - While Andy was not present at the meeting, Britney indicated that Andy has reached out to the NHS faculty in an effort to support higher education and DEI initiatives.
 - He is actively trying to work with legislators to protect the role of higher education.
 - Signing the letter may not be the most effective way to create impact.
 - He has expressed concern about making himself a target by putting his name on the letter.
 - Landry asked, besides stating a stance what do these letters do?
 - Some impact is internal but mostly it is about stating a stance.
 - While a letter alone might not make such an impact, working together with other institutions can amplify voices and bring attention to issues.
 - It appears that the President Feinstein reaching some people, which is why they may not hear his stand on things.
 - Work is being done on improving communication about ongoing efforts, with the hope that Senators are relaying information back to their units.
 - It was suggested that being transparent about concerns can be helpful.
- Resolutions for a mutual defense coalition
 - These resolutions are currently being discussed, no Faculty Senate has signed on yet. Institutions involved include,
 - CSU
 - CU systems

- Western Colorado University
- Allocating funds for this resolution was mentioned
 - Although it would be nice to work together, there are some concerns about pooling funds into this in such a tough budget climate.
- Questions to consider:
 - How would we structure shared legal services?
 - Where is the funding coming from?
- Adams State may try to pursue some HSI approach
- It'll be valuable to be part of these discussions and something we may or may not want to endorse or pass.
- The small and weak are usually the most vulnerable but in this case the big and strong are being targeted.
- It's hoped that the president continues to have these conversations with other universities without Faculty Senate endorsing anything.
- Final FS newsletter (Kyle)
 - Kyle requested that committee chairs submit their report for the newsletter and BOT meeting.
 - The newsletter will include the newly elected senators and officers
 - There will be a statement from departing and incoming chair and a section about the compensation recommendations.

Comments to the Good of the Order

Thank you, Lee!

Thank you, Britney, for all of your hard work and service!

Adjournment 5:22pm