



Academic Affairs Committee

October 10, 2023

DRAFT Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Priddy (Chair); David Brown, Mae Douglas; George Hoyle; Linda Sloan

MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE: Tim Rice

OTHERS PRESENT: Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam Jr.; Dr. Debbie Storrs, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor; Bob Shea Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration; Dr. Terri Shelton, Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement; Dr. Bruce McClung, Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts; Dr. Kelly Wester, Professor of Counseling and Educational Development and Chair of the Portfolio Review Task Force; Dr. Mark Engebreston, Professor of Composition and Electronic Music; Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff; Kelly Harris, Assistant Secretary to the Board; and other members of the administration, faculty, staff, and general public.

PROCEEDINGS:

Chair Priddy called the meeting to order at 1:45pm and read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement. No conflicts or appearances of conflict were identified.

The roll call was read, and a quorum was confirmed.

Minutes of the August 15, 2023, Academic Affairs Committee meeting were unanimously approved with no additions or corrections.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

AAC – 1 Academic Affairs Update

Provost Storrs briefed the committee with an overview of the Campus-Safety Teach-in initiative. The goal of this collaboration with UNCG PD is to provide faculty and students with information and tools to prepare for campus emergencies. The first teach-in occurs this week, with a request for the faculty to read a script in class on what students should do in the event of a campus emergency during class.

Provost Storrs also gave updates on academic affairs policy revisions that are underway. These policy revisions are happening at every UNC system campus and are necessary to align with recent System Office policy changes. The Provost is working closely with faculty members to develop the revised policies, which include faculty workload, post tenure review, and teaching effectiveness policies.

Provost Storrs provided an update on the current reaffirmation process with UNCG's accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. This reaffirmation process occurs every 10 years and requires a new Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) focused on student well-being and academic success. As part of this reaffirmation process, UNCG recently submitted narratives and evidence on how forty different standards have been met. Feedback on this report is expected in November and will provide responses to these narratives. Information on the Quality Enhancement Plan should follow in February of 2024.

In March of 2024, a SACSCOC team will visit campus and meet with individuals of their choice, visit two off site locations, and learn more about our QEP. They will provide a verbal summary at the end of that visit, followed by a formal report on any concerns, along with recommendations for the QEP. The university will have approximately five months to address any issues that may be identified. Thereafter, this board will vote on UNCG's reaffirmation in the fall semester of 2024.

Provost Storrs provided an update on the Academic Portfolio Review, showcasing the webpage where data, rubrics, training videos, and other related materials are available to campus stakeholders. Regularly reviewing an institution's academic portfolio is best practice and will allow UNCG to reallocate resources to better support academic programs.

AAC – 2 Portfolio Review Process

Dr. Kelly Wester, Professor of Counseling and Educational Development and Chair of the Portfolio Review Task Force, provided an update on the review process.

Nineteen members of faculty and staff served on the Review Task Force, working from April through September of this year to develop the rubric that will guide the process. Input and feedback were sought from faculty and staff across campus to inform the development of the rubric. It was finalized using faculty and staff feedback and through collaboration with the Provost and Academic Council of Deans.

The final rubric evaluates each program on four separate quantitative categories, collected from data at the department and program levels, while also enabling programs to submit contextual data to help others understand their program more holistically. This has been a carefully considered, data-driven, and collaborative process that will continue in phases, with final decisions in February. No current student's ability to complete their degree in any given program will be impacted by any programming decision.

AAC – 3 New Program in Popular Music and Technology

Dean Bruce McClung updated the committee on CVPA's 5-year 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, known as The Path Forward. The first objective of the plan is to transform support, engagement, and education to increase student success.

As part of this objective, CVPA launched four new concentrations last year:

- Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art-Animation
- Bachelor of Music in Music Education-Jazz Education (first in the UNC System)
- B.Mus. in Performance-Popular Music and Technology (PopTech), and
- Master of Fine Arts in Drama-Musical Theatre Directing (first in the UNC System).

These four new concentrations ensure global relevance and innovative course offerings. They are also driving enrollment across CVPA: enrollment is up 4.82% this year, and CVPA is teaching 71 more students this fall than it did the previous fall.

Dr. Mark Engebretson, Professor of Composition and Electronic Music, closed with additional information on the new PopTech program, which is a response to a changing national landscape in music education. It's also doing its part to help spur enrollment growth in CVPA – the first cohort of 23 was welcomed last fall. As of this August, program enrollment has more than doubled to 57.

PopTech students are already achieving at a high level. Through the program, they compose and produce music, perform both vocally and instrumentally, are singer-songwriters across genres, develop music technology skills, and engage in all other forms of popular and commercial music making.

The Committee was treated to a montage clip of these students performing and had an opportunity to hear directly from Hylea Lisenby, a talented student in the program. Plans are well underway to grow the program across areas of interest and to ensure the excellence and success that are hallmarks of a UNCG education.

INFORMATION ITEMS

AAC – 4 Written Update on Research and Engagement (Shelton)

Vice Chancellor Terri Shelton also briefly discussed the research and creative highlights happening in her unit.

AAC – 5 Candidates Awarded Degrees and Certificates in August 2023 (Storrs)

The roster of candidates awarded degrees and certificates in August 2023 was included in the meeting materials as an informational item.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Harris
Assistant Secretary to the Board