



Academic Affairs Committee
February 20, 2024
DRAFT Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mae Douglas (Acting Chair); David Brown; Tim Rice; Linda Sloan; Awa Mbai

MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE: George Hoyle, Dean Priddy

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; Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff; Kelly Harris, Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees; and other members of the administration, faculty, staff, and general public.

PROCEEDINGS:

Acting Chair Douglas called the meeting to order at 1:45pm and read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement. No conflicts or appearances of conflict were identified. Roll call was read, and a quorum was confirmed.

Minutes of the October 10, 2023 Academic Affairs Committee meeting were approved with no additions or corrections.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

AAC – I Academic Affairs Update

Provost Storrs briefed the Committee on several matters, beginning with dean-level leadership changes. In the College of Arts and Sciences, Dean John Kiss will be leaving to serve as Provost at Florida Institute of Technology. Dr. Amy Adamson has been appointed Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences effective April 20th.

In the Bryan School of Business and Economics, Dean McRae Banks will retire this summer and Dr. Joy Bhadury has been appointed as Interim Dean effective July 1, 2024.

Given Dr. Sherine Obare's upcoming appointment as Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement, Dr. Mitch Croatt has been appointed Interim Dean of JSNN effective May 1, 2024.

The Provost is soliciting proposals from two search firms to conduct national searches for the College and Bryan School deans and is collaborating with the provost at NC A&T to identify a firm for the Joint School search.

Division of Student Success

There were several updates on efforts in the Division of Student Success, which continues to work on the Spartans Thrive QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan). As a part of this plan, a mentorship program has been created with 186 upper division mentors having been matched with first year student mentees based on self-identified characteristics. Six hundred thirty-six (636) first time in college (FTIC) and new transfer student mentorships have been formed. The Math Help Center is being transferred to the Division of Student Success to provide greater campus-wide support for students who need computational and statistical academic tutoring.

Given UNCG's status as an emerging HSI (Hispanic Serving Institution), the Division of Student Success has several initiatives around serving Hispanic students, including full Spanish interpretation for all "Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration" (SOAR) sessions beginning in June. This is aligned with the Chancellor's investment in bilingual staff in advising, financial aid, and admissions. There will also be more targeted communications to newly admitted students who have indicated a preference for Spanish, and three virtual bilingual advising sessions will happen in May.

Student Success also conducted an advising survey to identify undergraduate student opinions on the strengths, weaknesses, and challenges of UNCG academic advising. The survey received 880 responses that indicated academic advising plays a significant role in students' UNCG experience and that they are largely satisfied with its quality.

Academic Portfolio Review

Led by Dr. Andrew Hamilton, a teach-out working group has been formed and includes a representative from each school or college, the Graduate School, and the Division of Student Success. The group is developing a sunset date for each program and will have teach out plans for all students by April 1.

Faculty Realignment Incentive Program (FRIP)

UNCG has received an allocation of \$3.8M to support a voluntary faculty realignment incentive program for up to 30 eligible tenured faculty members. The Provost discussed the eligibility requirements and the implementation process, which included dean recommendations and a cost savings analysis. Twenty-three faculty have indicated interest in accepting the offer to participate, and another seven offers are outstanding. If all 30 accept, the result will be long

term recurring salary savings of \$2,006,550 plus associated benefits. Faculty have the right to withdraw at any time prior to finalization of agreements, which will occur in April.

INFORMATION ITEMS

AAC – 2 Written Update on Research and Engagement (Shelton)

Vice Chancellor Terri Shelton briefly discussed the research and creative highlights happening in her unit. We are over \$7 million and 20% higher in awards and submissions than in FY22, which puts us on pace for an outstanding year. Expenditures, which are another metric of the strength of external funding, are trending 13% above last year, reflecting the banner year of awards in FY23.

AAC – 3 Candidates Awarded Degrees and Certificates in December 2023 (Storrs)

The roster of candidates awarded degrees and certificates in December 2023 was included with the meeting materials as an informational item. There were no questions or comments about the roster.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Harris
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees