

College Assembly

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

1:00-2:30/ Alexander Room, EUC

Meeting convened by Dr. Lisa Tolbert, College Executive Committee Chair, with a minute of silence in honor of Dr. Kimberlianne Podlas.

1. CAS-APR Phase 2 update, Dr. Scott Romine, Chair CAS Budget & Planning Committee
The committee has submitted its report to the Dean. For programs being considered for elimination (i.e., programs receiving an overall rubric score of “approaching expectations”), the committee carefully reviewed the available information, including context statements provided by programs, and found no compelling evidence to support recommendations for specific program discontinuation. The Dean distributed the full report to the College faculty on December 4.
2. Updates from CAS Faculty Senators, *Dr. Etsuko Kinefuchi*, CAS Faculty Senator and College Executive Committee Chair-Elect
 - a. At the November 1 meeting, the Faculty Senate approved a resolution asking for senate observers at the Deans Council meeting discussing program eliminations. The vote was 24-3. In his November 20 response, the Chancellor denied the request for observers.
 - b. At their meeting on November 18 the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee approved the following resolution by a vote of 8-2: “The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC) is the agency of the Senate responsible for reviewing the undergraduate curriculum and making policy recommendations to the Senate on curricular matters. The UCC holds that our charge in the Constitution of the General Faculty indicates that the Provost should have consulted with the committee at the preliminary stages of the Academic Portfolio Review process. As a Senate committee, we are concerned with our total lack of input into the process to date, and the implications this has for shared governance.” According to the APR timeline updated in November 20, the Provost will meet with the UCC on January 26, four business days before February 1 when the implementation of program discontinuation begins.
 - c. A group of 19 faculty senators has sent a letter to Faculty Senate Chair, Tami Draves and the Senate Leadership Team with the following requests:

1. That the UCC Chair presents to the Senate the committee's review of proposed APR curricular changes. This request is in line with the Senate's practice of having committees review relevant issues and share their deliberations with the Senate.

2. That the Faculty Senate has more than one meeting after the recommendations for program discontinuations are shared publicly on January 15. The extra meeting(s) will give the Senate adequate time to discuss, review, and decide whether to approve the proposed discontinuation of departments and the elimination of degree programs.

3. That Faculty Senate has the opportunity to vote on these matters to determine whether it approves of the proposed changes, as per the Constitution. To expedite this process, the Senate Executive Committee might consider appointing a substantial and broadly representative Ad Hoc Committee on the APR that reviews proposed changes and advises the Senate, which then decides upon its approval.

3. APR Resolution, College Executive Committee, *Dr. Lisa Tolbert, Chair* (attached)
a. The following amendments were proposed from the floor:

Add the following Whereas: **Whereas** the Administration and the Faculty of the University are together committed to a system of shared governance, regulations and constitutional requirements codified in UNCG governance documents, including the *Promotion, Tenure, Academic Freedom and Due Process Regulations* and the *Constitution of the Faculty*;

Replace the second "be it resolved" in the draft resolution with the following more specific wording: **Be it further resolved that** the Faculty Senate, Graduate Council and Administration fulfill their obligations to act in compliance with all standing regulations, rules and constitutional requirements relevant to department and/or program modification or discontinuations, in accord with our principles of shared governance, including those codified in *the Promotion, Tenure, Academic Freedom and Due Process Regulations* and the *Constitution of the Faculty*.

A friendly amendment to add the phrase "adequate rationale" to the first "be it resolved."

These amendments passed by a show of hands of the majority in attendance.

- b. The final resolution passed by a secret ballot. The vote was 138 in favor of the resolution, 5 opposed, and 1 abstention.

4. The meeting adjourned at 2:30.

Attachment

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
College of Arts & Sciences Assembly
Resolution Regarding the Academic Portfolio Review
College Executive Committee

Preamble: The College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) is the largest and most diverse unit of the University. CAS is the foremost enrollment driver for the institution. Our faculty teach 50% of all credit hours and we provide the majority of the University’s general education courses. We are dedicated to the core mission of UNCG for offering an affordable and rigorous liberal arts education to students from diverse backgrounds. The potential for deep cuts to academic programs based on the Academic Portfolio Review (APR) puts this core mission at risk. The UNCG Strategic Plan was approved in Fall 2016, and the University currently faces a very different context compared to the one in which that plan was created. The APR process has not focused on the revision of strategic institutional goals through regular processes of shared governance.

Instead, the APR has centered on the creation of a [Program Review Rubric](#) developed in consultation with the consulting firm rpk GROUP. The populated rubric was first posted on October 6 and updated several times to correct errors in the data that produced significant changes in program ratings. The final scored rubric was published on October 23, 2023. The deadline for 1000-word program statements contextualizing the rubric data was November 1. The six voting members of the CAS Budget & Planning Committee then had only 21 working days from November 2 to December 5 to review data for diverse undergraduate and graduate programs and develop recommendations regarding program discontinuation and reinvestment. This process deviates significantly from our guidelines for substantive program review.

According to the [SACSCOC standard](#) 10.4.c, “[The institution] places primary responsibility for the content, quality, and effectiveness of the curriculum with its faculty.”

(11) That is an important reason why normal program reviews originate with faculty in departments and programs and take place over an extended time period to enable the substantive analysis of program strengths and needs. UNCG's [Guidelines on the Creation & Dissolution of Academic Departments](#) state that "normally, proposals for [the creation and dissolution of departments] are initiated by the faculty of a College or a School and are forwarded to the Chancellor through regular academic channels." These guidelines also describe the normal procedures for program review beginning with the preparation of a self-study, followed by an external review by experts in relevant disciplines. Program reviews typically occur over at least two semesters in an academic year to enable substantive review of program quality.

The APR may result in the proposed elimination of departments and programs and the termination of tenured and tenure track faculty. According to UNCG's [Promotion, Tenure, Academic Freedom, and Due Process Regulations](#): "[W]hen the institution is considering a major curtailment in or elimination of a teaching, research, or public-service program, the Chancellor shall first seek the advice and recommendations of academic administrative offices and faculties of the departments, academic programs, or academic units that might be affected, and the Faculty Senate." (21) The current [APR timeline](#) shows that program closures will be announced on January 15, 2024 and implementation of program closures will begin two weeks later on February 1. This does not allow adequate time for appropriate consultation with faculties of affected departments, programs, units, and Faculty Senate before the implementation of program discontinuations. The administration has confirmed in multiple faculty forums that the University is not currently experiencing a financial crisis. Thus, there is not an urgent need to finalize program elimination decisions by January.

Whereas the APR timeline and procedures have not allowed substantive faculty evaluation of program quality for the purposes of making informed recommendations regarding program closures that have the potential to significantly impact the mission of the College of Arts & Sciences and the University;

Whereas the APR timeline is not in compliance with UNCG's Promotion, Tenure, Academic Freedom, and Due Process Regulations regarding consultation with faculty of departments, programs, units, and Faculty Senate when programs are proposed for elimination;

Whereas the Administration and the Faculty of the University are together committed to a system of shared governance, regulations and constitutional requirements codified in UNCG governance documents, including the *Promotion, Tenure, Academic Freedom and Due Process Regulations* and the *Constitution of the Faculty*;

Therefore be it resolved that the APR process does not provide sufficient information, adequate rationale, or due process for determining permanent closure of academic programs and departments. The CAS faculty hereby request an extension in the APR timeline to enable the substantive faculty review and consultation specified in UNCG's shared governance policies before final decisions are made regarding the discontinuation of academic programs.

Be it further resolved that the Faculty Senate, Graduate Council and Administration fulfill their obligations to act in compliance with all standing regulations, rules and constitutional requirements relevant to department and/or program modification or discontinuations, in accord with our principles of shared governance, including those codified in *the Promotion, Tenure, Academic Freedom and Due Process Regulations* and the *Constitution of the Faculty*.

Approved by CAS Assembly, December 5, 2023