

Faculty Council Meeting Summary, April 2, 2025

Action Items for School Reps

- [] Encourage their faculty to attend the information sessions on the faculty rank promotion process.
- [] Encourage their faculty to participate in Days of Giving.
- [] Solicit feedback on needs and concerns of adjunct faculty for discussion in the next two Faculty Council meetings and into next year.
- [] Share the faculty generative AI task force recommendations with your respective faculties (attached at end of summary).
- [] Take surveys to be sent to Faculty Council Reps in the coming week on course enrollment minimums and specific items from the employee engagement survey.
- [] Be prepared to pass on information regarding the afternoon of April 7 as soon as it becomes available.

Outline

Meeting Call to Order and Housekeeping Items

- Jeffrey George calls the meeting to order and addresses housekeeping items, including approving the minutes from the March 19 meeting.
- The motion to approve the minutes is made by Zak Stevenson and seconded by Rosemary Millar. There is no discussion, and the motion is approved without opposition.
- Jeffrey provides an update on faculty elections, including the timeline for electing new representatives:
 - Our practice is to have new reps seated for the final Faculty Council meeting of the year (May 9), so that they can elect the officers that will serve them in the upcoming school year.
 - To do so, we must have new Standing Committee members seated by April 23rd, so that they can elect their chairs (who are ex-officio members of Faculty Council).

- Thus, school elections should be completed by April 16 and reported to Jeff George, who will communicate with new reps. This ideal timeline may not work for every school, and some variations are fine; likewise for each Standing Committee's process for determining officers for next year.

Standing Committee Reports:

- Joe Lopina (EPC) reports that 100% of the curriculum change forms have been approved and signed, and the work is moving to the registrar's office. EPC is now focusing on paperwork for reaccreditation.
- Rosemary Millar (Faculty Development) reports that there were 24 original applications for grants, with 1 subsequently withdrawn. While this large number shows interest and engagement from faculty, it is far beyond the committee's ability to fund. Thus, 10 applications were advanced to the Provost for final approval.
 - FDC hosted Dr. B Afeni McNeely Cobham to advise them on the need to change the language for certain projects to be compliant with current system and state regulations.
- Steven Lacosse discusses the faculty rank process, including meetings and the need for new faculty hires to be ranked in the summer.
- Anson Koch-Rein provides an update on the work of Faculty Welfare, including Q&A sessions with Angela Mahoney and the Provost about a wide range of topics, including the importance of accessibility of information on the website for search committee members and chairs.

Faculty Search Task Force Report

- Jeffrey George updates on the faculty search guidebook process, including a meeting with Angela Mahoney and Kim Bradfield on April 8 to plan the final stage of reconciling and advancing unified recommendations with the Deans' task force.
 - There was significant momentum on the faculty task force to also develop a manual detailing the various steps and associated tasks involved in any faculty search. This is a separate project with the goal of creating a shared pool of resources that schools can draw on to improve their processes and lessen the workload on search committee members and chairs. That project will begin over the summer and extend into the fall.

Provost Sims' Report

- Patrick Sims reports on the hiring of David Sigmon as the Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, giving a brief summary of what that position will entail.
 - Patrick spotlights the work of Patrice West (Asst. Dir. Of Operations & Data in Admission) in upgrading our Slate software and helping us unlock its full potential.
 - Patrick also recognizes Sharon Hush (Registrar) for her additional work this semester leading the Admissions team.
- Patrick mentions the hiring of Lillian Ortiz as the new executive assistant and the transition in the Provost Office.
 - Jeffrey George thanks Katherine McMillan and Karen Beres for their work in the interim before Lillian Ortiz joined as the new executive assistant.
- Patrick encourages everyone to watch the video presentation by Kent Consulting on scheduling models. None of the models are comprehensive and we will not be voting on them – rather, each contains elements that may be useful in a final model of our own determination.
 - Each school will meet to discuss these models from their own point of view on the morning of 4/7.
 - There will be further discussion in the early afternoon of 4/7 – no further details were given.
- We are in the final stages of identifying new scheduling software that can help us deal with the complexities of both academic and “event” (production) scheduling. This has the potential to greatly reduce conflicts between the scheduling needs of different schools, including space utilization.

Report and Recommendations from the Gen AI Faculty Task Force

- Christopher Bruhn and Andrew Britt present the recommendations of the Chancellor's Task Force on Generative AI, including a vision statement, policies, and training for faculty (attached below).
- The task force recommends continuing their work as a Chancellor's Task Force on Generative AI and seeking representation from all art schools.
- Frazier Smith moves to endorse the recommendations of the Chancellor's Task Force on Generative AI, which is seconded by Cliff Odle. There is no discussion, and the motion is approved without opposition.

- The recommendations will go to the Data Governance Committee next (this is an administrative ad hoc committee not affiliated with Faculty Council). Chancellor Cole will also present them to the Executive Leadership Team.

Chancellor's Report: Stevens Center Updates and Comprehensive Campaign Planning

- Brian Cole provides an update on the Steven Center, including the purchase of the building next door to address the loading dock issue.
 - Brian explains the importance of the loading dock for production capacity and the financial plan for the purchase and construction.
- Brian discusses the comprehensive campaign planning, including transformative ideas for the institution and specific initiatives like eliminating student debt and creating a creative incubator for new works.
 - Brian mentions the ongoing work with deans and faculty to generate white papers for these initiatives and the importance of donor engagement.

Faculty Council Endorsements and Administrative Updates

- Jeffrey mentions upcoming agenda items for the next two meetings:
 - Needs and concerns of adjunct faculty (there will be a campus-wide email soliciting this information in the coming week)
 - Faculty feedback on the course enrollment minimums policy (there will be a survey for Faculty Council reps to focus the discussion)
 - Specific items from the employee engagement survey (there will be a survey for Faculty Council reps to focus the discussion)
- Jeffrey thanks the administration for their support in hiring high school support staff and mentions the hiring of Rashaad Nelson as HS Wellness Coordinator and Millie Volpito as the HS Activities Coordinator.
- Jeffrey reminds the Council that there will be more about the Faculty Endowed Scholarship before the end of the year, and adjourns the meeting

Report of the Generative AI Task Force

2 April 2025

The Generative AI Task Force was formed by Chair of the Faculty, Jeff George, in the fall of 2024, with the charge of determining faculty needs for training and support in light of the rapid evolution of Generative AI (GenAI) and its use in education and the creative arts industries. The membership of the Task Force was Yoon Bae (D&P), Andrew Britt (DLA, co-chair), Christopher Bruhn (Library, co-chair), Chris Dorr (Filmmaking), Bob Gosse (Filmmaking), Sarah Greer (HSAP), and Michael Winger (Music). Amit Bhattacharya and Eric Eason (both from Filmmaking), who represent UNCSA on the Artificial Intelligence Policy Task Force reporting to Faculty Assembly, and Chancellor Brian Cole also participated in several of our meetings. The Task Force met five times during the 2024-25 academic year.

The Task Force believes that UNCSA is well equipped to forge thought leadership about the possibilities, limitations, and implications of emerging GenAI technologies and the arts. We believe UNCSA should embrace this position, including by privileging this topic in comprehensive and strategic planning, programming, and in collaborative projects that span disciplines, academia, and industry.

In light of the above:

- We recommend the drafting of a UNCSA GenAI **vision statement** that articulates the university's investment in and commitment to producing knowledge about GenAI and the arts. We encourage the publication of this statement, along with other AI-related activities on campus (such as institutional policies, course offerings, student and faculty projects, and industry partnerships) on **a new section of the UNCSA website**. These activities will communicate UNCSA's proactive approach to this set of emerging technologies and serve recruitment activities. Prospective students are increasingly seeking institutions that will prepare them for navigating the evolving creative landscape, including the knowledge of how, when, and when *not* to employ emerging technologies like GenAI. Elevating our forward-thinking vision will bolster UNCSA's reputation as a cutting-edge arts conservatory among prospective students as well as other stakeholders.
- We recommend the drafting of **institutional policies** that outline guidelines and expectations for uses of GenAI. We envision two policies: one focused on pedagogical and creative arts issues, and another on information technology, cybersecurity, and appropriate use of institutional resources. These policies should recognize and attend to the sometimes-distinct implications of GenAI for different stakeholder groups on campus, including faculty, staff, and students. We recommend that any faculty-focused institutional policy should grant individual faculty members maximal academic freedom while also providing general guidance, opportunities for training, funding for licenses, and ongoing

support. UNCSCA's Academic Integrity Policy should also be carefully reviewed to ensure it reflects the impact of GenAI on student work.

- We recommend that baseline **GenAI literacy training** be offered to all faculty members. In order to be competitive upon graduation, students should develop familiarity with and relevant competencies in best practices in the practical and ethical use of GenAI tools. Faculty training in best practices for the practical and ethical use of these tools is necessary to support such learning outcomes. Faculty training might include topics like the basics of prompt engineering; ethical implications of AI, including those impacting intellectual property; and an understanding of institutional policies. We recommend investigating options for asynchronous GenAI literacy courses, assuring that the content of such courses be relevant to the needs of our faculty, in order to maximize ease of access to such training.
- We recommend the licensing of a **broad-use LLM** for use across campus, as well as **discipline-specific platforms**, to be determined by the recommendations of deans and faculty.
- We recommend that UNCSCA plan and host an **Arts & AI summit** at UNCSCA in Fall 2026, which would bring together representatives from academia and industry and help to cement the institution as a thought leader in this evolving landscape.
- We recommend the drafting of a **white paper** to elaborate on a vision for the arts and GenAI at UNCSCA, including a proposed strategic initiative, resources, and budget/scope. This document would enable us to demonstrate UNCSCA's intended leadership in GenAI and the arts among arts training institutions and to approach previously untapped organizations and individuals for support.
- We recommend that this group continue its work moving forward as a **Chancellor's Task Force on Generative AI**, with the goal of implementing the recommendations outlined in this report. The Chancellor will seek representation from all arts schools, in

addition to the current composition of the group, to support continued faculty leadership in shaping the vision for GenAI at UNCSCA.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Britt

Christopher Bruhn