Cairns resumes duties as Chair of the Faculty

As anticipated by the resolution passed at the September 30 Faculty Executive Committee meeting, Prof. Bruce Cairns resumed his duties as Chair of the Faculty as of December 1st. We in the Office of Faculty Governance are grateful to Prof. Peter Mucha, chair of the Advisory Committee, for stepping into the breach and serving as Acting Chair of the Faculty for …

Read more.

Faculty Council meets Friday, December 11
The Faculty Council will meet Friday, December 11, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in 1001 Kerr Hall (Eshelman School of Pharmacy). Prof. Bruce Cairns will return to the podium this month to chair the meeting. He resumed his duties as Chair of the Faculty as of December 1st. The agenda this month includes a presentation on a new initiative for student success …

Read more.

Faculty invited to attend December Commencement

Carolina's mid-year commencement ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at the Dean E. Smith Center. Faculty members are invited to join the processional, either with or without regalia. Participating faculty will assemble at 1:30 p.m. in the Press Room of the Smith Center. Use Entry D and take the elevator down to the court level. Faculty …

Read more.

Faculty Council defeats final Athletics Reform Group resolution at November meeting

As the November meeting, Faculty Council took up the fourth of four resolutions put before it by the ad hoc Athletics Reform Group last February. This month's resolution (Resolution 2015-3) proposed that the university eliminate the admission of all so-called "Tier 1" applicants (defined as athletics recruits who were expected to have a GPA of below 2.3). After hearing that the faculty Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Admissions advised rejection of the resolution on a number of bases (including a commitment to wholistic applicant review), Faculty Council defeated the resolution.

In other action, Council passed a resolution reaffirming the faculty's commitment to academic freedom, responsibly exercised.

Full details on the November meeting may be read in the minutes and tweet-by-tweet Storify, both located here.

UNC now member of the National Center for Faculty
Development & Diversity

UNC Research, the College of Arts & Sciences, and Diversity and Multicultural Affairs have partnered to establish Carolina as a member of the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity or NCFDD. This membership is a significant accomplishment for Carolina and symbolizes the university’s commitment to Inclusive Excellence. As a member of the NCFDD, Carolina’s diverse cadre of graduate students, postdocs, faculty, and other academic professionals will have access to resources and support in the form of webinars, forums, mentoring, and other materials that assist with navigating academia. Read more.


UNC recently released its sixth annual report that describes Carolina's state of diversity, evaluates academic performance, highlights successful strategies and recommendations for enhancing UNC’s capacity for promoting diversity and inclusion. Read more.

UNC signs the American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge

UNC specifically pledged to build on existing investments in public transportation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Read more.

State Health Plan and the State Employees Credit Union sponsor Financial Wellness webinar

Topics covered will include: budgeting, assessing your personal finances, tips for keeping holiday debt to a minimum, saving for future holidays and celebrations, and family financial planning. Click here to register.

Order of the Golden Fleece call for nominations

The Order of the Golden Fleece is now accepting nominations through 5:00 p.m. on January 15. Founded in 1904, The Order of the Golden Fleece is the University's oldest and highest honorary society. Members are selected based upon service to the University as reflected in scholarship, motivation, creativity, loyalty, and leadership in academic and extracurricular pursuits. Those eligible for selection must possess exemplary character and can include juniors, seniors, graduate students, staff, faculty, and alumni who have made significant, lasting contributions to the University.

Nomination forms are located at this link http://goo.gl/forms/mby6F0Czta. To submit a nomination, please fill out the form in its entirety and send an email to the Jason of the Active Order (ogf1904@gmail.com) with the name of the nominee and nominator. Feel free to direct any
Campus Rec to offer swim lessons

UNC Campus Recreation’s Aquatics program is offering swim lessons and lifeguarding throughout the spring at affordable rates. Registration is open to UNC students, faculty and staff and to non-UNC affiliated community members.

Swim lessons are offered for parent/child pairings and for preschool, youth, and adult levels and will take place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Private swim lessons and American Red Cross Lifeguarding courses are also available at varying times. Prices differ based on the swim level and lesson duration, and Campus Recreation members receive discounted pricing. Participants who are not recreation members will receive day passes to utilize the pools outside of swim lessons on days they have scheduled lessons.

For more information on swim levels, schedules, and registration, please visit http://campusrec.unc.edu/classes-and-programs.

Ethics Bowl looking for volunteer judges

The NC High School Ethics Bowl brings together high school students from across three states for a day of intensive discussion about pressing ethical issues. Participating in this event develops students’ intellectual abilities, deepens their ethical understanding, and reinforces their sense of ethical commitment.

To make the NC HSEB a successful learning experience, the organizers rely on our community members to serve as judges, moderators, and general volunteers. By serving as a judge, you play a crucial role in helping students understand how to reason ethically and engage productively with diverse points of view. The competition will begin with breakfast and judge training at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 23, 2016, starting with Round 1 at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 6:00 p.m.

The organizers seek volunteers to judge (or generally help) either for the whole day, half day, or single round. If you would like to participate, please send a confirmation email to Jeff Sebo, jeffsebo@email.unc.edu.

Tickets available for faculty/staff appreciation game on December 16

The Carolina Men’s Basketball Faculty/Staff Appreciation Game vs. Tulane will take place on Wednesday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are $10. There will be a pre-game reception meet and greet in the Bowles Room at the Dean E. Smith Center from 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Faculty and staff must show their UNC OneCard and their ticket. Faculty and staff will receive additional information via email regarding details for the reception. Beverages and light snacks will be served.
Click here or visit goheels.com/tickets to purchase tickets. Click on “promotions” and enter the code – MB16-EMPLOYEE

Call for Proposals: Data Studies Course Development Grants for Undergraduate Arts and Humanities Courses

The Carolina Digital Humanities Initiative (CDHI) is soliciting proposals for course development grants to support the integration of data studies into arts and humanities teaching at the undergraduate level. These grants seek to promote the integration of data-related methodologies into teaching and the exploration of these intellectual concerns in undergraduate arts and humanities courses.

Awards will consist of a $5,000 summer stipend. Note that stipends are subject to reductions related to university benefits, taxes, etc. Applicants may request up to an additional $1,000 for professional development pertaining to creating the course. Applicants should include a budget detailing how any requested professional development funds will be used (e.g., for specific workshops or training).

All tenure track and fixed term faculty at the University who regularly teach undergraduate level courses may apply. Submit a current CV and proposal of no more than two pages to Malina Chavez (malina@unc.edu) with a copy sent to (iamdan@unc.edu) no later than 11:59 PM on January 15th. For questions related to the proposal process, contact Daniel Anderson (iamdan@unc.edu).

THATCamp: Eco-Critical DH to take place February 27

UNC Library’s Research Hub and the Duke Humanities Initiative will be co-sponsoring an upcoming THATCamp. Inspired by growing interest in building a critically engaged DH, the theme of the event will be Eco-Critical Digital Humanities. The purpose of this event is to explore ways for DH to address environmental concerns and also be more conscious of its own ecological impact. Visit http://ecocriticaldh2016.thatcamp.org/ for more information.

Faculty Governance calendar

Below is a list of upcoming faculty governance meetings. All are open to the faculty and the public unless noted below. Meeting schedules and locations are subject to change on short notice. See the full schedule here.

• December 11: Faculty Council
• December 14: Chancellor's Advisory Committee
• December 15: Copyright Committee
• December 17: Faculty Information Technology Advisory Committee
• December 21: CANCELLED: Faculty Executive Committee
• January 4: Faculty Executive Committee
• January 6: Agenda Committee
• January 7: Faculty Information Technology Advisory Committee
• January 8: Fixed-Term Faculty Committee

We have migrated our "What we're reading" feature to our Facebook page and Twitter account so we can post things as we find them. To get those timely links to interesting articles, reports, and news, please "like" our page and/or follow us on Twitter @UNCFacGov.