

**Faculty Executive Committee**  
**(Elected by the Faculty at Large)**  
**Annual Report to the Faculty Council for Calendar Year 2015**  
**Submitted by Chair Bruce A. Cairns**  
**March 11, 2016**

*Elected Members, 2015-16 Committee*

- Mimi Chapman (Social Work, 2018)
- Wendy Cox (Pharmacy, 2018)
- Louise Dolan (Physics and Astronomy, 2016)
- Michael Gerhardt (Law, 2016)
- Susan Irons (English and Comparative Literature, 2016)
- Benny Joyner (Pediatrics, 2018)
- Leslie Parise (Biochemistry, 2017)
- Rosa Perelmuter (Romance Studies, 2018)
- Adam Persky (Pharmacy, 2017)
- Valerie Pruvost (Romance Studies, 2017)
- Vin Steponaitis (Anthropology, 2016)
- Erianne Weight (Exercise and Sports Science, 2017)

*Elected Members, 2014-15 Committee*

- Mimi Chapman (Social Work, 2015)
- Louise Dolan (Physics and Astronomy, 2016)
- Michael Gerhardt (Law, 2016)
- Kevin Guskiewicz (Exercise and Sport Science, 2015)
- Susan Irons (English and Comparative Literature, 2016)
- Suchi Mohanty (University Libraries, 2015)
- Leslie Parise (Biochemistry, 2017)
- Adam Persky (Pharmacy, 2017)
- Valerie Pruvost (Romance Studies, 2017)
- Shilda Rodgers (Nursing, 2015)
- Vin Steponaitis (Anthropology, 2016)
- Erianne Weight (Exercise and Sports Science, 2017)

*Ex Officio Members:*

- Bruce Cairns (Chair of the Faculty, 2014-17), Committee Chair
- Joseph Ferrell (Secretary of the Faculty)

*Charge:*

The FEC is charged in Section 2-10 of the *Faculty Code of University Government* to: (1) exercise the consultative powers delegated to the Faculty Council; (2) exercise the legislative powers of the Council when prompt action is required; (3) serve as an advisory committee to the Chair of the Faculty; (4) represent the Faculty Council and General Faculty in advising the University administration with respect to issues that the Committee deems important to the University's mission; (5) work with various officers and groups within the University toward the realization

of goals set in actions of the Council; (6) report to the Council on the status of implementation of resolutions of the Council; and (7) serve as members of the Faculty Council.

### *Meetings:*

Chaired this year by faculty chair Bruce Cairns and (during October and November 2015, during Prof. Cairns's recovery from cardiac arrest) by FEC vice chair Prof. Michael Gerhardt, the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) met once or twice monthly for a total of **23 regular meetings** (including one held jointly with the Chancellor's Advisory Committee) during calendar 2015. While Provost Jim Dean met regularly with FEC (approximately every other meeting), other administrators, faculty members, and chairs of various faculty committees (especially Chancellor's Advisory Committee Chair Peter Mucha) joined the FEC as appropriate. Dr. Anne Whisnant, the Deputy Secretary of the Faculty, regularly staffed the meetings, as she has since July 2006.

### *Activities This Past Year:*

The Faculty Executive Committee continued this year to:

- serve as a forum for soliciting diverse faculty viewpoints and input on pressing university-wide issues, proposed policy changes, initiatives, and projects;
- serve as an advisory body to the Chair of the Faculty, Provost, and Chancellor; and
- act in place of Faculty Council on issues where timely action is needed.

In addition, as it has in the recent past, FEC continued to provide significant contributions to planning for the summer Faculty Council retreat and all Faculty Council meetings (often through conducting preliminary discussions of forthcoming reports or resolutions and helping committee chairs and other presenters to shape them for the Council). This year, in that regard, the FEC focused at multiple meetings on the emerging committee responses to four resolutions presented to the Council at the February 27, 2015 meeting by Professor Jay Smith on behalf of the ad hoc "Athletics Reform Group" and referred for refinement to specific committees:

- Resolution 2015-3. On Admission Standards for Athletic Recruits (referred to the Undergraduate Admissions Advisory Committee)
- Resolution 2015-4. On Fully Integrating All Academic Support Services (referred to the Student Athlete Academic Initiative Working Group)
- Resolution 2015-5. On Composition of the Faculty Athletics Committee (referred to the Committee on University Government)
- Resolution 2015-6. On a Task Force to Examine the Implications of Impending Changes in College Sports (referred to the Faculty Executive Committee)

Significant time through the late spring and summer was devoted to developing the FEC response to Resolution 2015-6, a process coordinated by Profs. Vin Steponaitis and Erianne Weight. FEC considered past models for formulating informed campus response to particular issues, such as the "Nike Course" developed in 1998 to engage students and faculty in examining the matter of work conditions in companies making university apparel. Ultimately, FEC developed a substitute Resolution 2015-6, retitled "On a Campus Discussion Regarding the

Academic Implications of the Changes Coming to College Sport,” which passed the Council on September 25, 2015.

FEC also assisted the other committees to whom the resolutions above were forwarded in crafting their final recommendations for Faculty Council. The other three resolutions were defeated at the September, October, and November 2015 Council meetings.

FEC (especially members Ferrell, Gerhardt and Steponaitis) provided leadership for Faculty Governance in the fall of 2015 after Prof. Cairns suffered a sudden cardiac arrest on September 18<sup>th</sup>. At its September 28, 2015 meeting, FEC (in consultation with members of the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee) developed and approved the following resolution regarding continuity during this period: *In light of Faculty Chair Bruce Cairns’s illness and until the end of November 2015 or Prof. Cairns’s return, whichever comes first, the chair of the Advisory Committee, Prof. Peter Mucha, will serve as Acting Chair of the Faculty; the vice chair of the Faculty Executive Committee, Prof. Michael Gerhardt, will chair meetings of the Faculty Executive Committee; and the Secretary of the Faculty, Prof. Joe Ferrell, will chair the Faculty Council Agenda Committee.*

Other issues to which FEC devoted substantial attention this year included:

- Activities of the UNC system Board of Governors (including the centers and institutes review, firing of President Tom Ross, and hiring of President Margaret Spellings).
- Ideas for development of several more family-friendly policies, including the expansion of availability of lactation rooms.
- Conversations about race, place, campus history and the campus climate for people of color.
- Fixed-term faculty issues, including the need for longer contracts.
- Bureaucratic obstacles that restrict efficiency and hinder interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Provost’s Office Carolina Metrics Project, binge drinking task force, Student Athlete Working Group website, dean searches.
- The SACS probation response and future reaffirmation process/Quality Enhancement Plan.
- Problems with the PeopleSoft rollout and issues with backlogs in the Office of Sponsored Research.
- How to increase faculty participation in Commencement and University Day.
- Title IX and the responsibilities of faculty.
- Guns on campus.
- Student Stores privatization proposal.
- Attacks on the “Literature of 9/11” course.
- Thrive@Carolina project.
- Progress of the Ethics and Integrity Working Group.
- Open Access Task Force final report and recommendations.
- Response to concerns of the faculty in the Sexuality Studies program regarding the presidency of Margaret Spellings.

The FEC helped to develop or sponsored four resolutions for the General Faculty and Faculty Council this year, including:

- Resolution 2015-6. On a Campus Discussion Regarding the Academic Implications of the Changes Coming to College Sports (passed by Faculty Council 9/25/2015)
- Resolution 2015-7. On Oversight Authority of Centers and Institutes (passed by the Faculty Executive Committee on 2/23/2015)
- Resolution 2015-8. On Endorsing a Faculty Assembly Resolution on Transition in Leadership and Direction of The University of North Carolina (passed by Faculty Council on 2/27/2015)
- Resolution 2015-15. Statement on Thrive@Carolina (passed by Faculty Council 12/11/2015)