

Faculty Assembly Delegation

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Report to the UNC-CH Faculty Council

January 29, 2010

The Faculty Assembly is the elected body of representatives of the faculty of the seventeen campuses of the University of North Carolina. The Faculty Assembly was formed in 1972 when all of the public senior institutions were placed under one Board of Governors. According to its Charter, the Faculty Assembly has the following objectives:

1. The Faculty Assembly of the University of North Carolina shall gather and exchange information on behalf of the faculties of the constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina.
2. The Assembly shall, through appropriate channels, advise the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, the General Assembly, and other governmental agencies and officers on matters of university-wide importance.
3. The Assembly shall advise and communicate with the President of the University of North Carolina with regard to the interests of the faculties and other matters of university-wide importance.

The Assembly website is located at <http://uncfacultyassembly.northcarolina.edu>. UNC's own Judith Wegner (Law) is in her second year as Chair of the Faculty Assembly. UNC-Chapel Hill has five delegates elected from the faculty to represent this campus as part of the Assembly with terms as follows:

- Richard (Pete) Andrews (Public Policy, 2010)
- Carol Brown (Law, 2012)
- Alan Cross (Social Medicine, serving in place of Lloyd Kramer for 2009-10 only)
- McKay Coble (Dramatic Art, ex officio, 2012)
- Bobbi Owen (Dramatic Art, 2012)

Delegate Lloyd Kramer (History, 2011) is on leave for the 2009-10 year. Clayton Koelb (Germanic Languages) and George Sheldon (Surgery) serve as alternates.

The Faculty Assembly meets four or five times per academic year at UNC General Administration. This fall meetings were held on October 2 and November 20, 2009. Spring meetings are currently scheduled for January 29, 2010 (canceled due to snow) and TBA.

The October 2 meeting opened with a presentation by UNC System President Erskine Bowles who applauded the work of UNC faculty in the face of budget difficulties. Vice President for Finance Rob Nelson and Vice President and General Counsel Laura Luger continued the discussion of budget in terms of legal issues. Hate Crimes Commission Recommendation, H1N1 arrangements and faculty workload were among the topics discussed in full session.

Delegates were divided into committees, whose work is briefly characterized below:

(Committee membership is listed online at: <http://uncfacultyassembly.northcarolina.edu/html/committees.htm>)

Academic Core (combining historic academic planning and budget committees):

- Define “academic core”
- Budget: looking at money; enrollment growth
- Monitoring damage/effects related to budget cuts
- Faculty voice on these issues
- Liaison with other groups: Graduate Council, Library Council, staff

Distance Education and Technology (including but not limited to traditional technology committee):

- Work with Alan Mabe on “white paper” regarding next generation of issues
- Categorization of different focal areas under umbrella of distance education (review what’s on-line)
- Quality control (working with Jim Sadler and quality council)
- Issues raised regarding transformation of university

Governance and Faculty Development (combining traditional governance and faculty development/benefits/welfare committees) :

- Rubrics for recognition of effective “shared governance”

Communications and Advocacy (special task force):

- Develop communication plan related to how and key information can be exchanged with target audiences
- Develop continuing strategy regarding advocacy (legislative, other) (may involve former FA delegates or others on the campuses?)
- Liaison with and support of UNC Staff Assembly

Academic Freedom and Tenure (traditional committee):

- Track trends regarding personnel mixes on campuses (faculty as tenure-track, tenured, fixed term, adjuncts, part-time, administrative, other) (relates also to budget/academic planning; also distance education?)
- Consider what can be done with regard to non-tenure-track faculty situation if GA declines to proceed as had agreed in the past
- Monitor developments regarding changing post-tenure-review, tenure/promotion policies as changes relate to rewards re service/outreach
- Review whether additional changes should be proposed in University Code to assure protection of fixed-term faculty

Research (traditional committee):

- Develop proposal to create advisory group re institutional research at GA?
- Become involved in GA’s research initiative relating to technology transfer and economic development
- Make case for role of institutes and centers in supporting work related to UNCT
- Track ongoing implementation of UNC Tomorrow as it may affect campus focus and responsibilities

The January 29th meeting was cancelled due to impending inclement weather.

Respectfully submitted,
McKay Coble