

**Faculty Assembly Delegation
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2010-2011 Annual Report to the UNC-CH Faculty Council February 17, 2011**

The UNC Faculty Assembly is the elected body of representatives of the faculty of the seventeen constituent institutions 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. The Assembly, which now meets 5 times each academic year, is dedicated to upholding and exercising the principles of *academic freedom, shared governance, tenure, and the faculty's primary responsibility for the University's curriculum.*

Objectives and Functions (from the Charter of the Faculty Assembly)

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.

2010-2011 UNC-CH Delegation:

Steven Bachenheimer—School of Medicine (2013)

Carol Brown—School of Law (2012)

McKay Coble—Arts & Sciences (2012)

Deborah Eaker-Rich—School of Education (2013)

Lloyd Kramer—Arts & Sciences (2011)

George Sheldon—School of Medicine (Alt1)

Alan Cross—School of Medicine (Alt2)

Clyton Koelb—Arts & Sciences (Alt3)

Over the past year, Faculty Assembly Plenary (morning) sessions have been devoted to reports from General Administration Vice-presidents or Directors, (Jeff Davies—Chief of Staff; Laura Luger—Legal Affairs; William Fleming—Human Resources; Leslie Cates—Dir. State Government Relations; Charles Perusse—VP Finance (Budget); Lisa Adamson [interim]—VP Academic Affairs); from the System President Erskine Bowles and now Tom Ross; and from representatives of state government with particular relevance to the UNC System (e.g. Barry Boardman, Fiscal Research Div, General Assembly; Sen. Peter Brunstetter [Forsyth], co-chair, Senate Appropriations Committee). Afternoon sessions have been devoted to discussions of issues related to faculty life and professional issues (e.g. Furlough policies, Preserving the Academic Core, Employee Health Plans, Distance Education) or to debating Resolutions.

Faculty assembly also has provided forums for Faculty Council/Senate chairs and faculty from Historically Minority Institutions to discuss issues of common interest and best practices.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steven Bachenheimer, Delegation Chair

Selected Faculty Assembly Resolutions passed during Spring 2009-2010 and Fall 2010-2011 sessions:

Resolution 2010-4 On the Definition and Protection of the Academic Core

Passed unanimously 4-16-2010

Whereas the quality of a university is directly related to the strength of its academic program; and *Whereas* it is important to protect the quality of the University's academic program by effective budgetary decisions and strategic planning, and such protection is particularly important during times of economic stress; and

Whereas there is no simple set of metrics that provide a measure of the strength of academic programs, but rather a complex set measures that pertain to investments in both physical and human infrastructure which provide insight into the Academic Core of the university;

Therefore the 2009-2010 session of the Faculty Assembly of the University of North Carolina charged a

working group to develop defining principles and characteristics of the Academic Core, to collect data from all campuses of the University of North Carolina system, and to evaluate the system's investments in, and protection of, the Academic Core;

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Assembly of the University of North Carolina endorse the white paper report "*Protecting the Academic Core*" of the Academic Core sub-committee which provides an effective definition of the Academic Core, and

Be it further resolved that the Faculty Assembly commit to continuing to work with the University of North Carolina General Administration, to develop and obtain reliable data sets that are consistent between campuses and the general administration, with clear definitions of data parameters such that they can be effectively utilized for evaluating past and projecting future investments in the Academic Core.

Resolution 2010-5 On Health Care for UNC Employees

(passed Faculty Assembly unanimously on 16 April 2010)

Whereas, many faculty and staff are greatly concerned about the eroding level of health care benefits; and

Whereas, the UNC Faculty Assembly wishes to go on record about these concerns,

Now therefore, the UNC Faculty Assembly resolves:

1. That the UNC General Administration and the North Carolina General Assembly request that oversight of the State Health Plan be transferred to an independent board of the Executive Branch of the state.
2. That the UNC General Administration request the North Carolina General Assembly to direct the State Health Plan and its contractors, in the interest of transparency and public accountability, to:
 - a. Justify raising premiums, deductibles, co-pays, and elimination of the 90/10 program,
 - b. Itemize and account for all expenses claimed by BCBSNC for their administration of the State Health Plan.
3. That the UNC General Administration recommend to the North Carolina General Assembly that
 - a. Random testing of UNC state employees and dependents for tobacco and obesity should be prohibited;
 - b. Any health testing measures that are employed should have proven efficacy and a clearly described appeal process to maximize accountability;
 - c. Additional positive incentives, rather than punitive measures, should be implemented to encourage healthy behaviors;
 - d. All employees should retain the full range of coverage plans regarding their health care plan options.
4. That the UNC General Administration urge the North Carolina General Assembly to terminate categorical exclusions or reductions in coverage levels for health plan participants.

Resolution 2011-1 On Academic Freedom

Whereas, academic freedom is fundamental to the University's goal of advancing and transmitting knowledge; and

Whereas, academic credentials and quality are evaluated by scholarly peer review; and

Whereas, academic freedom also encourages "best-interest" decision making and the creation of a safe and open learning environment by enabling faculty – who are on the frontline of a variety of academic and community issues and are therefore critical players in making decisions that are in the best interest of both the institution and the community – to be fully involved in institutional decision-making; and

Whereas, faculty involvement in institutional decision-making and implementation is essential to ensuring the success of institutional initiatives; and

Whereas, students, faculty, and administration are all best served if faculty are free to express themselves on institutional and other matters without institutional control or intrusion; and

Whereas, section 600 of *The CODE of the University of North Carolina* has long expressed institutional support for academic freedom by stating that academic freedom is "essential" to "the transmission and advancement of knowledge and understanding;" and

Whereas, it is the policy of the University (section 601 of *The CODE*) "to support and encourage full freedom, within the law, of inquiry, discourse, teaching, research, and publication for all members of the academic staffs of the constituent institution;" and

Whereas, there is a perception that federal courts (*Garcetti v. Ceballos* 2005) are currently abridging the constitutional protection of faculty so that a heightened degree of institutional protection is now required, not as a matter of law, but as a principle vital to the effective functioning of institutions of higher learning; now therefore

Be it Resolved that, on behalf of faculty in the University of North Carolina system, and in light of recent threats to academic freedom, the UNC Faculty Assembly reaffirms the *UNC CODE* statements regarding academic freedom, and adopts the definition and standards of academic freedom outlined in the following “Statement on Academic Freedom.”

Be it Further Resolved that the Board of Governors, the General Administration, and the constituent institutions of the UNC System are requested to incorporate an understanding of the “Statement on Academic Freedom” into the *UNC CODE* and other relevant policies and practice of the institution.