

Faculty Assembly Delegation University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Annual Report to the UNC-CH Faculty Council December 13, 2013

The UNC Faculty Assembly (FA) is the elected body of representatives of the faculty of the seventeen constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina. The FA was formed in 1972 when all of the public senior institutions were placed under one Board of Governors. The Assembly, which now meets 6 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.

2012-2013 UNC-CH Delegation:

Steven Bachenheimer—School of Medicine (2013), Jan Boxill—Chair of the Faculty, Arts & Sciences (2014), Deborah Eaker-Rich—School of Education (2013), Lloyd Kramer—History (2011), Beth Kurtz-Costes—Psychology (2015), Stephen Leonard—Political Science (Alt), Norma Houston—School of Government (Alt)

2013-2014 UNC-CH Delegation:

Bob Anthony--University Library (2016); Jan Boxill—Chair of the Faculty, Arts & Sciences (EO); Suzanne Gullede—School of Education (2016); Lloyd Kramer—History (2014); Beth Kurtz-Costes—Psychology (2015); Jim Porto--Health Policy (Alt)

This report summarizes 6 meetings of the UNC FA held between 18 January and 22 November 2013. The current Faculty Assembly Chair is Catherine Rigsby, Dept. Geology, ECU.

Organization of FA meetings

The FA convenes at General Administration, and at morning sessions hears from members of the Administration including Tom Ross, President; Suzanne Ortega, VP for Academic Affairs; and Charlie Perusse, Chief Operating Officer. Over the past year, FA has also heard from Leslie Boney, VP for International, Community, and Economic Engagement; Drew Moretz, VP for State Government Relations; Karrie Dixon, Senior VP for Academic and Student Affairs; Courtney Thornton, Associate VP for Research and Graduate Education; Katharine Stewart, Associate VP for Academic Affairs and Learning, and Kimrey Rhinehardt, VP for Federal Relations. Much of the time with GA administration has involved updates on development and implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Morning sessions often also include workshops and roundtable discussions concerned with issues either being taken up by the BOG or programmatic or policy initiatives of GA, such as articulation policies, international programs, performance funding models, measuring academic quality, campus security, and common general education competencies.

Major activities of FA in the past year included providing input regarding the five-year Strategic Plan, discussion of Ombuds Offices and Grievance Procedures at the various campuses,

consideration of distance learning initiatives, attention to the new Comprehensive Articulation Agreement, and discussion of strategic plan initiatives such as identification and assessment of core competencies.

Committee Structure

Starting in 2011-2012, the work of FA returned to a committee-based structure. Three are longstanding committees—the Executive, Historically Minority Institutions, and Faculty Chairs committees. In July 2012 tasks of the other committees were reorganized and assigned to four committees: Academic Standards and Policies, Academic Resources, Communications, and Governance. These committees meet during the afternoon session and report out to the full Assembly at the afternoon Plenary Session. In the afternoon Plenary Session, minutes of the previous meeting are approved, the Chair gives a brief report, and Resolutions are considered for approval.

Resolutions

The FA discussed and voted to approve several resolutions in the past year. These have included:

1. That recommendations of the Faculty Advisory Council and the Faculty Assembly be incorporated into the strategic plan;
2. That the strategic plan must reflect that the faculty, in their role as educational experts and as those charged with ensuring the highest academic quality programs, are the primary body to select, design, and assess all academic programs;
3. That recommendations on e-learning within the strategic plan explicitly address concerns regarding the following: concerns about effectiveness and efficiency; concerns about instructor qualifications; concerns about appropriate target groups; concerns about cost and support;
4. That the Board of Governors Awards for Excellence in Teaching stipend for each recipient be increased to \$12,000.00;
5. Affirmation of the primary role of faculty in the determination of what constitutes appropriate or inappropriate material in the classroom as the best means of protecting academic freedom;
6. Endorsement of the two core competencies (critical thinking and written communication) proposed by the General Education Council, and affirmation that faculty at each constituent institution have primary responsibility for the development and administration of assessment instruments.
7. Request that the UNC General Administration develop a procedure to evaluate and act upon requests to modify, gradually implement, or opt out of Student Success Policies if the institution can show substantially negative effects of that policy on its campus.

Respectfully Submitted, Beth Kurtz-Costes, Delegation Chair, on behalf of the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 delegates.