

March 9, 1999
Executive Committee of the Faculty Council
(Elected by Faculty Council)
Annual Report to the Faculty Council

Members: Robert Adler (Business, alt. 1998-99 for Laurie McNeil, '99); Thomas Clegg (Physics & Astronomy, '99); Sue Estroff (Social Medicine, '99); Laurie McNeil (Physics & Astronomy, '99); Joe Pagano (Cancer Center, '99); Donna LeFebvre (Political Science, '00); Abigail Panter (Psychology, '00); Richard Pfaff (History, '00); Stephen Weiss (Computer Science, '00); Charles Daye (Law, '01); Marila Cordeiro-Stone (Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, '01); Gerald Postema (Philosophy, '01); Ronald Strauss (Dentistry, '01) *Ex Officio:* Pete Andrews (Chair of the Faculty); Joseph Ferrell (Secretary of the Faculty)

Meetings: The ECFC met twice monthly throughout the year; one of the meetings each month was normally with Provost Dick Richardson and other senior administrators as particular topics warranted. The ECFC also had regular dinner discussions with Chancellor Hooker, and held one joint meeting with the Executive Committee of the Employee Forum.

Charge and Organization: The ECFC is charged in the Faculty Code to: 1) serve as an advisory committee for the Chair of the Faculty; 2) represent the Faculty Council and General Faculty in advising the University Administration with respect to issues, such as planning, that the Committee deems important to the University's mission; 3) work with various officers and groups within the University toward the realization of goals set in actions of the Council; and 4) report to the Council on the status of implementation of resolutions of the Council.

Activities this year: ECFC this year has devoted continuing attention to several major issues and initiatives, and has also advised the University administration on faculty concerns with respect to other matters including those noted below.

Enrollment Growth: In response to major projected increases in demand for public higher education in North Carolina over the coming decade, all 16 campuses were charged to estimate how much additional enrollment they could accommodate. ECFC discussed at length the implications of such growth, collaborated with the Agenda Committee in bringing these issues to the Faculty Council for discussion, and advised the Provost and Chancellor as well as the Chair of the Faculty on faculty views and concerns related to this issue.

Graduate Tuition Remissions: With the support of the ECFC, the Chair of the Faculty and other faculty members worked successfully with UNC administrators and graduate and undergraduate students to help legislators understand more clearly the reasons why full funding of tuition remissions is a central priority to the faculty and to this campus's mission, with the result of a significant increase in funding for this need.

Improvement of University Management and Support Services:

- ECFC sponsored the creation of a pilot "hotline" project—FASTOC (Faculty and Staff Operations Concerns)—to encourage faculty and staff identification of unmet needs for

improvement of university operations and services, especially those that might fall between the cracks among different units. After several months' trial period in a few units, this project has now been extended to all members of the Faculty Council and Employee Forum and been continued through June 1999.

- ECFC has worked actively with the new Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, Jim Ramsey, to assist him in identifying faculty priorities for improvements, and discussed with him the implications of the 1998 legislative base budget cuts under the "span of control" study.
- ECFC has collaborated with the Faculty Research Committee, Vice Provost Thomas Meyer, and Vice Chancellor Ramsey in seeking action on high-priority faculty concerns identified by the Research Committee's 1998 faculty survey, including space needs, review of the use of overhead funds by both central administration and deans, and improvement of key support services.
- ECFC has had continuing discussions with Vice Chancellor Ramsey and others on proposals for a new capital funding approach to provide for university space and facilities needs, and has expressed faculty support for this as a top priority for action in 1999 by the General Administration and General Assembly.

Implementation of the Report of the Task Force on Intellectual Climate: ECFC has continued to discuss and monitor implementation of the Intellectual Climate recommendations. At ECFC's request, the Provost created an Intellectual Climate Implementation Committee chaired by ECFC member Donna LeFebvre, and including several other ECFC members among others. This committee will present a separate update report to Faculty Council in March 1999. Two ECFC members of this committee (Abigail Panter and Ron Strauss) are also examining the UNCGA biennial sophomore and senior surveys with an eye to possible improvements.

Information technology and distance learning: ECFC provided faculty concerns to the University administration on several aspects of these initiatives during the course of the year, including the Carolina Computing Initiative and several proposals for expansion of computer-based distance learning. ECFC has continued to discuss faculty concerns on these matters, including in particular the UNC General Administration's proposed system-wide Information Technology Strategy, and recommended to Faculty Council the creation of a Faculty Information Technology Advisory Committee, which was approved.

Other issues discussed:

- *Board of Governors' tuition policy study:* The UNC-Chapel Hill response to this task force was prepared by the Chair of the Faculty, at the request of the Chancellor and Provost and with input from the deans and substantial discussion by ECFC.
- *Revision of the central campus plan:* ECFC has taken an active role in generating faculty input to the consultants, in particular generating input from both the natural sciences and the arts, humanities, and social sciences; and it has collaborated with the Agenda Committee to arrange several meetings for faculty review and comment on the consultant

study as it has continued to develop. Completion is anticipated in Fall 1999. Tom Clegg and Jerry Postema have been especially active in these matters.

- *Development options for the Horace Williams tract:* ECFC has advised the Chair of the Faculty, who sits on the Chancellor's task force considering this matter, on faculty concerns related to this issue, and has collaborated with the Agenda Committee in organizing faculty discussion of issues and options for its use.
- *Planning for the University development campaign:* With the advice of ECFC, the Provost and the Chair of the Faculty have created a set of six faculty task forces to draft and integrate elements of the case statement for the university's upcoming major capital development campaign; a report is anticipated at the April Faculty Council meeting.
- *Diversity and affirmative action:* ECFC has continued to monitor and discuss these issues. A faculty statement on this subject, developed by ECFC members in cooperation with several other faculty committees, was approved by Faculty Council in April 1998, and has reportedly been helpful to the university admissions office.
- *Creation of the UNC Health Care System*
- *Increase in student smoking:* ECFC expressed concern to Vice Chancellor Sue Kitchen and to the new director of the Student Health Service concerning the apparent increase in student smoking, and invited future discussions with them concerning faculty cooperation in helping to prevent or reduce other student health risks.

Referrals to Faculty Council: ECFC has sent several matters to Faculty Council for action. These include resolutions creating a new electoral division of the School of Information and Library Science; empowering ECFC to appoint up to three additional members of the Nominating Committee; creating a Faculty Information Technology Advisory Committee; and opposing the scheduling of football games on weekdays. ECFC also referred two matters to the Chancellor's Advisory Committee, to examine the status and needs of fixed-term faculty and to monitor the implementation of post-tenure review procedures.

Implementation of Faculty Council resolutions: ECFC has continued to monitor implementation of Faculty Council resolutions by those to whom they were directed.

- The recommendations of the Task Force on Intellectual Climate were discussed above.
- The resolution on reform of the faculty hearings and discharge procedure was approved by the Chancellor and Trustees, and ultimately by the President and Board of Governors as well, and is now in effect.
- The resolution on faculty salary policies continues to be monitored by the Faculty Welfare Committee; an update report will be presented at the March Faculty Council meeting.
- The resolution on replacement of the Carolina Course Review by a more appropriate instrument for student evaluations of teaching for use in personnel reviews was assigned to a task force which anticipates reporting to the Council in April 1999.
- The resolution on creation of a Faculty Information Technology Advisory Committee was approved, and will be implemented this spring in the normal cycle of committee appointments.

- The resolutions on creation of a Copyright Office and Copyright Committee and related matters were approved, and have been forwarded to the Chancellor for implementation.
- As a result of a joint meeting of ECFC and the Executive Committee of the Employee Forum, the Chairs of the Faculty and the EF sent a joint letter to the Insurance Committee and the Faculty Welfare Committee requesting reactivation of the resolutions by both Faculty Council and the Employee Forum in 1995, which had urged that the option of purchasing group health and other benefits be made available for domestic partners of university employees.