

**Faculty Executive Committee**  
**(Elected by the Faculty at Large)**  
**Annual Report to the Faculty Council for Calendar Year 2013**  
**Submitted by Chair Jan Boxill**  
**December 13, 2013**

*Elected Members, 2013-14 Committee*

- Steve Bachenheimer (Microbiology, 2014)
- Mimi Chapman (Social Work, 2015)
- Gregory Copenhaver (Biology, 2014)
- Louise Dolan (Physics and Astronomy, 2016)
- Michael Gerhardt (Law, 2016)
- Kevin Guskiewicz (Exercise and Sport Science, 2015)
- Susan Irons (English and Comparative Literature, 2016)
- Timothy McMillan (African, African American, and Diaspora Studies, 2014)
- Suchi Mohanty (University Libraries, 2015)
- Leslie Parise (Biochemistry, 2014)
- Shielda Rodgers (Nursing, 2015)
- Vin Steponaitis (Anthropology, 2016)

*Ex Officio Members:*

- Jan Boxill (Chair of the Faculty, 2011-14), Committee Chair
- Joseph Ferrell (Secretary of the Faculty)

*Members who resigned before the end of their terms during 2012-13 academic year:*

- Laurie Maffly-Kipp (Religious Studies, original term end date 2015)
- Sarah Shields (History, original term end date 2015)

*Members who completed their service at the end of the 2012-13 academic year (some were re-elected, however, to new terms or appointed to fill unexpired terms of those above, who resigned):*

- Jean DeSaix (Biology, 2013)
- Jo Anne Earp (Health Behavior, 2013)
- Michael Gerhardt (Law, 2013)
- Shielda Rodgers (Nursing, 2013)

*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.<sup>2</sup>

### *Meetings:*

Chaired this year by faculty chair Jan Boxill, the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) met once or twice monthly (for a total of nineteen regular meetings) throughout the calendar year 2013. In addition, and for the first time in several years, they also held a planning retreat at the Institute for Arts and Humanities (Hyde Hall) on August 12, 2013 that included time for focused attention to MOOCs and online education, honor system reforms, campus sexual assault issues, and academic progress metrics (a project of new Provost Jim Dean).

Through the spring of 2013, Provost Bruce Carney attended approximately every other meeting; Provost Jim Dean, who took office July 1, 2013, attended nearly every meeting after his appointment. Other administrators, faculty members, and chairs of various faculty committees (especially, this year, the Faculty Assembly Delegation) joined the FEC as appropriate. The FEC also met periodically with chancellors Thorp and Folt to discuss topics of importance.

### *Activities This Past Year:*

The Faculty Executive Committee continued this year to play several key roles: to serve as a forum for soliciting diverse faculty viewpoints and input on pressing university-wide issues, proposed policy changes, initiatives, and projects; to serve as an advisory body to the Chair of the Faculty, Provost, and Chancellor; and to act in place of Faculty Council on issues where timely action is needed. In addition, as it has in the recent past, this year FEC met jointly on one occasion with the Chancellor's Advisory Committee and provided significant contributions to planning for 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).

Perhaps the dominant issue of 2013 was the UNC System's development of a new strategic plan, approved by the Board of Governors in February 2013 under the title *Our Time, Our Future*. Beginning with discussions of the draft plan at the January 14, 2013 meeting, FEC took up the strategic plan (and its implementation) many times. Major areas of concern were (1) how to maintain and support the distinct missions, individuality, and autonomy of each constituent university in the UNC system in the face of a perceived trend to consolidation and greater centralization of many university functions; and (2) how to (re)assert and emphasize (local) faculty control over educational policy decisions in the face of those same centralization trends implied in the plan. As the plan moved into the implementation phase during mid-2013 and into the fall, matters related to the strategic plan's imperative that the university system develop learning assessment tools took a more prominent place in FEC discussions, which included UNC's representatives (Abigail Panter and Valerie Pruvost) to the system-wide "General Education Council" charged with developing those tools.

As a related matter, significant discussions in the fall of 2013 also revolved around newly announced system-wide standardization of the course drop period to two weeks (which for Chapel Hill meant a significant reduction and possible negative implications for students who

would receive more “W” marks on their transcripts). The promulgation of this policy change from General Administration (with Faculty Assembly consent, but without input from each constituent institution’s faculty educational policy committee) met with significant opposition on the Chapel Hill campus, although ultimately it was decided to proceed with implementation.

Reverberations of the scandal involving academic fraud in the department of Afro- and African American Studies and the 2012 FEC Subcommittee Report on athletics and academics continued to resonate through the committee, as the *News & Observer* published articles in the summer of 2013 that implied or stated (erroneously) that there had been attempts during the writing of the FEC’s report to cover up key information. Various FEC members responded to the *News & Observer* reporter, Dan Kane, directly, and in July, the FEC issued a statement of support for Prof. Boxill. The matter eventually subsided.

In the fall of 2013, athletics continued to be an area of concern as the FEC reviewed and discussed the long-awaited report of the Rawlings Panel on Intercollegiate Athletics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. FEC helped to plan two sessions for discussion of the report’s recommendations at Faculty Council in September and October of the year.

Other important issues to which the FEC devoted time at several of its meetings in 2013 included:

- The current political situation in North Carolina, including remarks about liberal arts made in January 2013 by Governor Pat McCrory, the state budget, and strategies for better connecting with new members of the General Assembly who are not well acquainted with the university. In January, the FEC invited Gov. McCrory to visit the campus, but did not receive a response to their letter.
- The Title IX complaint filed against UNC by several current and former students and employees alleging mishandling of sexual violence cases on campus. Discussions of this issue included attention to changed policies for how the Honor System and UNC administration deal with such cases.
- Updates on the many policy changes happening in response to the 2012 FEC Subcommittee’s report on athletics and academics at the university.
- Updates on ongoing reforms to the Honor System and the prospect for implementing the Turnitin software on campus (as of this writing, the software was still not available).
- Farewell plans for Chancellor Thorp and Provost Carney.
- Consideration of finalists in the spring 2013 provost search.
- Appointments to various faculty committees.
- Ideas for bringing greater attention to the impact of faculty research and teaching, possibly through a collaborative effort with radio station WCHL (a radio series was launched in early December 2013).
- Extension of the Water Theme (campus-wide theme) for an additional year (Faculty Council eventually voted in favor of this).
- Provost Jim Dean’s plans for a new task force to explore all aspects of the student-athlete experience at UNC. (This task force, the Student Athletics Working Group, launched in the fall of 2013).
- Provost Jim Dean’s initiative to develop metrics to measure academic performance at the university.

- The ongoing discussion of finding an alternative to “Master Lecturer” for the top tier of fixed-term faculty ranks in the College.
- The “One State, One Rate” campaign to advocate for policy changes to allow undocumented students who are North Carolina residents to qualify for in-state tuition (this conversation generated a supportive resolution for the December 13 Faculty Council meeting).

The FEC helped to develop or sponsored several resolutions for the General Faculty & Faculty Council this year (all of which were passed), including:

- Resolution 2013-04. On Support for the UNC Faculty Assembly’s Response to the Draft Strategic Plan (approved by FEC on behalf of Faculty Council, January 28, 2013).
- Resolution 2013-05. On Endorsing Resolutions of the UNC Faculty Assembly in Response to the UNC Strategic Planning Process (approved by FEC on behalf of Faculty Council, January 28, 2013).
- Resolution 2013-10. On Appreciation for the Service of Bruce Carney (4/26/2013).
- Resolution 2013-11. On Appreciation for the Service of Holden Thorp (4/26/2013).
- Resolution 2013-14. On Firearms on Campus (approved by FEC on behalf of Faculty Council, 5/3/2013).
- Resolution 2013-15. On Appreciation for the Service of Jackie Overton as Chair of the Employee Forum, 2013-13 (9/13/2013).
- Resolution 2013-17. On Affirming the Core Competencies of Critical Thinking and Written Communication as Fundamental Requirements for Successful Mastery in All Academic Disciplines (11/15/2013).