

Faculty Executive Committee
(Elected by the Faculty at Large)
Annual Report to the Faculty Council for Calendar Year 2014
Submitted by Chair Bruce A. Cairns
January 23, 2015

Elected Members, 2014-15 Committee

- Mimi Chapman (Social Work, 2015)
- Louise Dolan (Physics and Astronomy, 2016)
- Michael Gerhardt (Law, 2016)- Vice Chair
- Kevin Guskiewicz (Exercise and Sport Science, 2015)
- Susan Irons (English and Comparative Literature, 2016)
- Suchi Mohanty (University Libraries, 2015)
- Leslie Parise (Biochemistry, 2017)
- Adam Persky (Pharmacy, 2017; appointed fall 2014 to complete term of Timothy McMillan, who was re-elected in spring 2014, but resigned in fall 2014)
- Valerie Pruvost (Romance Languages, 2017)
- Shielda Rodgers (Nursing, 2015)
- Vin Steponaitis (Anthropology, 2016)
- Erienne Weight (Exercise and Sports Science, 2017)

Ex Officio Members:

- Bruce Cairns (Chair of the Faculty, 2014-17), Committee Chair
- Joseph Ferrell (Secretary of the Faculty)

Members who resigned before the end of their terms during 2013-14 academic year:

- None

Members who completed their service at the end of the 2013-14 academic year (some were re-elected, however, to new terms or appointed to fill unexpired terms):

- Steve Bachenheimer (Microbiology and Immunology, 2014)
- Greg Copenhaver (Biology, 2014)
- Timothy McMillan (African, African-American, and Diaspora Studies, 2014)
- Leslie Parise (Biochemistry, 2014)

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.

Meetings:

Chaired this year by former faculty chair Jan Boxill (January-June) and current faculty chair Bruce Cairns (July-December), the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) met once or twice monthly (for a total of **19 regular meetings and one special meeting**) throughout the calendar year 2014. The FEC also met with Chancellor Folt and the **Chancellor's Advisory Committee** on **two additional occasions** to discuss topics of importance. While Provost Jim Dean met regularly with FEC (approximately every other meeting), other administrators, faculty members, and chairs of various faculty committees joined the FEC as appropriate.

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 two occasions 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). The FEC has been increasingly involved this year as well with the **other faculty standing committees, whose chairs have convened twice to discuss their work.**

In early summer, the FEC took the "Black and Blue Tour" led by FEC member Prof. Tim McMillan, which covered the campus's racial history. After the transition in the faculty chair's position (Prof. Cairns succeeding Prof. Boxill in July), Prof. Cairns made a practice of inviting every member to speak at nearly every meeting and encouraged ongoing discussion of FEC's role and priorities.

The following list summarizes the major issues before the FEC in 2014:

- **Athletics/academics scandal:** By far the dominant issue of the 2014 calendar year was the ongoing investigation into irregularities in classes offered to students (including student-athletes) over a period of many years. Beginning with discussion on student-athletes' literacy, and proceeding through several updates on the work of the Provost's Student-Athlete Working Group, an overview of the revamped Academic Support Program for Student-Athletes, and updates on the many reforms adopted since the problems came to light, the topic of the relationship between athletics and academics consumed a portion of nearly every meeting. Discussions intensified after the release of the Wainstein Report in October, and Cairns and the FEC subsequently held two meetings

with members of the so-called “Athletics Reform Group” that has been pushing a specific suite of reforms in response to the academic/athletics scandal.

- **Honor System Reforms:** Another major issue that consumed time at multiple meetings was the progress of the newly approved comprehensive Honor System reforms, including the requirement that faculty serve on hearings panels, the creation of the XF grade with the option of an ethics course for its removal from student transcripts, and the development of an alternative resolution process.
- **Titles in the College:** There was discussion at several meetings of the proposals for the new “Teaching Professor” title for “master lecturers”/fixed-term faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences (a change finally approved by Faculty Council at the April 2014 meeting).
- **UNC System/Board of Governors Policy Directives:** FEC discussed various developments and policy directives issuing from the UNC system level. Major ones included enhanced post-tenure review, center/institute reviews, student-related policies such as the shortened drop window, and the BOG’s new “cap and freeze” policy limiting the amount of tuition dollars that can be allocated for need-based aid (a serious issue for UNC-Chapel Hill’s commitment to need-blind admissions and meeting 100% of demonstrated student need).
- **Nighttime Parking:** In summer, FEC discussed the planned implementation of charges for nighttime parking on campus. This policy was ultimately reversed in part due to discussions within FEC.
- **2015-16 SACS Re-affirmation Process and QEP:** FEC received several updates on the upcoming re-accreditation process and the development of a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) focused on enhancing learning in the so-called “STEAM” fields.
- **Contextual Transcript:** At year’s end, the FEC was involved in emergency conversations leading to a delay in the implementation of the new “contextualized” grade transcript (a policy adopted in Faculty Council Resolution 2011-3).
- **Priorities for 2015:** At its final meeting of the year, FEC brainstormed priorities for the 2015 year, identifying greater attention to:
 - developing more family friendly campus policies
 - continuing to pay attention to fixed-term faculty issues
 - encouraging frank campus conversations about race,
 - addressing inefficiencies in bureaucracy that impede faculty work as priority areas for the new year.

In addition to the major issues listed above, FEC also discussed the following:

- The prospect of **pay raises** in 2014-15 for university employees.
- The creation of the **Open Access Task Force** to investigate a university-wide policy encouraging open access publication and facilitating retention of faculty rights to their scholarly work. The Task Force was charged with considering how such a policy would impact different disciplines and coming forward in 2015 with a recommendation for Faculty Council.
- Ways in which the faculty and university can work productively with state partners to foster the **economic well-being** of North Carolina.
- **Male minority student** recruitment and retention.

- Consideration of appointees to the **Faculty Nominating Committee** for the 2014 and 2015 annual faculty elections.
- Consideration of a policy on **faculty op-ed pieces** that would distinguish an individual's perspective from the official stance of the University.
- The Provost's **Carolina Metrics Project** and development of a dashboard with appropriate metrics and ways to measure those metrics
- Discussions with Vice Chancellor of Public Relations and Communications on strategies the university is using to **communicate** changes in Athletics and convey the good work of faculty to the community.
- The development and launch of a newly-revised online **Faculty Handbook** by the Faculty Welfare Committee and Office of Faculty Governance staff.
- The work of the **Altac ("Alternate Academic") Working Group**, sponsored by the Institute for Arts and Humanities, and doing research on the working conditions and contributions of non-faculty PhD-holding professionals on campus.
- The **structure of the current Faculty Executive Committee** and the appointment of a vice chair for the committee (current Vice Chair is Prof. Michael Gerhardt, School of Law).
- Faculty Council and committee chairs' **retreat planning** and organization.
- Strategies for organizing a **faculty response to the Wainstein** report.
- The development of a mandatory **Title IX training module** related to the newly issued campus policies around sexual assault.
- Consideration of the Provost's ideas for strategies to help **curb binge drinking**.
- The articulation of a code of university-wide shared **faculty values**.
- The composition, structure and charge of the **Faculty Athletics Committee**.
- Planning and coordination for ongoing meetings and closer collaboration among **faculty committee chairs**.

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

- **Resolution 2014-7.** On Amending the Instrument of Student Judicial Governance (approved by Faculty Executive Committee, 2/24/2014; reported to Faculty Council on 3/28/2014)
- **Resolution 2014-10.** On Authorizing the Title "Teaching Professor" for Fixed-Term Faculty in Substitution for the Title "Master Lecturer" (4/25/2014)