Committee on University Government

Current members: Janet Mason (2000), chair; William I. Burke (1999); Elizabeth Gibson (2000); Jean Goeppinger (1999); James L. Peacock III (1999); Jack Sasson (1998); Douglas G. Kelly (2000); Joseph S. Ferrell (ex officio).

Member leaving the committee this year: Royce Murray.

Annual report prepared by: Janet Mason, chair. This report covers the period March 1997 (date of last report) through November 1997.

Committee charge. "The Committee shall be especially concerned with the continuing development, adaptation, and interpretation of the Faculty Code of University Government. Subject to the powers of the University’s Board of Trustees and the Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Code represents legislation enacted by the faculty regarding forms of internal organization and procedures at this institution which are deemed necessary for its fair and effective operation. The Committee should periodically review the existing Code and solicit suggestions for its improvements, and should recommend appropriate amendments in the Code for consideration and vote of the General Faculty. As provided under Article I of the Code, it should consider and report on other proposals to amend the Code and shall also periodically make appropriate adjustments of the elective representatives in the Faculty Council. The Committee may also consider and report on special questions of University governance which may be referred to it by the Chancellor or members of the faculty. The Committee shall be especially concerned with maintaining internal forms and procedures of academic administration which reflect principles of democracy and equity, vision and adaptability, and quality and responsibility, toward achieving the intellectual aims of the University.” Faculty Code of University Government, § IV.B.(2)(a).

Report of activities. In April 1997 the Faculty Council referred to the Committee on University Government Resolution # 97-13, proposing that the Council petition the Board of Trustees to amend its policies relating to procedures to be followed when the chancellor disagrees with a recommendation of the Hearings Committee about dismissal of a faculty member. The Committee on University Government developed a substitute resolution, proposing that the Faculty Council petition the Board of Trustees to amend Section 3(b)(8) of the Trustee Policies and Regulations Governing Academic Tenure in The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, to include provisions substantially similar to those in the original resolution and in the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) standard for tenure. On November 14, 1997, the substitute resolution was presented by special report to the Faculty Council, which adopted the substitute resolution.

The Committee discussed the Code’s provisions for constituting the Nominating Committee and for nominating faculty members for various faculty offices and committees. The Committee concluded that no changes in the Code were necessary, but suggested to the Secretary of the
Faculty that regular surveys or questionnaires to the whole faculty be used to determine interest and to provide a broader pool of possible candidates.

At the request of Bernadette Gray-Little, Chair of the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee, two members of the Committee, along with two members of the Advisory Committee, constituted a special committee to consider whether provisions relating to post-tenure review should be added to the Trustee Policies and Regulations Governing Academic Tenure in The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and, if they are, to draft them.