

Committee on University Government Annual Report

December 11, 1998

Current Members:, Janet Mason (2000), chair; William I. Burke (1999); Elizabeth Gibson (2000); Jean Goeppinger (1999); James L. Peacock III (1999); Jack Sasson (2001); Douglas G. Kelly (2000); Joseph S. Ferrell (ex officio).

Members leaving the committee this year: None.

Annual Report prepared by: Janet Mason, chair. This report covers the period December, 1997, through November 17, 1998. (The committee is scheduled to meet on November 24, 1998—after this report is due and before the December 11 Faculty Council meeting at which the committee's report will be presented. Any action taken at that meeting will be reported orally or in a supplement to this report.)

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.

Nominations, Elections, and Filling Vacancies. The committee has discussed and is considering draft Code amendments dealing with (1) electoral divisions for purposes of Faculty Council elections; (2) nominating committees and nominations; (3) the filling of vacancies; and (4) eligibility of a person filling a vacancy to be nominated for a full term.

Status of Lecturers and Other Fixed-Term Faculty. The chair of the faculty asked the committee to study questions relating to the status of lecturers and other fixed-term faculty. After considering the request fully, the committee concluded that it was not the proper body to undertake the study and made several recommendations about how it might be done.

Medical School Faculty Representation on Faculty Council. The committee invited Faculty Council members from the School of Medicine to meet with the committee to discuss the level of Medical School representation and the means by which Faculty Council members are nominated. The meeting led to general agreement, and decisions by the committee regarding Medical School representation, as follows:

1. Changes in the Faculty Code are not necessary.
2. The Medical School should remain one division for purposes of electing Faculty Council representatives, retaining the present number/proportion of representatives.
3. Methods of identifying and nominating candidates for Faculty Council should be improved by
 - a. the appointment of two separate nominating committees—one for pre-clinical and one for clinical faculty—but not requiring that nominations or council members be allocated any certain way between those two groups,
 - b. providing written information to all Medical School faculty about Faculty Council, especially as its activities affect the school and its faculty,
 - c. using a survey similar to one Joe Ferrell, Secretary of the Faculty, has used before, asking people to suggest other faculty members as possible nominees and also to indicate whether, if nominated, they themselves would agree to run/serve, and
 - d. encouraging the two nominating committees to involve department chairs in informing faculty, possibly in identifying potential nominees, but not in "designating" or "appointing" them.

Creation of New Committees. The committee has begun consideration of proposals and draft Code language for the creation of two standing committees: (1) Faculty Information Technology Advisory Committee and (2) Committee on Copyright.

Janet Mason, Chair
William I. Burke
Elizabeth Gibson
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