

Annual Report of the
COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENT
For Presentation to the Faculty Council on
January 25, 2008

Current Members:

James C. Drennan, School of Government (2009)
Connie Eble, English (2010)
Joseph S. Ferrell, Secretary of the Faculty (ex officio)
Elizabeth Gibson, School of Law (2009)
Clayton Koelb, Germanic Languages (2009)
Michael Lienesch, Political Science (2008), chair
Mary Lynn, School of Nursing (2008)
Melissa Saunders, School of Law (2009)
Vincas Steponaitis, Anthropology (2010)

Members leaving the committee this year: Carol Jenkins, Health Sciences Library (2007)

Meeting Dates: October 16, 2007; November 28, 2007

Annual Report prepared by: Michael Lienesch, chair. This report covers the period from January 2007 through December 2008.

Committee Charge. Section 4-19 of *The Faculty Code of University Government* reads as follows:

4-19. Faculty Committee on University Government. (a) The Faculty Committee on University Government consists of seven members appointed by the chancellor. The secretary of the faculty serves as an ex officio member.

(b) The committee is 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 Governors and president, and of the 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.

(c) The committee periodically reviews the existing *Code* and solicits suggestions for its improvement. Based on its review, the committee recommends appropriate amendments in the *Code* for consideration and vote of the General Faculty. As provided under Article I of the *Code*, the committee considers and reports on other proposals to amend the *Code* and also periodically makes appropriate adjustments of the elective representatives in the Faculty Council. The committee considers and reports on special questions of University governance which are referred to it by the chancellor or members of the faculty. The committee is 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.

Report of Activities. *Resolutions Presented and Adopted.* The committee presented the following resolutions, which were approved by the General Faculty on the dates indicated:

Resolution 2007-4. **Amending *The Faculty Code of University Government* as it Relates to The Schools and Colleges; The General College; The College of Arts and Sciences; The Graduate School; The Summer School; Records, Registration, and Undergraduate Admissions; Administrative Board of Student Affairs; and Administrative Board of the Library** (approved on first reading on February 16, 2007, and adopted with amendment on second reading on March 23, 2007).

Resolutions Presented. The committee presents today the following resolution:

Resolution 2008-1. **Amending *The Faculty Code of University Government* as it Relates to Officers of the Faculty.**

Ongoing. In response to concerns about delays in scheduling organizational meetings of some elected faculty committees, the Committee on University Government has requested the Office of the Faculty Secretary to annually remind all elected committees in the spring semester of their responsibility to choose chairs for the upcoming academic year. The Committee has asked the Office of Faculty Secretary to report this fall on any continuing problems.

Appendix 1

Report of the Committee on University Government on Resolution 2008-1

In response to the request of the chair of the faculty that the Committee consider an amendment to the Faculty Code removing the provision that allows election of faculty chairs to two consecutive terms, the Committee proposes the following revision:

Article 3 §3-1(b) The chair of the faculty serves for a term of three years and is not eligible for immediate re-election ~~to more than two consecutive terms.~~

Rationale: In 2003, as part of a comprehensive revision of the Faculty Code, the Committee recommended and the Faculty Council approved a change in the Code allowing for chairs of the faculty to serve two consecutive terms. At that time, the reason for the recommendation was to bring the office into conformity with Code provisions allowing faculty to serve two consecutive terms on a single faculty committee.

Asked to reconsider this revision, the Committee met with faculty chair Joe Templeton and consulted with the five previous faculty chairs. In addition, it solicited the views of selected faculty, including some presently serving as university administrators. In discussing possible Code revisions, the Committee considered a wide range of alternatives for structuring the election and terms of faculty chairs. Our conclusion is that the Code provision allowing faculty chairs to hold a single three-year term without eligibility for immediate re-election should be reinstated.

In brief, we come to this conclusion for several reasons, among them: 1) that single three-year terms for faculty chairs are optimal in maintaining the role of advocate for faculty priorities; 2) that allowing for immediate re-election provides advantages to incumbents and increases the difficulty of persuading other faculty to stand for election as faculty chair; 3) that limiting incumbency encourages broader faculty participation and allows for more diversity of faculty experience and views in the office of faculty chair and in faculty governance generally.

For these and related reasons, we propose Resolution 2008-1 today.

Respectfully submitted,
Committee on University Government

James C. Drennan
Connie Eble
Joseph S. Ferrell, Secretary of the Faculty
Elizabeth Gibson
Clayton Koelb
Michael Lienesch, chair
Mary Lynn
Melissa Saunders
Vincas Steponaitis

Resolution 2008-XX. On Amending the Faculty Code of University Government to Provide a Term Limit for the Office of Chair of the Faculty.

The General Faculty enacts:

Section 3-1 of the Faculty Code of University Government is amended as follows:

“§ 3-1. The chair of the faculty. (a) The chair of the faculty serves as chair pro tempore of the Faculty Council and of the General Faculty, makes an annual report to the Faculty Council on the state of the faculty, represents the chancellor in all academic matters whenever the chancellor may request him or her to do so, and has such other responsibilities as may be determined by the chancellor or the Faculty Council.

(b) The chair of the faculty serves for a term of three years and is not eligible for ~~election to more than two consecutive terms~~immediate reelection. Nominations and elections are held every third year, and the person elected takes office on July 1 following the election.

(c) Nominations are made by the Advisory Committee, which announces the upcoming election to all members of the voting faculty and invites recommendations of persons to be nominated. The Committee selects and submits the names of at least two qualified persons. The nominee receiving the highest number of votes in the election is elected, unless he or she has failed to receive a majority of the votes cast. In that event, a run-off election is held between those who received the highest and the next highest number of votes in the previous election, and the person receiving the highest number of votes in the run-off election is elected. Interim vacancies in the office of chair of the faculty are filled through appointment by the Advisory Committee.”