



Resolution 2013-4. On Support for the UNC Faculty Assembly's Response to the Draft Strategic Plan.

Resolved,

The Faculty Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the Faculty Council pursuant to Section 2-10(d)(2) of the Faculty Code of University Government, expresses its support for the UNC Faculty Assembly's response and request for revisions to the draft Strategic Plan, "Our Time, Our Future," which is currently in preparation for presentation to the UNC Board of Governors.

We appreciate the urgency with which the Strategic Plan preparation process has been conducted, and while we would have preferred a more exhaustive and robust consideration of the issues facing the University, we understand the value of preparing a timely and clear account of the University's aspirations and goals for public higher education in North Carolina. We hope these efforts will help the people and legislative representatives of North Carolina make the most effective and efficient use of the resources their University offers.

The "Five Goals" of the Plan – degree attainment, academic quality, serving the state, realizing resource efficiencies, ensuring accessibility and stability – represent a thoughtful and well considered understanding of realistic and achievable objectives. The realization of those goals, informed by rigorous supporting evidence, transparent accountability, and clear implementation paths, is also well conceived. Our intention is to assist, in any and every way we can, in the promotion of these ideals.

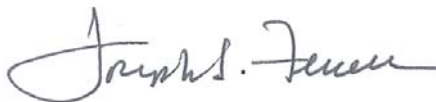
To this end, there are a number of especially critical areas of concern where, we believe, the Strategic Plan could be significantly strengthened:

- The unique capabilities and missions of the University's constituent institutions are inadequately acknowledged, and the special contribution those institutions can make to the realization of the Plan's goals should be more fully developed.
- The full potential of faculty expertise in determining the substance of curricular content, the management of instructional delivery, and the governance of University institutions, is insufficiently utilized.
- The usefulness of intellectual and disciplinary diversity in promoting creativity, innovation, and civic well-being should be the fulcrum, not a secondary or derivative consideration, in conceptualizing the University's public mission.

- Measures of accountability ought to be more rigorous, more robust, and more usefully informative about student achievement and learning outcomes, and faculty productivity.
- Policy directed at the use of information technology for instructional delivery needs to be more carefully crafted in consideration of extant research and evidence.
- The important role of post – baccalaureate education in sustaining academic excellence must be given the emphasis that it deserves.

Many of the specific reservations and recommendations embodied in the Faculty Assembly's Response to the Strategic Plan draft speak more or less directly to these broad concerns. We believe that accommodating those recommendations, and addressing those reservations, would augment the University's capacity to realize the ideals of the Strategic Plan. The friendly amendments this would require are relatively straightforward. We encourage the Strategic Directions Committee to incorporate the principles and proposals enumerated in the UNC Faculty Assembly Response as part of the Strategic Plan, "Our Time, Our Future."

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution of the Faculty Executive Committee of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, adopted Monday, January 28, 2013.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joseph S. Ferrell".

Secretary of the Faculty