



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

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April 12, 2011

BRUCE W. CARNEY  
*Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost*  
[bruce@unc.edu](mailto:bruce@unc.edu)

Professor McKay Coble  
Chair of the Faculty  
Office of Faculty Governance  
CB# 9170, Carr Building  
Carolina Campus

Dear McKay:

I propose to add a new fixed term faculty rank, and ask the Faculty Council to discuss the idea and respond to me. If the decision is supportive, I will take this to the Board of Trustees for final approval.

Specifically, I propose to add a third tier to the rank of Lecturer. As you know, the University supports only two such ranks: Lecturer and Senior Lecturer. The title for the proposed new rank is Master Lecturer, and this would be reserved for the longest-serving, most respected lecturers.

The rationale for the new rank is two-fold. First, as you know, the tenure-track/tenured faculty ranks have three tiers. So do most of the other fixed term faculty ranks: clinical faculty and research faculty in particular. The University values the contributions of all faculty regardless of their primary missions, and the three ranks are meant to distinguish seniority and respect. So it only makes sense to have a third tier for lecturers.

The second aspect is that for the above reasons, two separate committees within the College of Arts and Sciences, which is home to the bulk of the lecturers on our campus, have recommended a third and senior-most tier. The first such study was chaired by Professor Don Lysle (Psychology) and the report was delivered in June 2008. I happened to be interim dean at the time, and asked Professor Bill Andrews (English and Comparative Literature and Senior Associate Dean for Humanities and Fine Arts) to undertake a more focused study, and this recommendation was repeated.

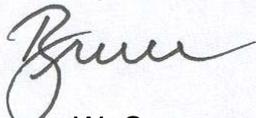
In brief, the addition of the third tier makes sense within the Academy, and it has been strongly supported by two faculty committees. I ask Faculty Council to approve the action.

Professor McKay Coble  
April 12, 2011  
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Officially, final endorsement by the Board of Trustees will require a change to the Trustee Policies and Regulations Governing Academic Tenure in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The change involves Section 2b (Academic Tenure), subsection 5. The exact language of the proposed change is highlighted in bold/italic print in the attached document.

Finally, if the Faculty Council and the Board of Trustees approve this request, the next step will be for me to instruct the deans whose schools host faculty with lecturer titles to develop guidelines for the appointment of faculty to the rank of Master Lecturer. Since the College of Arts and Sciences did so for the rank of Senior Lecturer, I am confident that such guidelines would be defined and implemented effectively.

Sincerely,



Bruce W. Carney  
Executive Vice Chancellor  
and Provost

BWC:st  
Attachment

copy: Holden Thorp, Chancellor  
Ronald Strauss, Executive Associate Provost  
Joseph Ferrell, Secretary of the Faculty  
Karen Gil, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
William Andrews, Senior Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
Donald Lysle, Chair, Department of Psychology

5. **Fixed-term faculty and other special faculty ranks:** Appointments may be made to fixed-term faculty and other special faculty ranks with title designations “Professor of the Practice,” “Lecturer,” “Senior Lecturer,” **“Master Lecturer,”** “Artist in Residence,” “Writer in Residence,” and any of the faculty rank designations provided in paragraphs (1) through (4) of this subsection with the prefix-qualifier “Adjunct,” “Clinical,” or “Research,” under the conditions and with the incidents herein provided. Such an appointment, utilizing any of the foregoing title designations, is appropriate for one who possesses unusual qualifications for teaching, research, academic administration, or public service from an academic base, but for whom none of the professorial ranks nor the instructor rank is appropriate because of the limited duration of the mission for which appointed, or because of concern for continued availability of special funding for the position, or for other valid institutional reasons.