

**Annual Report of the
COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENT
For Presentation at the Faculty Council Meeting of
January 15, 2021**

Current Members:

Bruce Cairns, Surgery, School of Medicine (2021)
Andy Hessick, School of Law (2023)
Anne Klinefelter, School of Law (2021), chair
Laurie Langbauer, English and Comparative Literature, College of Arts and Sciences (2022)
Peter Mucha, Mathematics, College of Arts and Sciences (2023)
Joy Renner, Allied Health, School of Medicine (2021)
Michael Smith, School of Government (2019)
Vincas Steponaitis, Anthropology and Archaeology, College of Arts and Sciences, Secretary of the Faculty, ex officio

Annual Report prepared by: Anne Klinefelter, August 2020 - July 2021 chair. This report covers the period from January 2020 through December 2020.

Committee Charge. 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 1 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.

Previous Year's Resolution

An amendment to the Faculty Code was presented at the January 17, 2020 Faculty Council meeting. This amendment provided clarification on the Advisory Committee's role: [Resolution 2020-1. On Amending the Faculty Code of University Government to Clarify the Advisory Committee's Charge](#). This resolution simplified and updated the language describing some matters to be addressed by the Advisory Committee, and it added a specific provision for the Advisory Committee to nominate candidates for election, as already provided elsewhere in the Faculty Code. In addition, the resolution eliminated gendered pronouns in reference to the chancellor. The resolution was discussed and passed the first vote at the January Faculty Council meeting and passed the second vote, which was conducted electronically concurrent with faculty elections, on April 7.

Activities in 2020

Spring 2020 meetings focused on an evaluation of the existing structure of faculty government leadership at UNC Chapel Hill. Some requests had been forwarded to the committee to consider whether recent curtailments of the three-year term for chairs of the faculty indicate that three-year term was too long. The committee collected and explored many resources and pursued a number of perspectives to examine the issue and consider options that might solve identified problems or provide additional benefits. The committee reviewed comparison charts and summaries of peer institution faculty governance structures produced by Faculty Governance staff, historical accounts of the evolution of faculty governance at UNC-CH, and a UNC System guidance document produced by the Faculty Assembly.

The first meeting of the fall included a closed session to consult with University Counsel on whether particular solutions to voting management for Faculty Council in the Zoom environment would meet state law requirements. The subsequent meetings in the year continued the discussion about faculty leadership structures. The committee explored terms and roles of chair and secretary and considered models that include a chair elect/vice-chair. It also considered whether the chair of the faculty should be elected by the faculty council or by the general faculty. The committee heard from Hans Kellner, Chair of the Faculty at North Carolina State University, and from Lloyd Kramer, former Interim Chair of Faculty Council at UNC, about their perspectives regarding existing governance structures at their institutions. At the December meeting, the committee agreed that the chair would continue to extend invitations to faculty leaders at UNC and at other peer institutions to continue to discuss faculty governance structures that include different terms and different roles for leadership.

The Daily Tar Heel reported on the January meeting and its reporters have attended other meetings of the committee.