

REPORT FROM FACULTY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
FOR FACULTY SENATE MEETING ON MAY 17, 1977

In compliance with the resolution adopted by the Faculty Senate on February 15, 1977, the Faculty Governance Committee has undertaken a study of the relationship of the Faculty Senate to the academic components of East Carolina University and has made the following preliminary findings:

- I. Several passages in the Faculty Manual are instructive. First, at page 7 it is provided: "The Faculty Senate is the legislative and advisory body which represents the General Faculty and provides the means by which the faculty is enabled to fulfill its function with respect to faculty welfare and academic and educational policies exclusive of graduate programs." In Appendix A, Constitution of the Faculty Senate, East Carolina University, V. Organization of the Faculty Senate (pages 110-111), it is further provided:

All faculty members of East Carolina University are eligible to vote for representatives to or serve in the Faculty Senate who have the rank of instructor or above and who are tenured or are under yearly contracts with East Carolina University as full-time faculty members. The membership of the Faculty Senate shall consist of elected representatives and of ex-officio members.

. . . . Electoral units for the purposes of this constitution shall be the various schools (including the Division of Continuing Education, the Division of Library Services, and the Counseling Center) and the departments of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Thus the relationship to the academic components appears to be somewhat indirect in that the Senate represents the General Faculty the members of which are appointed to academic units or components. These units coincide with the electoral units specified by the Constitution of the Faculty Senate.

- II. The Graduate School is an administrative, not an academic component. The Faculty Senate has no jurisdiction over the policies and programs of the Graduate School. This conclusion is based primarily on the passage from the Faculty Manual cited above and the following further evidence:

- A. The Faculty Manual, at page 16, provides: "The Graduate Council, as the representative body of the Graduate Faculty, sends its recommendations directly to the Chancellor."
- B. In a letter to the Chairman of the Faculty, dated February 24, 1977, Chancellor Jenkins made a response to the Faculty Senate's creation of a Committee on Educational Policies and Planning. The Chancellor's letter included the following pertinent passage:

I will not approve the charge of a Faculty Senate Committee which includes jurisdiction over any graduate programs. The Graduate Faculty has been established to exercise 'the authority within the University for the development of general policies and procedures for the graduate courses and programs.' The Graduate Council has been authorized to exercise 'final jurisdiction over procedural matters and over most policy matters.' This establishment of the Graduate Faculty and Graduate Council removed all graduate matters from the purview of the Faculty Senate. I do not wish to change this arrangement.

In view of the University's clear policy on the issue, the Governance Committee did not consider it necessary to examine the possible effects of Faculty Senate jurisdiction over graduate policies and programs on their status with accreditation agencies.

III. Except to the extent that it has advisory capacities concerning the General Faculty of East Carolina University and its welfare, the Faculty Senate has no jurisdiction over the present academic policies and programs of the Medical School. The Faculty Senate has been given no specific jurisdiction over Medical School academic policies and programs. Moreover, the Medical Doctor (M.D. Degree, a first professional degree) and courses to be offered by the Medical School differ markedly from those under Faculty Senate jurisdiction: The professional degree is not a baccalaureate degree and courses to be offered by the Medical School, unlike those under Faculty Senate jurisdiction, clearly are not normally open to enrollment by students seeking baccalaureate degrees. Finally, any graduate degree program initiated by the Medical School would be under the jurisdiction of the Graduate Council, not the Faculty Senate. These considerations, combined with accreditation difficulties which would appear likely to arise if the Faculty Senate attempted to assume jurisdiction over Medical School policies and programs, have prompted the Committee to conclude that the Faculty Senate neither possesses, nor should attempt to assume, jurisdiction over Medical School academic policies and programs.

As indicated, Faculty of the Medical School should continue to enjoy representation in the Faculty Senate, just as do all members of the General Faculty of East Carolina University. The Faculty Senate has authority to advise in matters of concern to the General Faculty; and all East Carolina University faculty are thus entitled to be represented in Senate decision-making.