

The 92nd meeting of the Faculty Assembly of the University of North Carolina came to order February 3rd at 1:00 p.m. in Chapel Hill.

Council Chairs and Chairs of the Faculty were invited to this meeting. Trisha Anderson represented ECU.

UNC president Spangler and his staff spoke during the first plenary session. Spangler referred to the change in the complexion of the General Assembly and the ensuing new "view of the world" as a result of the November elections. Spangler reminded us that the legislative issues are still a bit out-of-focus, but he cautioned us against feeling divided. There is a propensity to cut taxes, but we don't want to do anything adverse to the 16 campuses. We are trying to maintain a pro-active stance towards the University system.

According to Spangler the General Assembly doesn't have much love for people (or students in this case) from out of state, but he reminded us that the 18% ceiling for out of state enrollment was a Board of Governor's mandate, not a legislative mandate. He noted that the out-of-state ceiling for California is 10%.

He mentioned that the Board of Governors is requesting a 5% increase in salary for the next fiscal year from the General Assembly.

Spangler noted the Board of Governor's concern for excellence in teaching and reminded us of the \$7,500 teaching excellence award given to each campus. Awards will be presented at the April 21st meeting of the Board of Governors. This award, he feels, give a clear message that the Board of Governors recognizes the importance of teaching. Spangler wishes that the General Assembly would feel the same.

Bill Little, Vice president for Academic Affairs, spoke about the special North Carolina Legislative Commission to study the University System. Assessing the quality of undergraduate programs is on their agenda. The Board of Governors will collect data for 5 years to assess program quality.

The commission is also considering several budget-related items:
1. capital improvement policies are needed, especially regarding the allocation of money for repairs.

2. funding of student facilities via self-liquidating funds needs to be examined, especially with an eye to smaller universities having a smaller student base.
3. we need to examine the educational mission with an eye to adequate resources for new capital items.
4. faculty members who don't teach 12 hours need to have their salaries budgeted otherwise. There is a question of feasibility given to the triad of Teaching/research/service for these faculty.
5. there is some thinking about the General Assembly funding us on student credit hours taken rather than the current Full Time Equivalent method. This would be based on 12 or more hours for full-time status.
6. the G.A. should consider funding based on the "level", for example undergraduate or graduate status; that is, "formula funding".

The commission plans to recommend that the General Assembly enact a legislative mandate stating that teaching is our primary mission. They also believe that 1. peer evaluation of teaching should apply to tenured as well as un-tenured faculty.

2. we need workshops to train teaching assistants.
3. the English language proficiency of faculty be examined.
4. comprehensive exit exams be required for students.

Spangler at this point acknowledged hope that the commission would disappear and that many items on the agenda are currently in practice.

Vice President Roy Carroll commented on the upcoming program review of academic programs. He reminded us that they were just in the process of establishing criteria to determine "low productivity". As a result of an article in the News and Observer, there had been a flood of inquiries and concerns regarding the imminent demise of academic programs. Carroll asserted that undergraduate core programs are exempt and that any numbers being tossed around are merely to identify some programs.

Following a period of questions and answers, Bill Kane, Assembly Chair, gave his report. He invited the Faculty Senate and council chairs to attend the Board of Governor's awards luncheon ceremony April 21st. Kane spoke about the pressure in North Carolina to turn out high school graduates who have a) communication skills and b) math/logic skills. He spoke about how to make North Carolina competitive and expresses concern that any mandated outcomes assessment by the General Assembly means that they are now

doing our business. He reminded us that curriculum matters remain the faculty's business.

From 2:20 to 5:00 p.m. the Standing committees met.

Following a 30 minute break for supper, specially invited guest Travis Porter, Chair of the Board of Governors, addressed the assembly. He reminded us that the university system is the single largest creator of wealth in North Carolina. Thus, he noted, we are asking for substantial faculty raises to acknowledge our contributions. When questioned about the push to increase tuition, Porter answered that there is rather a push NOT to increase it. He reminded us that the G.A. needs to know that we teach. He believes that economic self-studies are absolutely critical. Porter emphasized that if we believe we value teaching, we have to prove it and it is a faculty responsibility.

During a discussion of the faculty grievance process, Porter stated that if procedural due process is not adhered to, the university has no chance if it becomes involved in litigation. The processes differ among and within the universities and there has been resistance from the faculty to make the process uniform.

Porter spoke about the critical importance of faculty mentoring beginning at the departmental level, and of giving specific information from the beginning regarding requirements for tenure. Specific information included expectations of how much, how often and which (for example) journals or types of activities "wouldn't count" toward the tenure decision.

At 7:00 p.m., the standing committees gave their reports.

1. The Faculty Welfare committee, represented by Larry Hough, presented a resolution to Spangler requesting him to urge the G.A. to increase the % of the state's contributions to health care costs.

2. The Planning and Programs committee discussed a comparison of UNC's schedules. They presented a resolution for Spangler concerning the impact of land use plans on the environment (for example bio-diversity and public health). They also expressed concern for "lower division" students (i.e. undergrads) and how to increase resources for lower level courses.

3. The Professional Development committee discussed the variables affecting student evaluations with attempts to enhance teaching effectiveness.
4. The Budget committee is preparing a resolution asking Spangler for information from Budget chancellors of the 16 campuses about budgeting procedures; they are drafting a letter to the chairs of Faculty senates requesting information about the role of faculty in budgeting procedures and they are presenting another resolution supporting the request for a 5% increase in salary.
5. The Academic Freedom and Tenure committee discussed mediation as a means to head off adversarial legal proceedings. They also discussed campus policies regarding computer privacy. It was noted that ECU now has its Faculty Manual on the Internet and is the only university to have done so.
6. The Faculty Governance committee, chaired by George Bailey, acknowledged that the Board of Governors will accept any reasonable offer to get out from under the load of appeals, even as far as changing the code. BUT caution is urged regarding what we ask for as changes or suggestions. The emphasis however is that we need to be a part of the leadership.
7. The scheduled report on Sexual harassment policies and procedures was not given at this meeting.

Following the committee reports, Vice President Roy Carroll acknowledged a concern for quality undergraduate education and the fact that we use undergraduate courses to subsidize our upper division courses. He also mentioned that the G.A. is strongly in favor of Community Colleges and has a concern regarding out-of-state students taking the place of qualified in-state students.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Dawn Clark