

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

EXECUTIVE MINUTES OF 9 DECEMBER 1997

The minutes of 4 November 1997, were approved as distributed.

Senators absent were: Professors Singhas and Sehgal (Biology), Parker (Economics), Joyner and White (Education), Dixon (Geography), Farrier (Human Environmental Sciences), Fiordalisi (Medicine), and Vice Chancellor Feldbush.

Alternates present were: Professors Doty for Schadler (Business), Triebenbacher for Shea (Human Environmental Sciences), and Jendrasiak for Reinhart (Medicine).

Announcements

1. The Chancellor had approved the following resolutions from the 14 October and 4 November 1997, Faculty Senate meetings:
#97-30 Revised *University Undergraduate Catalog*, Grade Replacement Policy.
#97-32 Curriculum matters contained in the University Curriculum Committee minutes of 11 September and 25 September 1997.
#97-34 Fall 1997 Graduation Roster, subject to completion of degree requirements.
#97-38 Revised description of faculty entitled to participate in both the DECAD and Administrator Survey.
#97-39 Curriculum matters contained in the University Curriculum Committee minutes of 23 October 1997.
2. The Committee on Committees has been charged to seek volunteers to serve on the various academic, appellate, administrative, Board of Trustee, and student union committees. Faculty will receive a volunteer packet, with brief descriptions of the University committees, in early January. Faculty are strongly encouraged to participate in this component of shared faculty governance.
3. The Guidelines for Measuring Teaching Loads, approved by the Faculty Senate in November, has been forwarded to each unit to complete the process of developing their teaching load policies by December 15, 1997. Faculty are encouraged to contact their unit head if the discussion on this topic has not begun within their unit.
4. Sincere appreciation was extended to Chancellor Eakin for providing the delicious hors d'oeuvres and wine served during the meeting.
5. The UNC Faculty Assembly has asked all faculty within the UNC system to provide input as to how the new 150-day calendars have impacted them. All written correspondences should be forwarded to the Faculty Senate office no later than January 30th. At the February 20th. Faculty Assembly meeting, delegates will discuss possible revisions to the 150-day calendars.

Chancellor Richard Eakin began his remarks with a reminder for faculty to turn in grades as soon as possible after examinations are administered. The Chancellor then provided his reaction to the faculty computer use policy stating that he concurred with the two objections stated at the last meeting dealing with the review of faculty performance and the requirement that all information placed on the web be accurate. Chancellor Eakin commented on the statement on academic eligibility standards circulated to senators and asked for the senate's endorsement of his proposal to develop a new system of standards created at a level between those previously proposed and the current standards. He is asking the Enrollment Services Council to undertake this task and to forward their report to the appropriate senate committee(s). The Committee(s) would then report to the Faculty Senate no later than March 15, 1998. The final item discussed by the Chancellor was the Longitudinal Profile of Faculty Tenure Status. Copies of this report were made available to senators and can be obtained from the Faculty Senate office.

Rosenberg (Medicine) asked if there is data on the admissions policy of those students in academic difficulty and is there information available from other institutions about academic difficulty policies, etc. The Chancellor responded that admissions standards are difficult to determine but efforts continue to find those factors that indicate students with the greatest potential for completion. Several models are employed but it is an imperfect system. Even students predicted to do well can fall into academic difficulty. There is no good predictor but the process is an ongoing concern. Rosenberg asked about the mandatory requirement for counseling that has not been met. What can be done? The Chancellor responded that it is very difficult to adequately cover this requirement with current staff. Rosenberg (Medicine) expressed discomfort with the low standards and requested that they be as high as possible.

Joyce (Physics) stated that junior college transfers who start without any grade point average at ECU and student utilizing the forgiveness policy may be in a better position for awards, etc. as compared to those students who have taken classes for two years on campus and have GPA history. Wilson (Sociology) stated that he believed the proposed standards were correct but recognized divergent positions in the university. He indicated that student response to workshops was poor and that students in their freshman year with a GPA between 1.35 and 1.75 graduate in the same proportion as students in other GPA categories. Simon (Political Science) stated that there was a community college problem with regard to GPA's. Gabbard (Education) suggested that the progress of students undergoing intervention programs was significant. Ferrell (History) asked if the Chancellor had initially approved the new academic standards. The Chancellor responded in the affirmative and said he advocated the position to the Board of Trustees and they didn't think it was a good idea. The proposal was then stopped and evaluation continued. Ferrell stated that ECU should resist Board of Trustee members setting academic standards and that any proposal should be made and approved based on academic concerns. Ferrell pointed out that years ago the faculty generated student life policies and since then there has been a dichotomy between student life and academic affairs with little cross over. He stated that this policy was as much a student life concern as it was an academic concern and that there should be some cooperation.

Allred (Psychology) sensing a general endorsement for the proposal moved to endorse the proposal. Farr (English) spoke in favor of the motion and asked for the inclusion of one person on the committee who is primarily concerned with minority enrollment. Simon (Political Science) spoke in favor of the motion and stated that the committee needed more faculty membership and suggested that a later April 15th deadline may be more productive. Following discussion, the Faculty Senate approved the following amended proposal: Neither the new Academic Eligibility Standards nor their penalty structure be implemented at this time. The Enrollment Services Council, with its current faculty and Senate committee representatives and relevant administrators, plus a delegate from the Credits Committee and a person who is primarily concerned with minority enrollment, should be charged with reporting to the Faculty Senate by April 15th on an alternative plan that will endeavor to raise the University's academic standards in a manner that avoids the degree of substantive risk apparent in the current plan, and that the Enrollment Services Council should solicit and consider written faculty advice on strategies to improve retention. Such advice might include higher standards than the current ones, but not as high as the previously proposed new standards. Also, postponement of suspension until later in the sophomore year to permit students to focus longer on academic improvement may have merit.

RESOLUTION 97-40.

In reference to the Longitudinal Profile of Faculty Tenure Status, Joyce (Physics) stated that we have reached a point whereby 1 in 3 of the faculty we encounter across campus is in a fixed-term position. Chancellor Eakin responded that the number not on tenure track is too high. Lowe (Administrative Council) suggested that there may be some errors in the figures presented in the report. Joyce (Physics) suggested that there be a designation on each unit's annual report of how many fixed-term faculty a unit has and why. Simon (Political Science) pointed out that the number of administrators had increased significantly over the years. Ferrell (History) indicated that predictions made when the cap on fixed-term employment was removed has come true. The requirement of fixed-term positions in units is commonly required by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Farr (English) asked about the GA's recent actions regarding affirmative action. Chancellor Eakin indicated that President Broad had asked that the University catalog affirmative action programs and that they be consistent with the law. He stated that programs were under review, particularly in the areas of admissions, financial aid and employment.

Vice Chancellor Richard Ringeisen made remarks about the faculty computer program, stating that \$600,000 was set aside with distribution already decided and computers being ordered. The Faculty Computer Committee received about 350 proposals that were turned over to a task force formed by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The task force included Dave Watkins, Gray Hall, Ernie Marshburn, and Dot Clayton. Using all of the data available, the task force was to provide all faculty with at least a 486 or equivalent computer to make use of exchange and other software. Vouchers were given to deans who provided computers to all faculty members without 486 computers and to accommodate as many applicants to the Faculty Computer Committee as possible. Additional money has been made available for the Faculty Computer Committee to address requests for more advanced machines. Jones (Social Work) asked about criteria for distribution of future computer funds. Vice Chancellor Ringeisen responded that there will be some type of structure but that the criteria has not been established yet.

Professor Lou Everett (Nursing), presented an overview of the Faculty Assembly meeting held on 21 November 1997, in Chapel Hill. Anyone interested in discussing particular items with the Faculty Assembly Delegation are encouraged to contact the following University members: Don Sexauer (Art), Henry Ferrell (History), Rita Reaves (Industry and Technology), Alan Rosenberg (Medicine), and Lou Everett (Nursing).

The proposed 1998-1999 Faculty Senate and Agenda Committee meeting dates were approved as presented. **RESOLUTION 97-41** (Please refer to the list of resolutions at the end of this report for the approved meeting dates.)

A motion was made and approved to request the Chair of the Faculty to appoint a three-person Ad hoc committee to review the Model Computer Use Policies as they relate to matters of academic freedom, and address the vagueness of the terms used in the policies to include specificity as needed. The Ad hoc Committee should report back to the Faculty Senate in January 1998. **RESOLUTION #97-42**

The proposed revisions to the *ECU Faculty Manual*, Appendix C., Section I.C. and Section III. were approved as presented. **RESOLUTION #97-43** (Please refer to the Faculty Senate December Agenda, attachment 3. for the full approved revision. Following approval by the Chancellor and Board of Trustees, the revised sections will be noted on the Faculty Senate website and incorporated into the online *ECU Faculty Manual*.)

The roster of December 1997, graduating senior candidates to be designated "Honors Program Graduates" were approved, subject to the completion of degree requirements. **RESOLUTION #97-44**

The curriculum matters contained in the 13 November 1997, meeting minutes were approved as presented. **RESOLUTION #97-45** (Copies of these minutes have been distributed to all units and are available on the Faculty Senate web page at: <http://www.ecu.edu/fsonline/cu.htm>.)

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Neal
Department of Geology
Secretary of the Faculty

Lori Lee
Faculty Senate office
Administrative Assistant

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE 9 DECEMBER 1997, FACULTY SENATE MEETING.

#97-40 Neither the new Academic Eligibility Standards nor their penalty structure be implemented at this time. The Enrollment Services Council, with its current faculty and Senate committee representatives and relevant administrators, plus a delegate from the Credits Committee and a person who is primarily concerned with minority enrollment, should be charged with reporting to the Faculty Senate by April 15th. on an alternative plan that will endeavor to raise the University's academic standards in a manner that avoids the degree of substantive risk apparent in the current plan, and that the Enrollment Services Council should solicit and consider written faculty advice on strategies to improve retention. Such advice might include higher standards than the current ones, but not as high as the previously proposed new standards. Also, postponement of suspension until later in the sophomore year to permit students to focus longer on academic improvement may have merit.

Disposition: Chancellor

#97-41 1998-1999 Faculty Senate and Agenda Committee meeting dates as follows:

Agenda will meet:

August 25, 1998
September 22, 1998
October 27, 1998
November 24, 1998
January 12, 1999
February 9, 1999
March 9, 1999
April 13, 1999

Faculty Senate will meet:

September 8, 1998
October 6, 1998
November 10, 1998
December 8, 1998
January 26, 1999
February 23, 1999
March 30, 1999
April 27, 1999
May 4, 1999, Organizational Meeting

Disposition: Faculty Senate

#97-42 The Chair of the Faculty to appoint a three-person Ad hoc committee to review the Model Computer Use Policies as they relate to matters of academic freedom, and address the vagueness of the terms used in the policies to include specificity as needed. The Ad hoc Committee should report back to the Faculty Senate in January 1998.

Disposition: Chair of the Faculty

#97-43 Revision to the *ECU Faculty Manual*, Appendix C., Section I.C. and Section III. (Please refer to the Faculty Senate December Agenda, attachment 3. for the full approved revision. Following approval by the Chancellor and Board of Trustees, the revised sections will be noted on the Faculty Senate website and incorporated into the online *ECU Faculty Manual*.)

Disposition: Chancellor, Board of Trustees

#97-44 December 1997 graduating senior candidates to be designated "Honors Program Graduates", subject to the completion of degree requirements.

Disposition: Chancellor

#97-45 Curriculum matters contained in the University Curriculum Committee minutes of 13 November 1997.

Disposition: Chancellor