



Office of the Chancellor

East Carolina University

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9-11-02

sent via email  
to Fac. Senators

September 4, 2002

Memorandum

To: Dr. Robert Morrison, Chair  
ECU Faculty Senate

From: Chancellor William V. Muse *W. Muse*

Re: Letter to AAUP

As requested, I am sending to the Faculty Senate a copy of my letter to the national AAUP office in response to an inquiry about the transfer of teacher education programs.

WVM/ra  
enclosure





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July 24, 2002

Dr. Mary Burgan  
General Secretary  
AAUP  
1012 Fourteenth Street, NW – Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20005-3465

Dear Dr. Burgan:

I am pleased to respond to your recent inquiry concerning the decision of East Carolina University to transfer the administrative responsibility of their teacher education programs from the College of Arts and Sciences to the School of Education.

First, let me indicate that the decision did not involve any curriculum changes; no courses were added, dropped, or modified and no degree requirements were changed. The decision represented a choice as to which unit at the university had administrative responsibility for the programs leading to a degree and certification in teacher education. The administration of both the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Education agreed that responsibility should rest with the School of Education, as did the heads of the departments in the College of Arts and Sciences who were affected.

Although the issue was over the assignment of administrative responsibility, the process prescribed in the Faculty Manual was followed to allow all affected parties a full opportunity to voice their opinions and to provide information that they felt should be considered. The discussion on this issue consumed most of the last academic year, culminating in the vote by the Faculty Senate in late spring. All arguments and points of view have had adequate time to be expressed.

Consistent with the requirements in the Faculty Manual, a Transition Committee has been appointed, comprised of both administration and faculty, to oversee this change. A minimum of disruption in the lives of the faculty involved is anticipated – e.g. no immediate physical movement of office location, no immediate change in teaching assignments, etc. Over time, however, the faculty affected will have to be responsive to the needs of the unit to which they report.



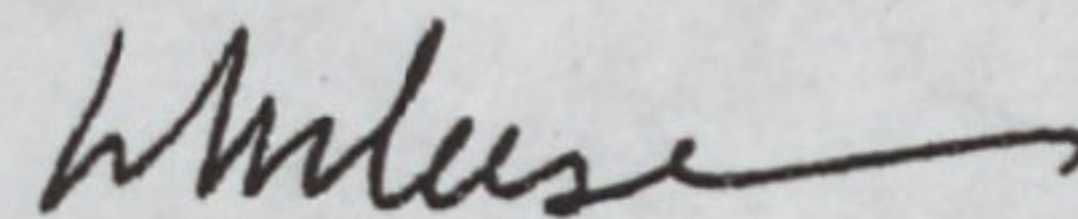
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I have the utmost respect for the AAUP and the work that you do to strengthen the profession and to protect the rights of individual faculty. However, in this case, I believe that the issue is clearly one of the assignment of administrative responsibility. While I can understand how faculty, or any other employees for that matter, would like to have final say in the decision as to whom they report, that is a right that none of us have.

The changes that we have made here at East Carolina University will, in my opinion and the opinion of the administrators involved, strengthen our teacher education programs and help us more effectively meet the demands for more and more effective teachers.

Please let me know if there are further questions that you have.

Sincerely,



William V. Muse  
Chancellor

WVM/ra

Xc: President Molly Corbett Broad  
Professor Ralph Scott  
Professor Zachary Robinson  
Dean Keats Sparrow  
Dean Marilyn Sheerer  
Interim Vice Chancellor Bob Thompson