

UNC Faculty Assembly
February 4th, 2005
Report to the ECU Faculty Senate, 02/22/2005
John G. Cope, Psychology

Call to Order:

Approval of the minutes from the November 5, 2004 meeting of the Assembly:

Elections:

Brenda Killingsworth, *East Carolina University*, was elected unopposed, as the 2005-2006 President of the Faculty Assembly.

Thomas Van Cantford, *Fayetteville State University*, was elected as Vice-President.

Meg Morgan, *University of North Carolina at Charlotte*, was re-elected as Secretary.

Report by Assembly Chair, Jeff Passe: Dr. Passe announced plans for a Pre-Assembly workshop (Best Practices of Faculty Governance) to be held the day before the next regularly scheduled Assembly meeting (04/08/05). The workshop will cover a variety of topics relevant to shared governance (e.g., Budgetary Process, Communication Issues, Legal Issues, Rules for running an Orderly Meeting, and How to Maintain Relationships among Colleagues and with the Administration). Interested faculty are encouraged to talk to the ECU Faculty Chair about attendance.

Passe discussed the draft of the 2005 Federal Agenda, a document that discusses University priorities relevant to federal programs based on recommendations and suggestions from campuses and affiliated organizations for the University. Highlights of the federal agenda include: Higher Education Act Reauthorization, Student Financial Aid and Federal Support of University-based Research, Access to Higher Education, and Intellectual Capital Formation. Passe urged delegates to share this document with leaders on campus and to contact US congressional representatives. However, he warned that the University cannot count on federal support, but must be active at this level. He also noted that the new US Secretary of Education does not have higher education experience. The 2005 Federal Agenda document is posted on the Office of the President website.

Report by Vice President of Finance, Jeff Davies:

Mr. Davies indicated that most campuses (with exception of the NC School of the Arts) are expected to request tuition increases (around \$300.00 per institution). The campus by campus examination of these tuition needs, additional needs to increase fees (all campuses will be asked to review fees this year.), and the workability of a National model, used last year at UNC-C, to calculate educational costs was to be the topic of the next Board of Governors meeting (2/10/05).

The General Assembly is back from recess, and Mr. Davies indicated that budgetary concerns would again be a major focus. In response to questions, Davies noted that there will be no changes to tuition relief for faculty this year, that the General Assembly will be "challenged" to fund this budget, and that there will be an effort to approve only inflationary increases in fees and to hold tuition and fee discussions every other year.

He pointed out that the General Assembly will face significant budgetary challenges this year. The State's historic dependence on manufacturing will make recovery "longer and flatter" and challenges include a possible five-cent sales tax increase. The General Assembly is starting with a deficit of \$1.26 billion. Recovery is far from complete.

Additional questions from delegates prompted the following information: faculty salary increase might be 2% as a starting point; Leslie Winner's health care project (to provide alternative health care providers) is on President Broad's agenda. He told the delegates that the University of Illinois tuition plan will be up for discussion "next year or the year after." After March its meeting, the BOG will proceed will begin these discussions. Unfortunately, campus-initiated tuition increases have not created excellence but have only plugged up holes created by reductions. He agreed that tuition and fees are only one aspect of costs: room and board and books are also significant expenses and the BOG is now interested in these costs. Davies also promised to provide delegates figures on the numbers of families who might be affected by a faculty/child tuition plan.

Report by the President, Molly Corbett Broad:

President Broad addressed several issues facing the UNC system.

1. House Bill 1264, which deals with job growth training in NC, raises the issue of the collaborative relationship between the community colleges and the university to help the state improve. Both institutions realize the need for cooperation to move students from a GED to the university. UNC and the community college system will submit a preliminary needs report to the General Assembly in April and a completed report in December 2005.
2. The university has experienced huge growth in sponsored research monies, over 69% in five years. In addition, NIH will begin posting funded research results on its website within 12 months of completion.
3. Focused Growth Campuses (ECSU, FSU, NCA&T, NCCU, UNCP, WCU, and WSSU) have experienced remarkable growth since 1998. By 2004, the Focused Growth Campuses had grown at three times the rate of other campuses—12,000 students in five years. All campuses beat their projected goals. For example, they beat projected student growth by 4500 students. They increased fundraising about \$10 million since 2002.

Committee Reports:

Faculty Development—Gerald Ponder: Ponder reported that the committee discussed OP supported leadership development activities and faculty leaves.

Technology—Yogi Kakad: In a joint meeting with Faculty Development the Committee proposed a resolution in support of the continuance of the UNC TLT Collaborative (Adopted 02/04/05). The Committee also discussed the study of computer security issues across the 16 campuses relevant to establishing standards on Access, Authorization, Accounting, and Awareness. The committee also resumed its role in promoting the TLT annual conference in March.

Academic Programs and Planning—Bob Morrison: The committee discussed the need to recruit more teachers and nurses. The five-year planning process is beginning and results will be put on the UNC website. During the coming year, the committee will examine the processes for developing and approving degrees and programs.

Governance Committee—Brenda Killingsworth: Blanche Radford-Curry will chair this committee in 2005-2006. Dick Veit reported that one of the outcomes of last year's governance survey is a resolution of the Governance Committee that articulates minimum standards of Governance. In response to questions, Veit reported that a handful of campuses have serious problems enabling a system of shared governance. A motion to direct the Governance Committee (1) to send this draft document to the senates/councils of the 16 UNC campuses for their comments and recommendations prior to the April 2005 meeting and (2) to present the revised document to the Assembly at that meeting with a recommendation for its ratification passed unanimously (see draft attached to Senate agenda documents).

Faculty Welfare and Benefits Committee—Nancy Fogarty: Fogarty explained the efforts being made to study a revised health plan for state employees. The task force to study optional health plans is asking the legislature to approve all UNC employees to be moved into a pilot program for five years. The task force received reports of different plans as well as combinations of plans. With any new plan, no one will be allowed to stay in the state plan. All plans have choices of dependent and payment plans. In an effort to address the needs of lower paid employees, there is also consideration of a tiered payment plan: people who get paid less would pay less. However, retired employees will remain in the current state program. A straw vote of delegates showed strong support for a tiered payment plan. A plan for domestic partners will not go to the legislature, but this might be negotiated with the chosen providers. Dennis Dailey (NCSU) will be the committee chair next year.

Academic Freedom and Tenure—Francene Mabrey: The committee decided at the last meeting to review tenure procedures and policies and found a number of variations. The committee will make recommendation, perhaps in April. Newt Smith will be next year's chair.

Budget Committee—Dan Noland: Catherine Rigsby will be next year's committee chair. The survey done several years ago will be sent out again to see what changes have occurred over the past few years. The committee will investigate the possibility of soliciting input on the impact of budget cuts on campuses over the past few years.