

Faculty Senate Meeting
April 18, 2006
New Business

FACULTY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
Joint Conditional Interpretation of the *ECU Faculty Manual*
by Provost Jim Smith and Chair Catherine Rigsby

As per Part I. of the *ECU Faculty Manual*, this joint conditional interpretation will be in effect until such time that the Faculty Governance Committee addresses this issue in the manual.

We have been asked to interpret the *ECU Faculty Manual* requirements regarding sharing with administrators the numbers of faculty votes either yea or nay or abstaining in secret ballot voting. Our view of this, notwithstanding the fact that some committees have in fact shared some numbers, is that the intent in the minds of the authors of these *ECU Faculty Manual* passages as well as the expectations of a majority of the current faculty at ECU was and is that such numbers not be shared. In small departments and in unanimous votes, secrecy would automatically be, or well could be, compromised. Additionally, to say that retribution could be handled separately if it occurred is not sufficient to address such concerns. Hence, the interpretation is that such numbers not be shared with administrators.

In reference to interpretations of the *ECU Faculty Manual*, [Part I](#) of the manual states:

Requests for interpretation of the ECU Faculty Manual will be submitted to the Chair of the Faculty or the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The Chair of the Faculty and the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs will provide a joint conditional interpretation. In matters pertaining to their purview, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs will consult with the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences or the Vice Chancellor for Research. This conditional interpretation will be in effect until a permanent interpretation is adopted through normal procedures. The office of the Faculty Senate will maintain an index of such interpretations, identified in the appropriate section of the ECU Faculty Manual. (Faculty Senate Resolution #99-8, March 1999)

All interpretations of the *ECU Faculty Manual* are available online at:
<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/fsonline/customcf/facultymanual/interpretations.htm>.