

Concerning Proposed Changes to the UNC Code

WHEREAS, academic freedom and tenure are core values of the American academic system and thus are of significant concern to faculty; and

WHEREAS, the UNC system, as the oldest public university in the nation, has been and should continue to be a leader in best practices in academia; and

WHEREAS, the UNC Faculty Assembly has pointed out significant problems with key aspects of the revisions proposed by the "Code 603/604 Committee" (as of July 17, 2007), particularly those relating to institutional guarantees of tenure, grounds for discharge, utilization of post tenure review for discharge, and rights of "special faculty;" and

WHEREAS, The UNC Faculty Assembly has noted that there are areas in which the language of the proposed changes that needs to be clarified in order to avoid possible future confusion and has developed alternative language to address its concerns with the "Code 603/604 Committee" proposal; and

WHEREAS, it is the view of the both the UNC Faculty Assembly and the ECU faculty that the Code Review committee's work exceeded its charge insofar as it included recommendations regarding post-tenure review processes that are inconsistent with policies reviewed and supported by the Assembly in late spring 2007, as reported to the Board of Governors Committee on Personnel and Tenure in June 2007; and

WHEREAS, the UNC Faculty Assembly has sought additional review from faculty from the constituent UNC campuses;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the ECU faculty affirms its support for UNC Faculty Assembly's criticisms of the changes proposed by the Code 603/604 Committee in its July 2007 draft; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the ECU faculty respectfully requests that the administration of East Carolina University join with the Faculty Senate in requesting that submittal of the "Code 603/604 Committee" recommendations be deferred so that appropriate Faculty Senate committees might have adequate time to evaluate both the implications of the proposed changes for the status of academic tenure and the implications for administrating such changes within the academic units at this institution.