FACULTY SENATE ANNOUNCEMENTS
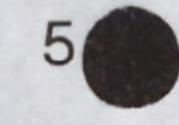## December 4, 2007

1. We would like to ask that all Senators do the following to **aid in reporting the minutes** correctly:
   a. To aid in identification, please stand when recognized to speak on issues.
   b. To aid in clarification of motions, forms have been provided near each Senator. When making a motion or amendment, please fill out the form and forward it to the Chair of the Faculty.

2. The Chancellor has **approved the following resolutions** from the October 9, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting:
   07-21 Resolution on Proposed Changes to the UNC Code
   (excerpt from Chancellor's 11-27-07 letter: "While I will forward Resolution 07-21 to the Board of Governors for their consideration, I believe that no further action is required at this time because new, compromise language has recently emerged from meetings between the General Administration and the Faculty Assembly.")
   07-23 Request for discontinuance of the Early Childhood Certificate Program, Request to offer existing MAEd in B-K Education Online, and Request for Authorization to Establish Doctor of Audiology (AuD) Program
   07-24 Report on Faculty Input in the Evaluation of Administrators
   (excerpt from Chancellor's 11-27-07 letter: "This will be addressed by the Board of Trustees, as they reported early in this academic year. This is a personnel matter and, as such, the Board has authority over it.")

3. **Speaking privileges** have been granted to George Bailey (Member of the Academic Standards Committee) and Jack Brinn (Interim Chief Information Officer).

4. A **special thanks** is extended to Chancellor Steve Ballard for providing the additional food and wine for today's meeting.

5. An editorial revision has been made to the **Procedures for Annual Lifetime and Five-Year University Research/Creative Activity Awards**, changing the date to forward names to the VC for Research from February to December. This will benefit faculty in knowing sooner who will be given the awards.

6. Letters concerning unit elections for **2008-2009 Faculty Senate representation** will be mailed to unit code administrators in late January. In accordance with the *ECU Faculty Manual*, Appendix A, elections are to be held during the month of February. Please call the Faculty Senate office if you have any questions.

7. Members of the Research/Creative Activity Grants Committee are hosting **research grant information sessions** for persons interested in submitting research grant proposals to the Committee in January 2008. Questions should be directed to the Committee Chair, Professor Paul Gares at 328-6084. The sessions will be held on: Thursday, December 6 and Friday, December 7 from 4:00- 5:00 in 142 Rawl Annex. Specifics about the granting process are available online at http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/fsonline/rg/research.cfm.

8. The Committee on Committees has been charged to seek **volunteers to serve on the various academic, appellate, administrative, Board of Trustees, and student union committees**. Faculty are strongly encouraged to participate in this component of shared faculty governance and complete a volunteer form by February 18, 2008. Committee appointments will be finalized at the April 29, 2008, Faculty Senate meeting.

   Faculty members have two ways to note their preference for service on the various standing University committees.
   1) On OneStop under Employee Section, faculty members click on "Faculty Committee Volunteer Form" and complete the committee volunteer preference form.
   2) A faculty member may complete the volunteer preference form that is available on the Faculty Senate web site at:
   http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/fsonline/customcf/committee/callforvolunteers.htm

Announcement
Faculty Senate Meeting
December 4, 2007

This year the Faculty Welfare Committee was asked to examine the issue of criminal background checks for new faculty employees. Below are selected excerpts from the September and November Committee minutes which summarize the discussion of this issue. The excerpts conclude with a recommendation from the Committee concerning the institution of a procedure for faculty criminal background checks.

Excerpt from Minutes of September 13, 2007
http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/fsonline/customcf/committee/fw/fw907.htm

Agenda Item: Faculty Applicant Verification Guidelines

Discussion: K. Bonatz explained that this item was a result of the Board of Trustees requesting ECU to conduct criminal background checks on all new faculty employees. Presently the faculty is the only group on campus not undergoing background screening. Faculty Welfare agreed that: 1) faculty should not be exempt from background checks; 2) a screening process should be established that would trigger an in-depth criminal background check when warranted; and 3) very careful and clear wording on screening questions is required. (Discussion continued).

Excerpt from Minutes of October 11, 2007
http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/fsonline/customcf/committee/fw/fwm1007.htm

Agenda Item: Faculty Applicant Verification Guidelines

Discussion: K. Bonatz said that ECU will conduct criminal background checks on faculty just before they are offered a job. The checks are only done on new faculty or on current faculty who are applying for a different position. After a background check is conducted, a copy of the results must go to the person who was checked. There is also a statute prohibiting the falsifying of information in order to get a job.

Excerpt from the Minutes of November 7, 2007
http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/fsonline/customcf/committee/fw/fwm1107.htm

Agenda Item: Faculty Applicant Verification Guidelines

Discussion: M. Taggart joined the committee for this discussion in preparation for presenting this item to the Board of Trustees on November 30th. Discussion

repeated the committee's concern that sharing of background information be carefully controlled and focus on job related areas as with the existing staff verification system.

Action Taken: The committee recommends ECU create a faculty applicant verification system similar to that of UNC-Chapel Hill. The background information is to be shared with the appropriate dean. If it is determined that there is a concern warranting non-employment, the dean will review the information with the Provost and Chair of the Faculty (or designee) to determine the appropriate action.