

1-27-09 Senate
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NOTES ON THE 01/16/2009 FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEETING

1. **Committee on Non-Tenure-Track Faculty** – Harold Martin (Sr VCAA) reported that a new task force (following up on the last system-wide review of this issue) that will focus on recommendations 1 (staffing plans) and 3 (policy/guidelines for fixed-term faculty workloads and benefits) of the 2002 Fixed-term Faculty (FTF) Task Force report. The new committee, with members from each campus and from the Faculty Assembly, is expected to begin working soon. GA has determined where each campus is on this issue (especially on implementing all of the 2002 recommendations). Most campuses have implemented some aspects of the recommendations, but the FTF faculty numbers continue to rise and problems still exist.

The new committee will follow up on the 2002 recommendation to ensure that each institution develops and adheres to a staffing plan; will make recommendations for policies regarding FTF workloads and faculty rights; and will develop benefits guidelines for FTF at 50%, 75%, and 100% full load. The committee's work will include graduate teaching assistants as well non-student FTF.

Dr. Martin acknowledged that several campuses have made great strides in this area and urged campuses to proceed with any efforts they have underway or in-place regarding FTF.

2. **Commission on Hate Crimes** – The commission has been reviewing student codes of conduct on the constituent campuses, is trying to determine if we need a UNC policy related to hate crime (not just hate speech), and will make recommendations to President Bowles by March 31st. Input and public comment are encouraged.
3. **Fall 2008 Enrollment Report** – Alan Mabe (VP for Academic Planning & University-School Programs) reported that the system average enrollment growth this year was 3.2%, that all of the growth was on eleven campuses (ASU, ECU, ECSU, NCSU, UNC-CH, UNCC, UNCG, UNCP, UNCSA, UNCW, and WSSU), and that growth on eight of these campuses exceeded the system average (ASU, 4.7%; ECU, 6.5%; NCSU, 3.4%; UNCG, 7.2%; UNCC, 4.1%; UNCP, 6.2%; UNCW, 3.8%; and WSSU, 9.7%). ECU had the greatest enrollment increase by headcount (1,687) and five other campuses experienced headcount growth greater than 500: UNCG (1,349), NCSU (1,070), UNCC (912), ASU (739), and WSSU (572).

Details of the Fall 2008 Enrollment report (the full report, as well as a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Alan Mabe) are available on the ECU Faculty Senate website.

4. **Council on Distance Education** – Judith Wegner (Faculty Assembly Chair) (and putting resources toward) DE courses over traditional face-to-face courses. Question was raised about the motivation for increasing DE resources. Are we increasing resources for on-line course to serve the huge influx of traditional undergraduate students or to increase access for

the smaller numbers of non-traditional students in our system? Which is most important, our education mission or access? A GA "Online Quality Council" composed primarily of Provost-appointed administrators (membership list available via the ECU Faculty Senate) is charged with investigating system-wide practices that effect both online quality and the cost of on-line courses, as well as with looking into effective methods for accessing online education.

5. **Carnegie Engaged Classification** – President Bowles congratulated the 7 UNC campuses that received the Carnegie 2008 Engaged Classification for Curricular Engagement and Outreach:

- Appalachian State University
- East Carolina University
- North Carolina Central University
- University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- University of North Carolina Wilmington
- Western Carolina University

6. **Budget Issues** – President Bowles reported on the budget *crisis*. The news was not good. He said that we have not yet hit bottom, but are getting through the crisis; that lapsed salaries are gone; that class sizes will increase; that courses are being dropped; that people will lose jobs; and that research will be lost. Although we were at the 6% cut level at the time of his remarks, he said that anything over 5% equaled "eating at the academic core" of our institutions, that he would fight as much as necessary to support the university system, and that he would work to make sure cuts were made in a way that would not impact our core educational mission. He also said that although long-term systematic solutions are needed and are part of GA's mind-set, we are currently in a defensive mode and there is currently not much opportunity to think in the long term.

Rob Nelson (VP Finance) continued with this topic after President Bowles left the meeting. Nelson said that one impact of the budget crisis will be increased workloads. He added that GA tries to leave the campuses as much flexibility as possible on this and all budget matters. He also said that there is no "sacred cow" when it comes to cuts, except financial aid; that GA's attempt to "hold classrooms harmless" applies to faculty lines, but not to administrative lines; that GA continues to look to the PACE program to make administrations leaner; and that (as of 1/16/2009) there is not yet a hiring freeze for faculty or staff on campuses, but there is a freeze on non-essential travel and purchasing. When asked about the workload increases, Nelson acknowledged that the workload data that GA has been working from does not always seem to match reality.

The Faculty Assembly delegates discussed possible ways that faculty can/do have input into budget decisions on the campuses and possible cuts that could be endorsed by the Faculty Assembly. The Assembly will continue this conversation at its next meeting.

7. **Tuition by the Credit hour Discussion** – There is a drive to move to a system-wide method of computing tuition charges by credit the credit hour (instead of by the currently used block tuition system). The drive seems to have arisen from GA-level discussions about fees for on-line course offerings and about the perceived need for ease of transfer of credits (for courses taken from multiple campuses during the same semester) among the sixteen campuses. It is unclear whether there has been any real discussion at GA about the educational philosophy/quality issues that may result from this type of tuition system (although the issues related to such a move were discussed in detail by the Faculty Assembly last year).

There is some indication that this issue is of immediate importance, hence it was discussed in detail at the 12/12/2008 meeting of the UNC-CH Faculty Council. At that meeting, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolution 2008-5. On Tuition Computation Methods

Resolved, that it is the unanimous sentiment of the Faculty Council of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill that the block method of computing tuition is preferable to the proposed credit-hour system.

For additional information about the possible ramifications of tuition by the credit hour system, please see the related documents posted on the ECU Faculty Senate website.

Respectfully submitted,

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Related Documents (posted on the ECU Faculty Senate website):

Enrollment_Report_Deco8.pdf
2008 Enrollment Report_BOG.11-08_1-7-2009).ppt
List_of_Members-Council_on_Online_Quality.doc
Tuition_Credit_Hour-- Composite_Discussion jww09.doc
Tuition_Credit_Hour_Discussion_FAmayo8minutesdraft.doc
Tuition_Credit_Hour -- Draft_White_Paper_Outline.doc
Excerpt_relating_to_Tuition_by_the_Credit_Hour_UNCCH.doc