

Walker  
3-2011

## Faculty Senate & Graduate Issues – Facts

Faculty Senate does not have final authority over any academic matter.

Faculty Senate reports directly to the Chancellor in the form of resolutions. All recommendations/advice go to the Chancellor for final approval.

64% of the Faculty Senate consists of faculty with graduate status (80 out of 126 in senate).

The Faculty Senate serves as the legislative body of the faculty.

The Faculty Senate represents the entire faculty body at East Carolina University and is made up of many constituent groups (tenured, tenure-track, 9 month & 12 month faculty, faculty from Health Sciences and Academic Affairs, faculty with and without graduate faculty status, researchers and non-researchers).

The University Standing Academic and Appellate Committees function within the senate structure. Faculty are elected to these committees, with many having unit representation. These committees also serve as shared governance structures where senior administrators have seats or representatives on the committees. All committee actions are reported to the Faculty Senate for action and final recommendations that are sent to the Chancellor.

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### Contemporary Framework

- University Policy Manual development and Faculty Manual revision and reorganization have resulted in policies and procedures across campus to be examined and updated.
- Faculty Senate and its committees have worked diligently in past two years in revising its entire manual.
- Recognition of process in Graduate School was uncovered. – No Chancellor approval of curriculum or policies. Chancellor should have final approval over all academic matters (UNC Code).
- SACS accreditation has resulted in examining our charges and in providing appropriate representation for these university standing committees and in updating their oversight.
- This year(and last), in an effort to work on overall university academic policies, many of the committees, in vetting and developing new policies, met with various constituent groups, depending on the nature of the policy.
- Examples - Admission and Retention Committee – Last year – Grade Appeals Policy, this year – Academic Integrity Policy; Academic Standards – Online or



Distance Education Peer Review, Mandatory Online Education Training for faculty.

- As you are aware, the GSAB worked with many of these committees and which has resulted in university wide policies.
- Vice Chancellor Mageean has asked repeatedly, during the last year, to have a seat or a representative on our committees, to represent the graduate side of issues.
- In an effort to accommodate her requests, and to operationalize the activities that had encompassed the many initiatives involving both graduate and undergraduate students, the Committee on Committees recommended that VC Mageean be recommended for a representative on many of the committees, which would then result in having to add another faculty member to balance the activity.
- The language that was inserted relative to these committees, to demonstrate to VC Mageean, that graduate issues would be represented on these committees, the Committee on Committees recommended that the "graduate catalog" be added on the widespread generic charges that pertains only to the charge of the committee. (I.e. - Admission and Retention - academic integrity policy and grade appeals, since these deal with retention issues). This was in no way an attempt to "take over the graduate school". This was also discussed with Dean Gemperline.
- This was on the Agenda as a first reading, which means, as I personally explained to Dean Gemperline, that the Committee on Committees requests that all feedback be directed to the committee so that for the second reading (and vote), the charges/representatives) can be revised, as needed. It was at this point that I reminded Dean Gemperline to submit, in writing, concerns.
- No written feedback was sent to the committee. Resolution was indirectly received via the GSAB listserve (to me).
- Therefore, at the meeting tomorrow, based on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees, the new charges pertaining to graduate matters and the VC for R & GS seat will be recommended for removal. The VC for R & GS will be recommended for only the EPPC and Faculty Governance committees, since these charges already involve issues of which she has some oversight.
- The Committee on Committees is requesting these changes to allow further discussion to take place relative to the relationship between the Faculty Senate and the Graduate School for matters that involve the entire faculty and university.



- It is important that the graduate voice be recognized in these university wide discussions.
- It is important that a formal line of communication be established so that communication and collaboration can take place and not miscommunication or failure to represent graduate needs in university academic affairs.
- This recent lack of communication is the exact reason that we must develop a relationship here.
- We do not want to "take over" the graduate school!