

**REPORT TO THE UNC-CH FACULTY COUNCIL
FACULTY ASSEMBLY, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
March 22, 2002**

The Faculty Assembly is the elected body of representatives of the faculty of the sixteen campuses of the University of North Carolina. It serves as a kind of faculty council for the entire system. According to its Charter, the Faculty Assembly has the following objectives:

1. The Faculty Assembly of the University of North Carolina shall gather and exchange information on behalf of the faculties of the constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina.
2. The Assembly shall, through appropriate channels, advise the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, the General Assembly, and other governmental agencies and officers on matters of university-wide importance.
3. The Assembly shall advise and communicate with the President of the University of North Carolina with regard to the interests of the faculties and other matters of university-wide importance.

The Assembly is dedicated to upholding and exercising the principles of academic freedom, permanent tenure, shared governance, and the faculty's primary responsibility for the university's curriculum.

The Faculty Assembly traditionally meets four times per academic year in the UNC General Administration Building in Chapel Hill. The meetings so far this year have been on September 20th and 21st, November 16th, and February 15th. The last meeting of the year will be held on April 19th.

The size of each campus's delegation to Faculty Council is determined by the number of full-time faculty and professional staff members employed by an institution. UNC Chapel Hill has five delegates: Sue Estroff, Philip Bromberg, Diane Holditch-Davis, William Smith, and Barbara Moran. Joseph Ferrell, Carol Pardun, and Fleming Bell serve as alternates. Gretchen Bataille, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs is the primary liaison from the Office of the President to the Assembly. Richard Veit from UNC-Wilmington serves as chair of the Assembly, David Claxton from Western Carolina serves as vice-chair and Ralph Scott from East Carolina University is secretary.

INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

To date the primary focus of the Faculty Assembly this year has been on three issues:

1. the budget for public senior higher education, and the anticipated and actual cutbacks to the UNC budget as a result of the state's growing budget deficit,
2. public-records law and e-mail privacy issues as they pertain to faculty,
3. long range planning issues for the UNC System. .

Of special interest to Faculty Council members will be the Assembly's work on the length of the academic year. The UNC-CH delegation took forward to Faculty Assembly in September the resolution passed by the Chapel Hill Faculty Council last April regarding the length of the academic year. That resolution urged flexibility in allowing each campus to set its own academic calendar, a calendar that should not exceed the current 150 days, and that should meet all applicable accreditation standards. The resolution was adopted by the Faculty Assembly in November, 2001. The UNC Board of Governors approved a change in the length of the academic calendar at its February 2002 meeting. The new minimum requirements will allow universities to count the one-week exam period each semester as part of their instructional time, reversing a 1996 decree by former UNC President C.D. Spangler Jr. who had lengthened the academic year to 150 days.

Under the leadership of its Chair, Richard Veit, the Assembly has been able to move a great deal of information to its web site and to do more of its work using the Internet. The web site includes minutes of meetings and information about issues and resolutions before the Assembly. Anyone who wishes to learn more about the Faculty Assembly and its activities should consult this website at <http://www.northcarolina.edu/facassembly/facassembly.cfm>.

Barbara B. Moran