

**Faculty Assembly Delegation
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Annual Report to the UNC-CH Faculty Council, 23 January 2015**

The UNC Faculty Assembly (FA) is the elected body of representatives of the faculty of the seventeen constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina. The FA was formed in 1972 when all of the public senior institutions were placed under one Board of Governors. The Assembly, which now meets 6 times each academic year, is dedicated to upholding and exercising the principles of academic freedom, shared governance, tenure, and the faculty's primary responsibility for the University's curriculum.

Objectives and Functions (from the Charter of the Faculty Assembly)

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.

2013-2014 UNC-CH Delegation:

Bob Anthony--University Library (2016), chair; Jan Boxill—Chair of the Faculty, Arts & Sciences (EO); Suzanne Gullledge—School of Education (2016); Lloyd Kramer—History (2014), chair; Beth Kurtz-Costes—Psychology (2015), chair; Jim Porto--Health Policy (Alt)

2014-2015 UNC-CH Delegation:

Bob Anthony—University Library (2016); Jan Boxill—Philosophy (2017) [on leave Fall 2014; resigned Jan. 2015]]; Bruce Cairns, Chair of the Faculty, Surgery (EO); Suzanne Gullledge—School of Education (2016); Beth Kurtz-Costes—Psychology (2015); Christian Lundberg—Communications (Alt); Jim Porto--Health Policy (Alt—Fall 2014; delegate—Spring 2015)

This report summarizes 6 meetings of the UNC FA held between 17 January and 7 November 2014. The Faculty Assembly Chair during 2013-2014 was Catherine Rigsby, Dept. of Geology, ECU. The current Chair is Steve Leonard, Department of Political Science, UNC-Chapel Hill.

Organization of FA meetings

The FA convenes at the Spangler Building, UNC General Administration one Friday per month during the academic year. At its morning session, UNC President Tom Ross shares news, speaks about topics of interest, and answers questions from delegates. Other members of the UNC General Administration then make presentations and engage with the delegates in discussions of strategic planning, policies, procedures, and initiatives. Over the past year, FA heard from a number of UNC officials including Suzanne Ortega, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Charlie Peruse, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Katharine Stewart, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Learning Strategies, later designated Vice President for Academic Planning and Quality; Warwick Arden, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs; Karrie Dixon, Vice President for Academic and Student Success; and Matthew Rascoff, Vice President for Technology-Based Learning and Innovation. Peter Hans Chair of the UNC Board of Governors, addressed the FA and engaged in a Q&A session with the delegates at the 4 April 2014 meeting.

Morning sessions often also include workshops and discussions of issues either being taken up by the UNC Board of Governors or programmatic or policy initiatives of UNC General Administration, such as articulation policies, international programs, performance funding models, measuring academic quality, campus security, and common

general education competencies. Panel discussions, led by FA members and invited special guests, in Spring 2014 included “Effective Faculty Communication,” and “Understanding Student Success (AP, transfer credits, and the University Experience).” Fall 2014 discussion themes were “Faculty and Shared Governance,” “Choosing Institutional Leaders,” and “The Curriculum and Student Success.”

The 5 September discussion of “Faculty and Shared Governance” was intended to provide members with an introduction and orientation to the work of the FA and to inform members of concerns and considerations regarding shared governance challenges at both the University system and individual campus levels. The discussion focused on the current challenges to shared governance resulting from federal policy compliance requirements, state political conditions, and changes in governing bodies. Faculty responsibility for curriculum decisions and peer review processes were emphasized. The need for active campus level faculty collaboration was encouraged. Practices and measures enabling trust building between faculty and administration were especially critical concerns.

The 3 October discussion of “Administrative Leadership” focused on how to help address both national and especially local (UNC System) turnover of administrative leadership. Chairman Steve Leonard pointed out that during the past two years more than half the institutions in the system have faced turnover of chancellors or provosts and a quarter have had both positions open at the same time. The implications of increasing pressures and management complexities for academic administrators were noted. Considerations of national trends suggesting a shift from traditional academic to nontraditional nonacademic candidate pipelines were addressed. Increased faculty vigilance in monitoring and participating in administrator selection processes was emphasized. Faculty expertise and experience in academic issues were discussed as a potentially useful resource for administrative work that did not entail shifting from a scholarly to an administrative track (e.g., positions at or below dean level appointments). Faculty were encouraged to consider accepting or nominating talented colleagues for these positions.

The 7 November discussion of “The Curriculum and Student Success” focused on curricular management and student success concerns that have been prompted by initiatives from the current Strategic Directions plan, state legislation, and current national trends. Faculty roles and the encouragement of faculty participation in the preparation of systemwide student assessment testing, currently being produced in collaboration with Educational Testing Service, were discussed. Also discussed were faculty roles and the encouragement of faculty participation in procedures for Prior Learning Assessment for U.S. military veterans, per N.C. Senate Bill 761. FA delegates also considered recent developments in “unbundling” courses and curricula in order to determine the identification and assessment of “competencies” in college-level education experiences.

Other activities of FA in the past year included discussions of “faculty administrators,” competencies and the curriculum, and international programs and international students.

Committees

During the Spring 2014 semester, FA had five committees—Academic Standards and Policies—General Education Subgroup; Academic Standards and Policies—Instructional Efficiencies Subgroup; Academic Resources; Communications; and Governance. For the Fall 2014 semester, the committee structure was reorganized with the new committee being Academic Curriculum; Student Success; Institutional Resources; Faculty Welfare; and Shared Governance. Committees meet during the early afternoon and report back on their discussions to the full FA when the delegates reconvene for an afternoon plenary session. In the plenary session, minutes of the previous FA meeting are approved and the chair gives a brief report.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Anthony, Delegation Chair