

**Faculty Executive Committee**  
**(Elected by the Faculty at Large)**  
**Annual Report to the Faculty Council for Calendar Year 2012**  
**Submitted by Chair Jan Boxill**  
**December 7, 2012**

*Elected Members, 2012-13 Committee*

- Steve Bachenheimer (Microbiology, 2014)
- Mimi Chapman (Social Work, 2015)
- Gregory Copenhaver (Biology, 2014)
- Jean DeSaix (Biology, 2013)
- Jo Anne Earp (Health Behavior, 2013)
- Michael Gerhardt (Law, 2013)
- Kevin Guskiewicz (Exercise and Sport Science, 2015)
- Laurie Maffly-Kipp (Religious Studies, 2015)
- Timothy McMillan (African and Afro-American Studies, 2014)
- Leslie Parise (Biochemistry, 2014)
- Shielda Rodgers (Nursing, 2013)
- Sarah Shields (History, 2015)

*Ex Officio Members:*

- Jan Boxill (Chair of the Faculty, 2011-14), Committee Chair
- Joseph Ferrell (Secretary of the Faculty)

*Members who completed their service at the end of the 2011-12 academic year:*

- Suzanne Gullledge (Education, 2012)
- Anselmo Lastra (Computer Science, 2012)

*Charge:*

The FEC is charged in Section 2-10 of the *Faculty Code of University Government* to: (1) exercise the consultative powers delegated to the Faculty Council; (2) exercise the legislative powers of the Council when prompt action is required; (3) serve as an advisory committee to the Chair of the Faculty; (4) represent the Faculty Council and General Faculty in advising the University administration with respect to issues that the Committee deems important to the University's mission; (5) work with various officers and groups within the University toward the realization of goals set in actions of the Council; (6) report to the Council on the status of implementation of resolutions of the Council; and (7) serve as members of the Faculty Council.<sup>1</sup>

*Meetings:*

Chaired this year by faculty chair Jan Boxill, the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) met once or twice monthly (for a total of seventeen meetings) throughout the year. Provost Bruce Carney attended approximately every other meeting, and other administrators, faculty members, and

chairs of various faculty committees joined the FEC as appropriate. The FEC also met periodically with Chancellor Thorp to discuss topics of importance.

*Activities This Past Year:*

The Faculty Executive Committee continued this year to play several key roles: to serve as a forum for soliciting diverse faculty viewpoints and input on pressing university-wide issues, proposed policy changes, initiatives, and projects; to serve as an advisory body to the Chair of the Faculty, Provost, and Chancellor; and to act in place of Faculty Council on issues where timely action is needed. In addition, this year FEC met once with the Chancellor's Advisory Committee and provided significant contributions to Agenda Committee planning for Faculty Council meetings.

FEC spent substantial time and attention throughout the year on issues related to the ongoing revelations about problems having to do with the academic work and experiences of student-athletes, particularly football players. With their faculty colleagues, FEC members were deeply troubled in the spring of 2012 when campus reports revealed that a faculty member in the African and Afro-American Studies Department had offered, over several years, courses and independent studies requiring little work that appeared to have been designed especially for the benefit of student-athletes.

After a thorough discussion of the various campus reports and media coverage of this issue at the May 14, 2012 meeting and in response to significant feedback from faculty colleagues, FEC authorized Chair Boxill to appoint a subcommittee consisting of Profs. Steven Bachenheimer, Michael Gerhardt, and Laurie Maffly-Kipp to investigate further. This committee conducted its work throughout May, June, and early July and issued its findings in a report on July 26, 2012. That report is available on the FEC page within the Office of Faculty Governance website at

[http://faccoun.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/20120726ReportFECSub\\_9\\_FINAL.pdf](http://faccoun.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/20120726ReportFECSub_9_FINAL.pdf)

The report benefitted from considerable deliberation by FEC at several meetings from May through September (including extended discussion of how the subcommittee's recommendations on improvements to academic advising might be implemented). It also resulted in immediate actions on the part of Chancellor Thorp to bring the Academic Support Program for Student-Athletes under firmer control of the College of Arts and Sciences and to launch a thorough outside investigation of the problems with athletics and academics (this investigation is being led by former Governor Jim Martin). Thorp also appointed Hunter Rawlings, president of the Association of American Universities, to lead a discussion on campus in the spring of 2013 about the future relationship between academics and athletics. Chancellor Thorp's actions in response to the FEC and other related reports on the academic fraud situation were detailed in a public announcement to the campus on August 16, 2012.

Related to this situation, a significant issue for FEC in the fall of 2012 was developing a response to Chancellor Thorp's unexpected announcement of his intention to step down in the summer of 2013. This announcement led to an emergency meeting of FEC on September 17 and a called General Faculty meeting attended by approximately 250 people on September 18. Both FEC and the General Faculty approved statements in support of the chancellor continuing in his position

that they forwarded to UNC system president Tom Ross. These entreaties, however, were unsuccessful in convincing Thorp to reconsider his decision.

Other important issues to which the FEC devoted substantial time at several of its meetings in 2012 included:

- The changing landscape of textbooks (this discussion informed development of a panel presentation at the Faculty Council meeting on March 16, 2012).
- The need to engage in public discourse around the value and future of publicly funded higher education, especially in light of North Carolina's changing political landscape.
- The work emanating from the Honor System Task Force, including
  - the decision (after a pilot study conducted in the spring and summer of 2012) to adopt Turnitin for use on this campus;
  - the creation of an online honor system training module integrated with Sakai that was launched in the fall of 2012; and
  - the ongoing discussion about short- and longer-term honor system reforms (including departmental liaisons, a faculty/student resolution process, and a proposed "FX" grade). Most of these conversations are still in progress.
- The imprisonment of physics Prof. Paul Frampton in Argentina and the university's decision to suspend his pay.
- Significant discussions, on an ongoing basis, of Faculty Council activities, including the Fall 2012 resolutions from Educational Policy Committee on standard guidelines for syllabi and independent studies, and other matters including the Hettleman Award process, and strategies for fostering a culture of substantive discussion and participation at Faculty Council.
- UNC system Advisory Committee on Strategic Directions formed in the fall of 2012. Discussion of this undertaking emphasized the need and opportunities for faculty engagement in the process, especially in crafting coherent public arguments on behalf of the liberal arts in light of discussions focused on the state's business and economic needs, and in helping to develop appropriate metrics and goals for college attainment.
- The search for a new chancellor to succeed Holden Thorp.
- The proposed policy changes to the Board of Governors' Code emanating from the work of the UN system Faculty Assembly, especially the proposed reduction of the drop period, which is opposed by faculty and administration at Chapel Hill as detrimental to the interests of our students. FEC developed a statement of Chapel Hill's arguments against to this proposed change, which was forwarded to Board of Governors Chair Hannah Gage on November 7, 2012.

Other matters that came before the FEC also included:

- Improved campus emergency procedures;
- Campus tuition increases, graduate tuition remission, and allocation of a base percentage of tuition receipts to financial aid;
- Ongoing planning for the Carolina North property;
- Campus lab safety responsibilities and fostering a campus safety culture;
- Revisions to the *Faculty Code of University Government* to allow for removal of non-participating members from campus standing committees, to revise the charge of the

Administrative Board of the Library, and to address problems with the divisional structure in the College;

- UNC PeopleAdmin faculty recruitment system;
- Ongoing improvements to Sakai;
- Provost's Salary Equity Study and campus recordkeeping and data collection to support future monitoring of issues in this area;
- Spring 2012 faculty elections and future efforts to recruit Faculty Council participants;
- Student government's spring 2012 faculty retention study and general statistics on faculty retention;
- Plans for Faculty Council retreat for Fall 2012;
- Various issues that were also prominent before Faculty Assembly, including campus grievance procedures and online education;
- SB 575 on removing campus employees from the State Personnel Act;
- Committee appointments to standing committees of the faculty and the reconstitution of dormant committees (e.g. Community and Diversity, Faculty Welfare);
- New Master Lecturer appointments in the College and continued dissatisfaction with the "Master Lecturer" title;
- The firing/rehiring of President Teresa Sullivan at the University of Virginia (FEC sent a statement of support to UVA's Faculty Senate);
- The Water theme for campus beginning in the fall of 2012;
- The new (August 1, 2012) sexual misconduct policy removing sexual harassment and misconduct cases from the student honor court;
- Office of Faculty Governance social media outreach efforts (Facebook page, Twitter @UNCFacGov); and
- Changing information security procedures on campus.

The FEC helped to develop several resolutions for the General Faculty & Faculty Council this year (all of which were passed), including:

- Resolution 2012-7. On Opposition to a Cap on the Use of Campus-Based Tuition Increases for Need-Based Financial Aid (passed at Faculty Council on September 7, 2012)
- Resolution 2012-8. On Endorsing the Faculty Executive Committee Report on Academic Irregularities and Commending Chancellor Thorp's Actions to Restore Confidence in Carolina's Academic Integrity (passed at Faculty Council on September 7, 2012)
- Resolution 2012-9. On Affirming the Academic Integrity of African and Afro-American Studies (passed at Faculty Council on September 7, 2012)
- Resolution 2012-13. On Support for Chancellor Holden Thorp (passed at the General Faculty meeting on September 18, 2012).