

Annual Report of the Faculty Committee on Research

Faculty Council presentation April 25, 2008

Research Committee 2007-08

Through 2008

Sandra Funk (Nursing)

Harvey Seim (Marine Sciences and chair)

Stephen Walsh (Geography)

Through 2009

Aysenil Belger (Medicine)

Anne Skelly (Nursing)

Michael. B. Jarstfer (Pharmacy)

Through 2010

Kenneth Bollen (Sociology)

Harvey Goldstein (City and Regional Planning)

Sharon Campbell (Biochemistry and Biophysics– attended no meetings)

Tony Waldrop (Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development), Ex-Officio

The Committee met twice in the Fall 2007 semester and four times in the Spring 2007 semester prior to reporting to the Faculty Council. This year, the committee has presented its report addressing the Chancellor's goal of growing the research enterprise at UNC-CH to \$1 billion per year and focused on possible creation of a true sabbatical program for the University.

Growing the Research Enterprise at UNC-CH

Last year the committee authored a report, "**Towards a strategic plan for growing the research enterprise at Carolina**", that was presented to Faculty Council as the committee's annual report. During fall 2007 the subject of the report was revisited in a panel discussion before Faculty Council on November 9, 2007; Seim represented the Research Committee as a member of the panel discussion. An outline of the full report was distributed prior to the meeting (<http://www.unc.edu/faculty/faccoun/reports/2007-08/specialrepts/ResearchPanel/200711TowardsStrategicPlanResearchhandout.pdf>).

Promoting a true sabbatical program at UNC-CH

For this year the committee chose to promote one of the identified needs in their 2007 report, creation of a true sabbatical program for the University. It was decided that the committee would a) submit a resolution to Faculty Council supporting creation of a campus-wide sabbatical program; b) review peer institution sabbatical programs; c) establish a dialog with campus faculty and administration on the nature of program; and d) author a committee report that raises the important issues to be addressed and suggests a path forward as is appropriate.

Resolution 2008.1 submitted to and approved by Faculty Council at its January 25, 2008 meeting (<http://www.unc.edu/faculty/faccoun/resolutions/Res2008-1.shtml>). The resolution “affirms and endorses the value of a faculty sabbatical program that is competitive with our peer institutions”. It is clear from discussions with Faculty Council that an endowment is the most probable mechanism for funding the program. The committee feels that if there is broad support for the program it may be possible to have it included as a fund-raising priority in the cases developed by the schools of the University. As a way to promote discussion, the committee is developing a survey for the general faculty that will solicit their views on the structure of a sabbatical program, and is briefing senior administrators on the program, to seek their endorsement and to also better understand existing leave programs and the constraints under which they operate.

The committee has established that the overwhelming majority of our designated peer institutions operate sabbatical programs. Important aspects of a sabbatical program to be decided include eligibility, duration and compensation, payback requirements, frequency, the process of application and reporting. We are also pursuing basic cost estimates under a small range of scenarios.