Faculty Senate Chair Report

October 31, 2012 (overflow meeting November 7)

➢ Resolution re Faculty Input on the UNC Strategic Plan

A resolution was presented to the WCU Faculty Senate to increase the faculty voice on the UNC Strategic Plan. A vote was conducted electronically because of the time sensitive nature of the issue. It passed 24 yes to 1 no.

The WCU resolution is here. A summary of the WCU Senate vote is here.

The relevant documents are posted on Sharepoint and included below. In sum, the resolutions were:

...That the Faculty shall be informed of strategic planning activities and a mechanism be created to solicit input at the campus level throughout the process so as to achieve effective outcomes and faculty buy-in and... that a Faculty group including representatives from all of the UNC system campuses be created to interact and collaborate with the UNC Advisory Committee on Strategic Directions.

The UNC Faculty Assembly (FA) and several campuses submitted similar resolutions, upon which President Ross and Chairman Hans agreed to establish a UNC Faculty Advisory Council. Professor Erin McNelis of Mathematics and Computer Science and Vice-Chair of the WCU Faculty Senate was selected to for this Council. A letter from Catherine Rigsby, chair of the UNC Faculty Assembly, explaining the way faculty input will be added to the process is included here.

For more information about the UNC strategic planning process and committee, click here.

Faculty throughout the UNC system are encouraged to complete the faculty survey which is on the upper right hand column on the Faculty Assembly webpage.

President Ross sent a letter acknowledging WCU’s resolution. A copy of the letter is here.

➢ Committee Nominations

Conflict of Interest Review Panel. Professor Jayne Zanglein Business Administration and Law and Sport Management has agreed to serve as the faculty member on this Panel.

Military Affairs Committee. Professor Leigh Odom in Communication Sciences & Disorders has agreed to serve as the faculty member on this Committee.

University Budget Advisory Committee. This committee is in the process of being named. Voting closes on Monday, October 29.
➢ Other

The Staff Senate took the lead on a Suggestion Box which was an invitation for all employees to contribute ideas and suggestions for improvements. This semester the Faculty Senate collaborated on compiling the results of the suggestions. Robin Hitch, Chair of Staff Senate presented the list to the Chancellor’s Leadership Council on October 8.

➢ Chancellor Meeting

We discussed:

- the Strategic Directions Initiative and the resolutions throughout the system to increase the faculty voice in the strategic planning process.
- the Faculty Assembly resolution from 2005 on the Standards of Shared Governance that is being actively discussed in Faculty Assembly and with President Ross.
- the Faculty Assembly attention to the hearing and grievance procedures and policies throughout the UNC system.
- the tabled resolution from the Governance Committee of Faculty Assembly to have an ombudsperson employed at each campus. (This will probably come back when the hearing and grievance procedures and policies are fixed.)

➢ Provost Meeting

I met with Provost Angi Brenton on 10/24. We discussed her items for this Faculty Senate meeting (see her report). I discussed one of the issues that arose at Faculty Assembly’s September meeting (see Faculty Assembly report): It was a resolution that all campuses should have an ombudsperson, but it was tabled for further study of the campuses which do have such an office. UNC Chapel Hill and Charlotte both have such offices/staff. The Governance Committee of Faculty Assembly plans to bring it back off the table later in the year, and to link it with recommendations for cleaning up hearing and grievance procedures, principles and guidelines.

➢ Faculty Expertise List.

The Faculty Assembly is compiling a list of UNC system faculty with expertise in the following aspects of the University. This is not for committee nominations, but just to have a central list onhand for when such expertise may be requested. Please suggest one or two faculty for this list, and I will contact them for permission and information.
• Athletic policy
• Budget issues
• Enrollment processes
• Student Success agenda
• Grievance policy
• Core Curriculum
• Community college transfers and articulation rules
• Demographics
• Distance Education
• International Programs
• STEM education policy
• Student services

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jean Ronan Herzog