**Faculty Senate
Chair’s Report
November 21, 2013**

**Note to Senators**

Thank you for your continuing contribution to shared governance and for your efforts to communicate Senate business to your colleagues.

**Council**

APRC continued to examine the “Fostering Student Success” policy and will bring a resolution to the Senate about the policy changes reflecting its requirements.

CRC has been updating the Faculty Handbook language to include the range of protected classes described in WCU Policy 10.

FAC has been addressing revisions to faculty awards, and they have approved a new policy and procedures document. They also followed up discussions over the purchase, implementation and repercussions of the Encase software. The faculty member who brought the concerns to Senate has been satisfied with the explanations and discussions, even if he would prefer we not have purchased it.

**Faculty Assembly Resolution on System-wide Core Competencies**

The Planning Team agreed to ask the Senate to endorse the resolution on **System-wide Core Competencies** (attached)that was approved by the UNC Faculty Assembly (FA) on October 25, 2013. Briefly, a subcommittee of the UNC General Education Council recommended two common core competencies -- critical thinking and written communication, and the FA resolution endorses these core competencies. It also specified that the faculty have primary responsibility for developing and administering assessment instruments. As of November 15, eleven of the UNC institutions have voted (unanimously) to endorse this FA resolution.

**Comprehensive Articulation Agreement** **(CAA)**

The UNC Comprehensive Articulation Agreement is undergoing revision. The General Administration has requested that the proposed revisions be reviewed and considered by each campus. Suzanne Ortega and Sharon Morrissey of GA stated in a memo (attached) that the proposed revisions reflect only two significant changes: 1. A group of universal general education courses will meet some (but not all) of the lower division general education requirements at all UNC constituent institutions. 2. Resources for effective advising must be more accessible and clearly identified.

**Shared Governance**

We have been asked by the Faculty Assembly to have the either the Planning Team or the entire Senate or both complete a survey on shared governance. I am working on simplifying and adapting the survey for WCU and will seek guidance as to who should be asked to complete this survey. (Some institutions are having only their senate executive council complete it while others are asking a broader Senate response.)

The survey is not attached, but a related document, “Standards of Shared Governance” is.

**WCU Faculty Committee Membership**

The Faculty Senate website is being updated and corrected, thanks to Ann Green. We are adding a link from the Provost’s office which will include an Excel file of all faculty committees. Soon, all committee membership lists will be correct and easily accessible. Some are already complete and correct. If you are interested, for example, in the membership of the University Collegial Review, Hearing or Grievance Committees, you will be able to find them on the Faculty Senate website.

Here is the link: <http://www.wcu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/about-the-faculty-senate/general-faculty-officers-and-committees.asp>

**Campus Parking**

Since the October Senate meeting, the Parking Committee has held three open forums. The Faculty Senate representative on that committee is Rebecca Lasher. The original proposal has been modified significantly, and the work is ongoing. The committee seems to be very responsive to concerns and suggestions.

**University Athletics Committee (UAC)**

The UAC has approved an initial draft of new guidelines. The draft has been reviewed and revised after consultation with the Chancellor and legal counsel. One suggestion is that it become a committee owned by the Senate. The Planning Team responded that more research and discussion are needed on this issue. We will follow up next semester.

Submitted by,

Mary Jean Ronan Herzog