

Summary. UNC Faculty Assembly Meeting, October 26, 2012

Submitted by M. Herzog

Documents related to this FA meeting are posted on the FA website at

[http://www.northcarolina.edu/fa\\_meetings/index.php](http://www.northcarolina.edu/fa_meetings/index.php)

- **The UNC Strategic Planning Process and Strategic Directions Committee.** Faculty input has been assured with the new UNC Faculty Advisory Council (Professor Erin McNelis has been asked to represent WCU). President Ross considers faculty input essential. Issues for the Strategic Planning process include tackling the question of the impact of a UNC education on the state of NC; assessment of student learning; elearning; use of technology in both distance and traditional instruction; preparation for STEM needs; the importance of “soft skills.” Although there’s usually more emphasis on STEM needs, there was a lot of discussion about the essential importance of the so-called ‘soft skills’ such as written and verbal communication, critical reasoning, problem solving, etc.

All faculty across the UNC system are invited to submit input anonymously at this link:

<http://surveys.northcarolina.edu/index.php?sid=71465&lang=en>

How to assess impact was discussed with consideration of the limits of both quantitative and qualitative data. There is a need for meaningful as well as measureable data, and much is already collected on campuses.

- **Shared Governance.** President Ross stated his strong belief in Shared Governance and said he used that model in working with the Chancellors. Faculty are concerned that some campuses have not implemented the Standards of Shared Governance (See the 2005 Faculty Assembly [resolution](#) here).
- **Report from the Community Engagement and Economic Development Taskforce.** Leslie Boney led a discussion of this [report](#). Questions and concerns were raised about the use of “entrepreneurship” as a generic term because of its specific uses and connotations. Similarly, the term “soft skills” was considered a negative for essential, core competencies without which a UNC graduate will contribute considerably less to the productivity of the community and economy.
- **Measuring Academic Quality.** The questions presented to the panel are attached [here](#). It’s complicated and complex. Points of discussion are in the minutes.
- **Committee Reports.** Issues & problems that were discussed included: shared governance, grievance/hearing procedures and training, need for ombudspersons, program prioritization, policies that disadvantage students at Historically Minority Institutions, faculty involvement in campus budget processes (WCU is ahead on this), measurement of quality, articulation and quality of international programs and initiatives.