NC Faculty Assembly 23 March 2012

Summary

Charlie Perusse, Vice President for Finance reported that the NC economy is growing and revenues are up. Although there are still challenges with Medicaid and loss of federal money for schools, the worst-case scenario for UN for next year is probably level funding. GA is developing a model to align additional resources with performance. See detailed notes for more information about this model.

Kate Henz, Senior Director of Academic Policy & Funding Analyses, gave the BOG Educational Planning Subcommittee on Faculty Workload Report. They are using Delaware data to examine faculty teaching load, but need to put the information in context of all faculty work because the data only address teaching load. They are now looking at policy; see policy on faculty workload: http://www.northcarolina.edu/policy/index.php?pg=vs&id=393

Report from UNC Language Assembly Portal Development and E-Learning Hire; Alisa Chapman, Vice President for Academic and University Programs. A new ‘director of e-learning’ at GA will address program development, strategic planning, outreach and engagement, and technical coordination and online operations. One goal is to coordinate some program areas, such as foreign languages, across campuses; a UNC language assembly portal subcommittee is working on this.

Jimmy Reeves, Chair gave an update from the Distributed Education Taskforce. They are accumulating data on distance and hybrid courses, and have information back from 2/3 of the campuses. See detailed notes for more information.

Anita Watkins, Vice President for State Relations and William Fleming, Vice President for Human Resources, reported on GA’s legislative agenda for Short Session and SB 575. The short session traditionally is a budget session; it sometimes goes into October or November and has rules about what can be considered. GA is proposing the following: Making sure all student fees can be deposited into an institutional trust fund account (so protected from reversions), especially education and technology fees; 575 – consolidating personnel under BOG; salary increase restrictions – ask they be lifted; optional retirement program – have asked it be available for all employees; more flexibility to regulate smoking on campus – some campuses want smoke free campuses; want flexibility to manage smoking zones.

Kimrey Rhinehardt, Vice President for Federal Relations, reported that the BOG’s highest federal priorities include preserving maximum Pell grant award; funding for NSF, DoD, and other grant agencies; preserving Title II and negotiated F&A rates; and provide a favorable tax environment for students who do not qualify for need-based aid. See the detailed report for more priorities.

An Academics First Workgroup update was given by Bruce Mallette, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. The workgroup is charged with reviewing BOG policies on retention rates and minimum admission requirements, recommending satisfactory progress policy, defining ‘attempted hours’ across campuses, and examining drop/adds, course withdrawals, etc. Representatives from GA and community colleges met to develop policies and articulation agreements. A new crisis is next year’s student health insurance. See detailed notes for more information. Student health insurance has been losing money and new health regulations may make premiums very expensive.

Raymond Burt, Vice Chair, UNC Faculty Assembly, gave a Grievance Video Report. The committee has categorized the different kinds of grievance processes. They recommend short training modules and will have a central website where campuses can access specific modules. Faculty handbooks may require revision to be in line with the code.

In additional business, the Assembly discussed whether to put WCU’s resolution on amendment 1 on the April agenda. At question is whether regulations on lobbying or political activity prevent Assembly action on this issue.

From an April 12 email from Faculty Assembly Chair, Sandie Gravett, regarding the Amendment One resolution presented from WCU:

“The President and I discussed political activity the other night.  Here is the takeaway.

Official statements on behalf of the University or any one of the campuses can only come from the Board of Governors.  Every employee has the right and some might say even the duty to speak as a citizen.  The interpretation of the rights of bodies like Faculty Senates and the UNC Faculty Assembly to weigh in on bills being considered by the General Assembly is open to interpretation.  Campus bodies should heed the best counsel of their legal staff and the UNC Faculty Assembly should heed the best counsel of UNC General Administration legal.”