Remarks to the Board of Trustees  
Donna Kain, Vice Chair of the Faculty  
4/20/2018  
Murphy Center  

On behalf of John Stiller, Chair of the Faculty, and members of the faculty, welcome and good morning.

2017-18 has been a busy year, but I think we probably say that every year. This year, we have revised significant parts of the faculty manual that outlines our commitments; participated in the adoption of new technologies including Curriculog, which streamlines curriculum development and catalog updates; Faculty 180, our new faculty effort reporting system; and Blue, our student survey of instruction, the results of which are important to us.

We’re also busy with our three primary and intertwined responsibilities—teaching; research; and service to ECU, our disciplines, and our region and communities. We’re teaching more students each year, many the first in their families to attend college, most from North Carolina. As we come to graduation again, we realize how proud of them we and their families are. We want the best for their lives.

Our part in that is to prepare them as effective professionals and informed citizens. That is our teaching focus. Our research focus is critical to our teaching mission. The results of research inform what and how we teach. Through our research, and research with our students, we model the ways that continual learning, curiosity, and the goal of creating new knowledge benefit individuals and society. We share what we learn. Students take what they learn and demonstrate that in our classrooms, at events like Research and Creative Achievement Week—where this year we had close to 400 presentations and posters—and on into their careers and lives, here the research we share has the most ongoing impact.

At the same time, sharing our research helps the region, our communities, and beyond through faculty and student service.

Shared governances and the role of the faculty Senate help ensure that we move forward in our collective mission. The Senate’s elected body and sub-committees are responsible for ensuring that the faculty as a whole provides a strong curriculum including important foundations in science, technology and engineering; arts and humanities. These efforts foster the learning, research, and service we know will move ECU, our students, and our research impact forward.

It’s critical, then, that faculty continue our important roles in that process and in open collaboration with the administration and other units across campus that lead to the success and visibility of ECU and to our students’ future successes.

Finally, I want to thank John Stiller, our out-going Chair of the faculty, for three very productive years leading the faculty. John isn’t here today, so I can say a few things about his work with the Senate. [I made a very nice (but not written down) comments about John’s collaborative manner, productivity, inclusiveness, three-year term, etc.]

Thank you.