

**Board of Trustees Remarks**  
**Mark W. Sprague, Chair of the Faculty**  
**July 20, 2012**

Thank you, Prof. Walker for that introduction! First, I would like to recognize Prof. Marianna Walker for the outstanding job she has done as chair of the faculty for the last three years. Marianna, it has been a privilege to serve with you, and I have to say that you are my role model. When Prof. Walker became chair of the faculty in July 2009, the board of trustees charged the faculty senate to review and revise the faculty manual. Under Prof. Walker's leadership, we reviewed every word of the manual, and revised much of it. I have to say that our newly revised and reorganized faculty manual is truly a "best practices" document. We are the only university in the UNC system to undertake such a challenge. If revising the faculty manual was not enough, we adopted a new faculty governance structure for graduate matters and prepared for our SACS accreditation visit. Oh, and there was also a budget crisis and the PPC. Marianna Walker led the faculty through all of this with grace, class, and eloquence. Please join me in thanking her for all she has done for East Carolina University!

Let me introduce you to my team of faculty officers for this year. The Vice Chair of the Faculty is Andrew Morehead from the Department of Chemistry. Andrew is an organic chemist. He also represents ECU on the UNC Faculty Assembly, serving as secretary to that body. The Secretary of the Faculty is Cheryl McFadden from the Department of Higher, Adult, and Councilor Education. Cheryl specializes in program evaluation, female leadership styles, leadership academies, and principal induction. The Parliamentarian of the Faculty is Ken Wilson from the Department of Sociology. Ken is an expert in producing and interpreting surveys. He works in areas as wide-ranging as understanding how research is done, rebuilding after natural disasters, and assessing factors that encourage participation in breast cancer education. Ken is also a former chair of the faculty. I have a great team!

At ECU we have a shared governance model that works. The faculty and the administration have a history of working together not only to deal with the big issues, but also to make this university function on a day-to-day basis. As chair of the faculty, I intend to maintain that strong collaborative relationship. I will work to improve the communication with and the training of our faculty and administrators on our best practices policies. I will stand for policies that promote academic rigor, effective teaching, and faculty scholarship because I believe that this will make ECU and the state of North Carolina a better place.

We face challenges, many of which are associated with the tough economic times. As a result of four years with no raises, we have lost a lot of faculty members including some star researchers. This has had a negative effect on the loyal faculty who have stayed at ECU. We have had to teach more classes, advise more students, and manage more research labs as a result of faculty attrition. These extra duties result in decreased teaching effectiveness and research productivity. The economic situation is beginning to improve, but we need to be able to recruit and keep top-notch faculty.

Today you will be considering some changes to Part VIII (formerly Appendix C) of the Faculty Manual that result from our adoption of a new student opinion survey, the Student Perception of Teaching Survey (SPOTS). We use student survey results as one of several methods of evaluating teaching, and the revisions to Part VIII are in the section covering the teaching portion of the faculty annual evaluation. Our annual evaluations will better reflect what we do in the classroom with this new survey and revised teaching evaluation policy.

I am confident that by working together, we will get through the tough times. ECU plays a special role to the region and the state. The faculty is committed to preserving and enhancing that role and to the success of East Carolina University. Thank you.