

Remarks to the Board of Trustees

July 28, 2017

Donna Kain, Vice Chair of the Faculty

Good morning!

I'm pleased to be here to greet you on behalf of the ECU faculty and our faculty officers—chair, John Stiller; secretary Donna Roberson, parliamentarian, Jeff Popke; and me, Donna Kain, vice-chair. I am also an associate professor in English specializing in professional and technical communication.

We have just completed a very busy and impactful academic year in which we experienced some significant changes. First among these, of course, was the inaugural year of Dr. Staton's tenure as Chancellor. Faculty have had a number of opportunities to interact with Dr. Staton and to discuss his vision for the university and our work as teachers, researchers, and participants in the transformation of our region and advancement of knowledge in North Carolina and beyond.

After months of initial planning, ECU and Vidant Health Systems have developed a new relationship that we hope will open opportunities for new ways of approaching health care, medical education, and research.

We've also been working on a number of initiatives that will strengthen how we collect, analyze, and report data about our activities across campus. This work may not be the flashiest thing we do, but the systems we have in place as part of our information infrastructure are important ways that we assess our productivity and the success of our efforts. The projects we've been working on include "Blue," a survey tool for gathering and disseminating student opinions of instruction; Faculty 180, a system for reporting faculty, department, and college activities; and refinements in the ways we conduct assessment on our courses and programs.

These are "behind the scenes" efforts that people often don't know much about—I didn't until I was involved. But these are also critical efforts in helping us ensure that we have coherent and effective programs that are

working for students. The reason I now know more about these systems is that faculty have been included in choosing, implementing, and testing them. We are working with staff and administrators in these efforts as partners who will use and be affected by these systems. This type of collaboration is a hallmark of shared governance at ECU. In particular, I would like to recognize Dr. Ying Zhou, Associate Provost of Institutional Planning, Assessment, and Research, for her leadership in just about all of these initiatives. She is the ultimate team player and values the input of the faculty and staff who work with her on these projects.

To achieve our missions in teaching, research, and service, the relationship between the faculty and the administration is critical. Here at ECU, my experience has been that the tradition of shared governance advances the important work to which we all contribute. I am proud to be part of that work and to share with you some of what we do. I'm sure that Dr. Stiller will be updating you throughout the year on the accomplishments of our students and faculty—because behind every great student, there is a great faculty.

Thank you.