



(Design of lapel pins given to estimated 2,300 faculty members during the 50th celebration.)

East Carolina University has a very distinguished record of leadership and achievement in shared governance among its peer institutions. In 2015, we celebrated fifty years since the inception of ECU's Faculty Senate. As part of that celebration we thanked colleagues for their selfless and noteworthy efforts on behalf of faculty and shared governance at East Carolina University. During the celebration, [memorative medallions](#) were awarded to nominated individuals and recipients were recognized for their efforts in serving the university, aiding faculty in their academic efforts, supporting shared governance and enabling higher education's core principles to endure and evolve as an institutional priority.

[50th Anniversary Medallion Recipients](#)

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) issued the first guidelines on shared governance in 1920, "*emphasizing the importance of faculty involvement in personnel decisions, selection of administrators, preparation of the budget, and determination of educational policies.*" East Carolina University's Faculty Senate was the third senate created at an institution that is now part of the UNC system (we joined in 1971). ECU's Faculty Senate, shared governance processes, and faculty leadership are well recognized at the system level. ECU's faculty grievance processes were utilized as examples in the development of other campus' grievance processes, and our promotion and tenure processes have influenced other campus' development of their own.

The creation of a method for shared governance is considered critical to the function of a university, and the UNC Code, section 502D reads, in part, "*The chancellor shall be responsible for ensuring that there exists in the institution a faculty council or senate, a majority of whose members are elected by and from the members of the faculty,*" and "*In addition to ensuring the establishment of a council or senate, the chancellor shall ensure the establishment of appropriate procedures within the institution to provide members of the faculty the means to give advice with respect to questions of academic policy and institutional governance, with particular emphasis upon matters of curriculum, degree requirements, instructional standards, and grading criteria.*" We built this university together, and we will have to act together to preserve it and our right to shape ECU's curriculum, our personnel processes, and our identity as the university committed to service and transforming eastern North Carolina. (Excerpts from Chair of the Faculty Andrew Morehead's [remarks](#) to the Faculty Senate, March 2015)

The tradition of shared governance at East Carolina University can be traced back to a Tuesday, October 19, 1909 – two weeks after classes began, when then President Robert Wright convened the first recorded meeting of the faculty – all ten of them – seven women and three men. The Faculty Senate, ECU's political structure, began in the fall of 1964 with a proposal that was later ratified by a meeting of the faculty as a whole in early 1965. During the 2014-2015 academic year, faculty participated in various 50th anniversary celebrations and were recognized for their ongoing volunteer efforts to maintain a strong shared governance structure at ECU. University Historian Professor John Tucker appeared at each Senate meeting to present key episodes in the history of shared governance. Provided below are links to the presentations.

The Mysterious Case of
Annie A. White
[September 16, 2014 Report](#)

More than a motto – an ethic
emerges
[October 7, 2014 Report](#)

Budget Cuts and World
Federations: Faculty Activism in
the 1930s and early 1940s
[November 4, 2014 Report](#)

The Nadir
[December 2, 2014 Report](#)

The Founding
[January 27, 2015 Report](#)

Early Agendas and
Orders of Business
[March 17, 2015 Report](#)

The Faculty Senate and
Chancellor Searches
[April 14, 2015 Report](#)

East Carolina University Elected Faculty Leaders (1965-present)

In an effort to involve the past Chairs of the Faculty in the celebration and recognize their contributions, all were invited to be interviewed about their personal challenges and accomplishments relating to ECU's shared governance. [Specific questions](#) were posed to each past Chair to identify significant successes achieved, and challenges encountered, during their tenure in office. Provided below are links to submitted responses.

[James LeRoy Smith](#)
Philosophy and Religious Studies
Chair of the Faculty
1983-1985

[Ken Wilson](#)
Sociology
Chair of the Faculty
1985-1987

[John Moskop](#)
Medicine
Chair of the Faculty
1991-1993

[Patricia Anderson](#)
Education
Chair of the Faculty
1993-1995

[Bob Morrison](#)
Chemistry
Chair of the Faculty
2000-2003

[Mark Taggart](#)
Music
Chair of the Faculty
2006-2008

[Video](#) including six past leaders

Pictorial Snapshots of Faculty Leaders

Office Renovation, September 1994

Annual Faculty Senate reception, April 2014

Faculty Senate's 40th anniversary, March 2005

Informal gathering of leaders, December 2014

Come Together, July 2009

Annual Faculty Senate reception, April 2015

Fall Faculty Convocation, August 2010