

## UNC FACULTY ASSEMBLY 2012-2013 Activities Report

A report to the ECU Faculty Senate

Prepared by Catherine A. Rigsby (Chair, UNC Faculty Assembly)

April 16, 2013

### The UNC Strategic Directions Initiative

This year has been focused, mainly, on the new UNC Strategic Plan. I'm sure you've all seen and read the strategic plan ([http://www.northcarolina.edu/strategic\\_direction/STRATEGIC\\_DIRECTIONS\\_2013-2018.pdf](http://www.northcarolina.edu/strategic_direction/STRATEGIC_DIRECTIONS_2013-2018.pdf)). I hope you've also all seen the plan-related documents that were produced by the Faculty Assembly (FA) and its committees, including the Faculty Advisory Council's (FAC) strategic planning report (written prior to the release of the strategic plan in the hopes of informing that Strategic Directions Working Group drafting of the plan), and both the FA's and Association of Student Governments' (ASG) response to the strategic plan. Here are the links to those documents:

- Our University, Our Future: A Faculty Vision For UNC Strategic Directions (the FAC report): <http://www.northcarolina.edu/reports/index.php?page=download&id=1637&inline=1>
- The Faculty Assembly Response Report: [http://www.northcarolina.edu/facultyassembly/19Jan2013\\_Faculty\\_Assembly\\_Response\\_to\\_the\\_Jan16\\_Draft\\_of\\_th.pdf](http://www.northcarolina.edu/facultyassembly/19Jan2013_Faculty_Assembly_Response_to_the_Jan16_Draft_of_th.pdf)
- The ASG Response: [http://www.northcarolina.edu/facultyassembly/130121\\_-\\_ASG\\_Response\\_to\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_Draft.pdf](http://www.northcarolina.edu/facultyassembly/130121_-_ASG_Response_to_Strategic_Plan_Draft.pdf)

Implementation of the strategic plan by the General Administration (GA) is underway. As part of the implementation process, the FA charged a new committee, the *Faculty Advisory Committee on the Strategic Directions Implementation* (FAC\_SDI) to, among other things, make sure that there is maximum possible faculty representation on all of GA's strategic directions workgroups and to help keep faculty across the system informed as implementation of the various initiatives proceeds. Once this committee was approved by President Ross, the members convened to determine faculty nominations for the various implementation workgroups. President Ross accepted our nominations and used them, along with nominations from the Provosts at the various campuses to determine the membership of three important workgroups: the *General Education Council*, the *E-Learning Workgroup*, and the *Efficiencies (Section Size) Workgroup*. A copy of the FAC\_SDI committee charge and roster, as well as the rosters and charges of the three workgroups, can be found at the following location:

[http://www.northcarolina.edu/fa\\_meetings/index.php?pg=dl&id=s14787&format=pdf&inline=1](http://www.northcarolina.edu/fa_meetings/index.php?pg=dl&id=s14787&format=pdf&inline=1). As always, this and other meeting materials can be found on the FA website (<http://www.northcarolina.edu/facultyassembly/index.htm>).

The members of the FAC\_SDI worked hard (and on a very tight timeline) to get names of potential faculty members for the workgroups to President Ross. For the *General Education Council*, for example, we gave him the names of 33 faculty members who we thought would serve the system well. As you will see on the roster, he picked 13 of those names. He also appointed 7 additional non-administrative faculty members (faculty nominated by their Provosts) to the Council. We are encouraged that the *General Education Council* is more than 70% faculty. The other 2 workgroups are smaller, but also have appropriate faculty representation.

We know that faculty across the system are united in their concerns about maintaining primary responsibility for design, delivery, and assessment of the curriculum. This concern was highlighted by the quick responses of both the *Faculty Advisory Council* (FAC) and the *Faculty Assembly* (FA) to the draft strategic plan and by the full and rapid endorsement of those responses by 15 of our 17 campuses. (The final draft of the strategic plan incorporated minor changes as a result of this faculty action.)

The FA hopes that the presence FAC\_SDI-nominated faculty members on the implementation workgroups will ensure that these system-level committees will acknowledge their responsibility to respect the concerns of the faculty and will agree to a set of system-wide competencies only if those competencies can be accepted by each of our campuses and if will allow maximum flexibility for the campuses to develop their own implementation strategies. Importantly, any curriculum-related changes suggested by these workgroups must go through our normal campus-based approval procedures before they are

implemented. This means that we must continue to acknowledge the unique mission of each campus, as well as the need to allow and encourage each campus to design programs that best serve its unique student population.

In addition to the three faculty-involved workgroups, GA is pushing ahead on other strategic directions initiatives. For example, there is now a Chancellor's committee on MOOCs (another item of clear concern to the faculty that we are monitoring closely) and there are discussions underway, involving the General Education Council as well as other groups, about e-Portfolios, system-wide means of assessing General Education competencies, and much more. The FA is closely monitoring all of this work and will do its best, via the FAC\_SDI to keep faculty apprised of developments. We will also do our best to make sure that faculty are "in the loop" in any and all policy discussions/decisions that involve curriculum, faculty welfare, or other items that best practice dictates must be within the purview of the faculty.

#### Other 2012-2013 FA Activities

The FA undertook several other initiatives during the 2012-2013 academic year:

- *Reconstituted committees that had been dormant for several years.* This resulted in more active involvement of the delegates in the work of the committee, more communication between the FA and most of the campuses, more specific faculty-initiated action items at our meetings and on the campuses. The committees were particularly helpful as we prepared our strategic planning activities and documents. In addition to the (Historically Minority Institutions (HMI) and the Faculty Chairs Committees, which had been operating all along, we the following reestablished 4 committees:
  - Academic Standards and Policies
    - Articulation Subgroup
    - International Programs Subgroup
    - Student Success Subgroup
  - Budget
  - Faculty Welfare and External Communications
  - Governance

The committees invited GA staff to participate in their meetings and a wide range of GA staff was invited to attend informal lunch discussions during the FA meetings. Brief descriptions of the committees can be found on the following FA web page: [http://www.northcarolina.edu/facultyassembly/fa\\_committee.htm](http://www.northcarolina.edu/facultyassembly/fa_committee.htm).

- *Passed 13 resolutions* on topics ranging from Shared Governance, to praise for Bill Friday, to Concerns with e-Learning as presented in the UNC Strategic Plan. Many of these resolutions had positive results (such as faculty involvement on strategic plan implementation workgroups). The shared governance resolution has begun an evaluation of campus shared governance structures, with campus Senates cataloging their campus's successes and failures as measured by the "2005 Standards of Shared Governance" and AAUP's "Indicators of Sound Governance" instrument (<http://www.aaup.org/issues/governance-colleges-universities/indicators-sound-governance>). All of the 2012-2013 resolutions are posted on the Faculty Assembly website (<http://www.northcarolina.edu/facultyassembly/index.htm>).
- *Deliberated on and passed a set of "Recommendations Regarding the CAA"* and made sure that faculty was fully involved in the CAA process of renewing the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA) with the NC Community College System. The FA had representatives at all CAA meetings and was instrumental in changing the nature of the CAA discussions so that the outcome would be AA-specific, but would in no way dictate how our universities handle General Education.

The FA acknowledges that CAA is important to our students, but asserts that we must not allow any such document to dictate how the faculty on each campus design and deliver the General Education curriculum for their campuses – that we respect the individual missions of the campuses and the diverse and unique student populations each campus serves. Fortunately, almost all of the Provosts and Chancellors have this perspective as well.

- *Convened panels and/or roundtable discussions* on the following topics:

- Articulation Issues – Roundtable Discussion (FAEC Facilitators: Sarah Russell and Jim Martin) (GA participants: Suzanne Ortega, Bruce Mallette, Alisa Chapman, Maggie O’Hara)
  - International Programs – Roundtable Discussion (FAEC Facilitators: Margery Coulson-Clark and Hans Kellner) (GA participants: Leslie Boney)
  - Student Success and the Performance Funding Model – Roundtable Discussion (FAEC Facilitator: Andrew Morehead) (GA participants: Kerrie Dixon, Kate Henz, Dan Vogel)
  - Measuring Academic Quality – Panel Discussion (Panelists: Mike Carter (Associate Dean of The Graduate School, NCSU) , Bernice Johnson (Associate Provost/Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, NCCU), Karrie Dixon (Associate Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs), Dan Cohen-Vogel (Senior Director of Institutional Research) (Moderator: Andrew Morehead (Chair, Student Success Subcommittee of the APS Committee)
  - Common General Education Competencies – Panel Discussion (Panelists: Jeffery Braden – Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, NCSU; Susan Cannata – Associate Professor of Literature and Composition and Chair of the Faculty, UNCP; Member, Faculty Advisory Council; Scott Simkins – Director, Academy for Teaching & Learning, and Chair, General Education Review Task Force, NC A&T; Gabriel Lugo – Associate Professor of Mathematics and Chair of the Faculty, UNCW) (Moderator: Sarah Russell – Chair, Articulation Subcommittee of the ASP Committee)
  - The UNC Strategic Plan – Roundtable Discussion
  - The Role of Faculty Ombuds Offices on our Campus – Panel Discussion (Panelists: Wayne A. Blair – Ombudsman, UNC-CH; Bruce Auerbach – Ombudsman, UNCC; Debra Parker – Interim Dean, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, NCCU; Dennis Daley – Member of the Ombuds Proposal Committee, NSCU) (Moderators – David Green, Chair of the Faculty Assembly Governance Committee, and Jan Boxill, Chair of the Faculty Council, UNC-CH)
- *Participated in UNC Legislative Day activities* on April 3, 2013. Each campus brought a 5 to 7 member delegation to the event. The FA had its own 7-member delegation. We participated in the organized morning workshop/speaker series and visited with various elected representatives in the afternoon. It was quite an experience!
  - *Participated in and helped faculty prepare for “information sessions” to help faculty, students and the public understand the implications of proposed budget cuts to our university system.* Our system of higher education stands at a potentially dangerous precipice, being pushed and pulled by many forces (some within our control, some not). The FA agrees that it is important to be ready to provide context and factual and historical information about – and be able to respond to questions about – the impact of various fiscal and legal initiatives on our system. To this end, as we learn more about the new budget, and new proposals for legislative oversight of the UNC system, we will continue to work with the campuses to educate our constituencies about the ramifications of those cuts and proposals to our system, to the quality of higher education, and to the educational opportunities for the citizens of North Carolina.