COMMITTEE: Calendar

MEETING DATE: August 29, 2001

PERSON PRESIDING: Robert Morrison

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Robert Caprio, Charles Calhoun, Stephen Dock, Ginger Woodard, Patricia Myers, John Crammer

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: James Smith, Angela Anderson, Mary Farwell

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Robert Morrison, Robert Thompson, Lori Lee

Robert Morrison convened the meeting at 3:00 PM August 29, 2001 in Rawl 142. The committee members introduced themselves. Morrison thanked the committee members for their willingness to serve on Faculty senate committees and to put academic calendars together. He commented on the committee’s task to create a calendar for the next academic year and have it approved by the Faculty Senate. Robert Thompson said that he also supported Morrison’s comments to the committee. Morrison then started the election of committee officers.

John Crammer was elected chair of the committee (under the condition that another committee member represent the committee at Faculty Senate meetings). Crammer then presided over the remainder of the meeting. Charles Calhoun was elected vice chair and Roger Rulifson was elected secretary.

The committee next considered business carried over from last year. Mary Farwell discussed coordinating academic calendars with the Pitt county school system in matters such as Fall and Spring breaks. Patricia Myers asked who should follow whom. Fall break is more flexible than Spring break. Calhoun asked how far in advance are Pitt’s calendars set up. Thompson expressed concerns that it is not appropriate for this committee to presume to speak for ECU; that should be done through Dr. Muse. He added that there may be ways to mesh the calendars but that is not this committee’s role. James Smith asked whether the committee can make recommendations other than through the Faculty Senate; the response was that it cannot. Thompson, Morrison, and Smith agreed that Mary Farwell may gather information but should not imply that decisions are being made. Thompson said that it would be okay for her to express her opinions as a parent employed at ECU. Crammer asked whether the chancellor and superintendent might discuss the issue informally. Smith said he may facilitate this discussion.

The committee next discussed the topic of working with other UNC schools to return to the 14-week semester. Myers asked why we went to 15 weeks. Thompson replied there was variability in semester lengths among the schools in the UNC system and that Spangler decided that semesters were to be 15 weeks. Thompson added that asking to change back to 14 weeks would send a bad message to the legislature. Calhoun pointed out that there was no pay increase when we went to 15 weeks. Morrison mentioned that the length of the semester is sometimes discussed in the Faculty Assembly but that the General Administration is firm on staying with 15 weeks.

The committee also would like departments using common exams to be asked whether they want to continue their common exams.

In the discussion concerning the science requirement for general education and science classes, Farwell said that the requirement of 8 semester hours with at least one lab has led to the creation of non-lab science courses that have been padded to be 4 semester hours. Angela Anderson told the committee the 3 semester hour classes taught on MW violate the scheduling guidelines and that the scheduling system has been set up to not allow such classes. Thompson announced that work on the Howell classrooms will cause classes and rooms to be shifted.
The committee next established goals for this academic year. The goals are creation of a calendar for the 2003-2004 academic year and follow through on business carried over from last year. Crammer asked about the Weekend Program. Anderson said that it will be phased out eventually. Smith asked whether ECU is legally obligated to students currently in the program. Anderson replied that the weekend classes are being replaced by web and DE classes. Thompson said that departments may continue to schedule classes on weekends. Anderson said that she would check on whether the committee needs to consider the weekend program in creating the 2003-2004 calendar.

The committee will next meet at 3:30 on Wednesday, September 19, 2001.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50.