

Faculty Council
Cameron Applied Research Center 101
October 19, 2006

Dr. Meg Morgan called the meeting to order at 12:32 pm.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the September 22, 2006 meeting of the Faculty Council.

Dr. Braun moved and Dr. Jazzar seconded that the minutes be approved as distributed. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Report of the Committee examining instituting a graduated parking fee (Dr. Richard Toenjes)

Dr. Morgan prefaced Dr. Toenjes report by noting that there would be no vote today on the proposal from the Committee examining instituting a graduated parking fee. Rather, the purpose of the discussion is to provide input to the deliberations of the Faculty Employment Status Committee. She then named the members of the Parking Committee, gave a brief overview of the history of the Committee's work, and turned the discussion over to Dr. Toenjes.

Dr. Toenjes summarized the information in the Parking Committee's report, which was distributed earlier to the members of the Faculty Council, and noted that the Committee is working off of the concept of fairness. He then opened the floor to questions.

There was a general discussion of on the concept of fairness and the range of factors other than salary that could be considered in determining fairness. A question was raised about whether a graduated parking fee based on salary would set a precedent for other benefits such as health care. Dr. Toenjes responded that he was unsure about setting a precedent.

A concern was raised that the proposed plan would benefit unfairly some. Dr. Dubois noted that the campus cannot subsidize parking and that by law parking fines must be turned over to the public schools. Plans call for making the campus a pedestrian area with parking pushed to the periphery. As a result, some parking will be more convenient and, therefore, should cost more, while other parking will be less convenient and should cost less. Following up on Dr. Dubois' remarks, a question was raised about whether the Committee was considering factoring the extent of use of parking into the fees charged. A comment was also made about problems that a graduated parking fee might raise for revenue neutrality if, for example, those paying higher fees chose to car-pool rather than drive individually.

The discussion ended with a question about whether the proposal for a graduated parking fee should be discussed by the entire faculty before a decision is made. Dr. Toenjes responded that the FESC would make its recommendations to the Faculty Council. Faculty Council members should get input from their departments before the matter is voted on.

3. Report from President Erskine Bowles

Dr. Dubois introduced and welcomed President Bowles to the UNC Charlotte campus. President Bowles stated that his two primary concerns are (1) faculty compensation and (2) need-based aid. His goal is finally to bring UNC faculty salaries up to 80 percent of the salaries at comparable institutions nationwide. He noted that there is \$8 million in the budget this year – not counting funds for a 4 percent raise – to improve faculty salaries at UNC Charlotte. There are also additional monies in the budget for research.

He mentioned new efficiency measures that are being implemented and an overall goal of keeping tuition as low as possible. He reported that he has cut the GA budget by 12 percent and that he has capped tuition increases at 6.5 percent, the lowest number he could realistically propose. It could go down further if appropriations go up.

He concluded his opening remarks by noting that there is a focus on student retention and graduation and on developing measurable objectives for both. President Bowles then opened the floor to questions.

Dr. Freitag asked what UNC is doing to improve how public schools prepare students. President Bowles responded that the trend is to rationalize schools of education. The goal is to train principals from low-performing public schools. There is additional funding for more than 800 scholarships targeted to people who agree to study in the UNC system and then teach in the NC public schools. He reported on an experiment currently underway in Greensboro where the business community is raising funds to try to improve low-performing schools. UNC Greensboro and UNC A&T are training teachers to work in the public schools with a focus on the eight lowest performing high schools in the city.

Dr. Rauch commented that the UNC system seems to lurk over UNC Charlotte like a dark shadow when it comes to proposals for new graduate programs. The major issue is not competing with programs that already exist at UNC Chapel Hill, even when there is more than sufficient local demand for the programs. President Bowles responded that UNC has become too supply driven and not sufficiently demand driven. If the demand for programs is there, it should be addressed. He added, however, that it is slow work to remove policies that have built up over the years.

Dr. Bosley raised a concern about the amount and complexity of the paperwork required for financial aid applications. President Bowles responded that both the amount and the complexity are big problems. He reported that he has a project underway to examine how the application forms for aid from UNC and the State of North Carolina can be simplified, and he lamented that he could not change the application requirements for federal aid. However, he noted that UNC could help with duplicative information that is required on different application forms.

In response to an earlier comment by President Bowles, Dr. Trosch asked for a clarification on the nature of the educational crisis that we face. President Bowles explained that the crisis is the poor education attainment of public school students in the US. He noted that

educational attainment in such countries as India and Singapore is higher than in the U.S. The jobs for low-achieving students that once existed in the US are gone, and we have to better educate students.

Dr. Bodkin asked about the relationship between instructional programs in schools and the business community, and whether we want to be giving specific degrees tied to specific companies, e.g. an MBA in Otis Elevator Operations. President Bowles responded that he hoped that we would not go in that direction. He remarked that businesses need people with a good liberal education. He continued by noting that UNC is going to the business community and asking them about the background, knowledge, and skills that are looking for in employees.

A comment was made that ten years ago, we were a teaching institution with one of the highest per capita student funding levels; now we are a doctoral institution with one of the lowest per capita student funding levels. The speaker then asked whether anyone is looking at the funding formula. President Bowles responded that some progress has been made already but there more to be done. UNC Charlotte has moved from sixteenth place to thirteenth place among the sixteen campuses in per capita student funding.

Dr. Morgan asked about the relationship between UNC and the community college system. President Bowles responded that the University is working towards a seamless relationship with the community colleges. He noted that many more students will be coming to UNC than we can educate; we will have to make better use of buildings, summer school programs, perhaps even go back to teaching on Fridays. We cannot build new buildings fast enough to keep up with the growth in the student population. We will have to depend more on distance education and on the community colleges.

Dr. Brown asked President Bowles to comment on the plans for distance education and UNC-Global and UNC On-Line. President Bowles commented on his background in distance education from working for Capella University, a made-up university. He stated that there are 90 degree programs that we could offer through UNC-Global and that the UNC label is very marketable worldwide.. We can also reach a larger market in North Carolina through distance education via UNC On-Line.

Dr. Quinn remarked that if UNC offers the right educational programs to the right developing countries, it will provide new markets for North Carolina businesses, and President Bowles agreed.

President Bowles concluded the question-and-answer session by noting that we all have to better market UNC to the people and businesses of North Carolina. On that note, there needs to be a better sign for UNC Charlotte at the main entrance.

4. Report from the Chancellor (Dr. Phil Dubois)

None.

5. Report of the Provost (Dr. Joan Lorden)

Dr. Lorden reported that there had been a great response by the faculty to the mid-term deficiency reports on students during the fall 2006 term.

6. Report of the President Elect (Dr. Cheryl Brown)

Dr. Brown reported briefly on the Faculty Assembly meeting in Chapel Hill. She noted that the Faculty Assembly is dealing with a large number of issues and that Faculty Council members can learn about what is going on by going to the Faculty Assembly's URL: <http://uncfacultyassembly.northcarolina.edu/html/meeting/2006>.

7. Report of the President (Dr. Meg Morgan)

Dr. Morgan reported that the Committee on General Education chaired by Dr. Greg Wickliff is working on an assessment of the General Education program. She noted that she had been remiss in not getting out information about what was happening in Faculty Governance and promised to do better in the future. She then opened the floor for questions and was asked whether there is a website where one can find the substance of President Bowles comments today to the Faculty Council. In response, Dr. Morgan promised to send Faculty Council members a copy of the UNC Priorities list that was distributed previously to the Faculty Executive Council.

8. New Business

None.

Dr. Booth moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Blair Rudes
Secretary of the Faculty