

**Secretary Notes from
Open Faculty Meeting, Tuesday, August 16, 2011
McKnight Hall**

The meeting was called to order by Michael Green at 11:04 AM.

The meeting was primarily a dialogue between the University administration (led by Chancellor Phil Dubois and Provost Joan Lorden) and the university faculty and staff. The following is a brief summary (not a verbatim record) of the questions and answers:

Q – Will there be any faculty retirement incentives?

A – There are no discussions going on at the moment since it doesn't really save us any money because of salary compression. And there is no interest at the GA level.

Q – With all of the changes at the state level Board of Governors will there be any changes in how we will approach these folks? What are the consequences for us?

A – It is hard to tell yet. Most of the new BoG members do not seem to have a political axe to grind. The big projects that they seem to want to focus on are program duplications and to try and get ahead of legislators' concerns about faculty load (hours in the classroom). The bigger problem from our prospective is the number of new folks on the board who haven't been involved in governance and trying to get them up to speed.

Q – Have you been able to size up the new president?

A – The priority to protect small colleges was not his; it was due to legislator's priority. Setting priorities are a little bit of a problem, but he is open and willing to listen and has a lot to learn. Tom Ross is concerned about graduation and retention rates – measurement of freshman is only a small part of the issue – our student body is substantially different than other institutions.

Q – Do we have any changes in the growth and outcome goals for the university?

A – We had been growing 4-6 % per year, but it slowed down last year. This year, we are finding that beginning students at the undergraduate level are increasing the size of classes. We don't want to outrun our infrastructure. It's a difficult balancing act. Right now we are trying to solidify what we have, but we are still looking at expanding as we see we have the resources.

Q - Is it an outcome or goal to grow?

A - It has become a strategy. Demand is way up at all levels. We are trying to respond to that, but we are at a crossroad. We need to review the trade offs.

Q – Is there any scenario that would cause us not to increase growth?

A – Only a complete lack of funding. The ground rules are changing, so we need to be careful with our projections.

Q – Why don't we include graduate student funding in grants?

A – Yes, we can do this. We are trying to encourage faculty to include it in the grants since we can't waive tuitions. And it is often appropriate to include funds for graduate student tuition.

Q – What is the primary criteria of legislators across the system?

A – The legislature only allocates new money to the Board of Governors. They tend to base it on the enrollment growth. Base money is calculated on history, how old, level of support at the time of establishment. Adjustments have been slow in coming. If the base is insufficient, we have a problem. We have taken our institution from 4th from the bottom to second from top. We are pretty well funded for an institution of our size. NC funds at one of the higher per student allocation rates than most states. Retention rate is now a big influence. Ross wants to bring our tuition up to market rate and not hurt our enrollment, but the big problem is the political environment.

Q – Are the parking rates benchmarked?

A – We do benchmark to other institution. Costs will continue to go up a lot because we have chosen to build vertically with deck parking, which is more expensive than surface lots. Right now we are in the middle of the pack but will move up towards the top.

Q – Any possibility to slow the parking rates down due to no salary increases & changes in benefits?

A – Simple answer – no. We don't even get to keep the monies from tickets. State law mandates that 80% of ticket fines go to public education. We are trying to find some alternatives. The closer you want to park to the middle of campus, the more you are going to pay.

Q – Are there any alternate plans to get to campus?

A – In theory light rail is still a possibility for 2016-17, but the federal deficit discussions could change that. We are working with CATS. The greenway has helped some.

Q – In terms of budget, where are we now in comparison to 4 years ago?

A – Most of what we have given back has been new money. We may actually have slightly more money this year than four years ago, but then we have more students.

Q – Sports scandals, what do we do instill ethical behavior?

A – We are always trying to be proactive in this area. But we are only as good as the people we hire. The policies are in place. Tutors can be a problem. We pay very close attention to all the standards. Faculty need to help monitor student athlete progress through the correct procedures. NCAA academic standards are going up; some institutions will be barred from post season play. University presidents are the ones who control the standards.

Q – What have we been doing about security on campus and with outsiders on campus?

A – We have funded every recommendation that has come to us from student & staff committees. There are card readers on most academic buildings. Monies have been allocated, but we still have about 10 buildings to go.

Q - What about cameras?

A - There are some on parts of campus and towers put up at lots (with & with cameras) over 200 cameras and 300 phones. There is a problem with buildings that lack cellphone coverage. We are trying to get carriers to strengthen their signals. We use multiple ways to get messages out. It might helpful to have Jeff Baker and Hank James come to faculty meeting to discuss this issue further.

Q – With less non-state funds, do we have goals to rebuild those funds?

A – We have made changes to the funding board, but the funds are often highly restricted by the donors. We are trying to grow them these funds, but they aren't going to solve our basic operation problems. Our goal is \$91 million. Alumni base is still young – mid 30s, so we depend on corporate donations, and they aren't what they use to be.

Q – Are there any GA plans for capital planning/spending?

A – No real movement on it right now but chancellors are talking about it. The thinking was everyone needed it equally, but not all institutions are created equal. ECU & UNCC are at capacity for facilities use, but low man on the totem pole for funding

Adjourned at 12:04