

**Faculty Assembly Executive Committee Meeting with President Roper and Chair Ramsey,
with Kimberly van Noort, Tom Shanahan, Pete Brunstetter, and Chris McClure,
April 24, 2020**

Chair Ramsey expressed his gratitude for allowing him to join us. He received the memo from the Faculty Assembly and wanted to thank us for our service and “can do” spirit of the faculty from the UNC System. President Roper mentioned that he has met with Chancellors at NC A&T, NCSSM, NC Central, and FSU to discuss the impact of COV19 and future plans. By next week, he will have met with all 17 Chancellors.

President Roper’s recommendation is that each institution work through their faculty senates at each of the universities to address concerns identified in the memo of April 20. He observed that the Faculty Assembly was started in 1972 by President Friday, and it has been a good way to communicate with faculty across the System.

What President Roper has been hearing in his weekly meetings with administration:

1. Readiness of faculty and remote instruction - the faculty have responded heroically. They are supplying laptops, hotspots; providing tangible assistance, guidance; training for faculty on how to teach online still needs to be a priority.
2. Budget - what the State budget is going to be like; will not know our budget until July.
3. Asking institutions to make their own decisions about returning to campus.
4. What happens if this becomes a financial exigency - we are not there yet, and the process is laid out in great detail. Exigency does not meet short-term cash needs, but is a longer term solution. **President Roper does not see exigency as a viable option, nor something we should be concerned with at this time.**

Chair Green noted that campuses can benefit from UNC System guidance on best practices of shared governance and faculty input on critical issues. President Roper mentioned that System Office staff are meeting with colleagues in their respective areas at each university. During his weekly Chancellor Zoom calls, he is encouraging the Chancellors **to work through their senate leadership.**

Chair Green wanted to know about how we learn more about students who we are not connecting with. Provosts have shared that an estimated 10-15% of our students are disengaged. Some institutions are reprogramming staff to call students to ensure they are engaged - stats show that some students are not logging in. Administrators are calling students who may be falling through the cracks. This can be generalized to other institutions.

Dr. van Noort noted that we need to call our present teaching delivery “remote teaching” and acknowledge that it is really not online learning. She is working with the Math Pathways faculty to get together stand up digital libraries for math. The System, including Jim Ptaszynski, will be providing resources for additional coaching and training, with close collaboration with digital learning centers on campus. They are also creating summer teaching institutes for new faculty and established faculty who require further online training.

Chair Green noted that we must make sure everyone is up to speed - we are committed to helping in any way we can; some chairs have said they have not heard anything. The FA memo outlined three areas we can work with the System Office ([view here](#)):

- 1) Establishment of an Academics Working Group,
- 2) Establishment of a Longer-Term Academic Assessment and Planning Working Group, and
- 3) Establishment of a Financial Security Working Group.

Instead of FA leadership serving as co-chairs with BOG members, the FA leadership will create its own working groups and provide recommendations to the BOG, through the appropriate System administrator. Chair-Elect Ives noted the importance to maintain effective relationships, such as the ones developed with Governors Nelson and Powers. He further noted that It is important to keep lines of communication open and make sure the process is clear.

President Roper emphasized that flexibility to address the issues before us is essential. It is also important to pay attention to what Chair Ramsey and President Roper say in their reports. A lot of quotes in the press are not always accurate. The Board of Governors is made up of 24 members and one member does not speak for the entire Board, nor necessarily represents the majority view. It is important to remember that.

Chair Ramsey emphasized that the University System is a giant economic presence for the state. We need to make sure that the System remains successful. President Roper also mentioned that we have all been impressed with the rapid transition to online, but also need to acknowledge it is an imperfect product and needs more attention. We will use it more in the future, but we are not going to close up shop and go all online. Faculty do not need to spend too much time worrying about this.

Chair-Elect Ives noted that we do need to be concerned about our IT staff people and their mental health across the System. President Roper agreed that we need to express gratitude to the faculty and staff who have responded to this pandemic.

Chair Green asked how are we going to handle the Fall? President Roper noted that we are not there yet. With the development of a timetable, we would like clarity by 7/1/2020. Three options exist at present: Hybrid (some online and some in F2F), all F2F, and all online. Chair Green noted that we must pay attention to the varied disciplines and needed differences.

Governor Cooper has extended Stay-at-Home Orders until May 8, and K-12 will stay home for the end of the semester. Even if we do return to residential life in the fall semester, we need to respect social distancing. President Roper stressed that many of the faculty are in the vulnerable age group - so the health of faculty is of extreme importance.

Chair-Elect Ives asked, who is the point person for good ideas in the System? President Roper and Chris McClure responded that we need to be flexible and that any good ideas or questions should be sent to everyone in the System leadership.

The meeting ended at 4:45 PM.