

**Governance Committee of the Faculty Senate  
October 20, 2015 Agenda  
3:30 pm  
Room 233 University Center**

Frankie Powell	Stephen Bukowy	Jesse Peters
Cherry Beasley	Ottis Murray	Sally Valabha
Angela McDonald	David Nikkel	Kirill Bumin

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes ([Appendix A](#))
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Report from the Chair
- V. Unfinished Business
  - A. Further discussion of recommendations regarding the formation of a faculty advocate committee and/or an ombudsperson position at UNCP
  - B. Further discussion of a meeting with Chancellor Cummings and Provost Locklear to discuss shared governance at UNCP, specifically the principles of shared governance document endorsed by the UNC Faculty Assembly in 2005
- VI. New Business
  - A. Motion recognizing Beverly Justice's contributions to UNCP during her time as chair of the Governance Committee ([Appendix B](#))
  - B. Discussion of the possible formation of new senate subcommittees as requested by the Senate Executive Committee ([Appendix C](#))
- VII. Announcements
- VIII. Adjournment

## Appendix A

Committee on Faculty Governance  
Meeting Minutes  
Sept. 15, 2015, 3:30 p.m.  
233 University Center

*Members Present:* Stephen Bukowy, Angela McDonald, Ottis Murray, David Nikkel, Jesse Peters, Sally Vallabha

*Members Absent:* Cherry Beasley, Kirill Bumin

- I. Call to Order  
Meeting called to order at 3:37PM by Jesse Peters.
- II. Election of Committee Chair and Secretary  
Jesse Peters was elected chair unanimously. Angela McDonald was elected secretary unanimously.
- III. Approval of Agenda  
The agenda was approved without additions or corrections.
- IV. Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2015  
The minutes were approved by unanimously.
- V. Report from the Chair  
Chair Jesse Peters reported on the need to replace one committee member due to a conflict with another Faculty Senate Committee appointment. Names of potential replacements will come from Committee on Committees interest survey.
- VI. Unfinished Business  
Continued discussion of matters pertaining to shared governance: Members of Faculty Governance discussed ways to communicate with new campus leadership in Academic Affairs. Members discussed the membership and voting responsibilities of faculty members jointly serving in administrator roles above department chair on the Faculty Senate and its subcommittees. Members discussed faculty representation on university committees and the role of the Faculty Senate Committee on Committees in the selection process.
- VII. New Business
  - A. Request for consideration of creation of position of ombudsperson/faculty advocate in the process of grievances and hearings (Appendix A in Agenda): Members of Faculty Governance discussed Appendix A and determined that

further discussion and exploration of a faculty ompudsperson or committee was warranted.

VIII. Announcements

The upcoming speakers series for the School of Business was announced.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Angela McDonald

Secretary

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## Appendix B

The Committee on Faculty Governance recognizes the important role senator Beverly Justice played in navigating several key issues related to shared governance during the last four years. Her guidance helped continue the strong role faculty play in shared governance at UNCP. Because of her steadfast leadership as chair of the Committee on Faculty Governance during the administration, the current members of the Committee on Faculty Governance officially recognize Beverly Justice's important contributions to the strengthening and maintenance of shared governance at UNC Pembroke and thank her for her service to this university.

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## Appendix C

**TO:** Jesse Peters, Chair, Committee on Faculty Governance

**FROM:** Scott Hicks, Faculty Senate Chair

**DATE:** Sept. 15, 2015

**RE:** Creation and Reorganization of Faculty Senate Subcommittees

I am writing on behalf of the Executive Committee to request the Committee on Faculty Governance's consideration of the modification of the Faculty Senate's subcommittee structure so as better to facilitate the General Faculty's responsibilities in (1) overseeing the curriculum in the area of writing intensive programming and (2) advising the Chancellor in the area of athletics.

Background: According to the Standards of Shared Governance adopted by the UNC Faculty Assembly in April 2005 and with the vocal support of the Office of the University President, "[t]he university's curriculum is the responsibility of the faculty. The faculty ... must give approval to academic policies prior to their implementation, including but not limited to ... (a) graduation requirements; (b) the undergraduate curriculum; ... and (g) the establishment of individual new courses." Moreover, according to these standards, "[t]he chancellor and other senior administrators should consult in a timely way and seek meaningful faculty input on issues in which the faculty has an appropriate interest but not primary responsibility, including ... intercollegiate athletics."

The Faculty Senate's current structure does not include subcommittees dedicated to the curricula and assessment of the University's writing intensive program or the University's athletics programs. Rather, faculty participation in development, oversight, and evaluation of these areas occurs through the framework of the QEP and University Athletics committees, University committees whose memberships are appointed by the chancellor or other senior administrative leadership.

According to the Chancellor's website on University committees, the QEP Committee is composed of representatives of diverse academic departments to assist in the implementation, administration, and assessment of the 2010 Quality Enhancement Plan in the area of enhancing students' competencies in written communication. Also according to the Chancellor's website on University committees, the University Athletics Committee is appointed by the Chancellor to monitor athletic schedules, budgets, facilities, and team travel and to oversee the academics, admissions, and financial aid policies pertaining to student-athletes.

During its meetings, the Executive Committee has favorably discussed the creation of a faculty athletics subcommittee that would report to the Student Affairs & Campus Life

Committee, the creation of a writing-intensive program review subcommittee that would meet once a semester and report to Academic Affairs Committee, and the modification of the procedures of General Education Subcommittee such that it would meet once a semester.

According to the Bylaws of the Faculty Constitution, “The Committee on Faculty Governance shall review and interpret the Faculty Constitution, the By-laws of the Faculty Senate, and rules of order for the conduct of Senate business. Changes in any of these areas that are approved by this committee will be brought, by the Committee Chair, directly to the Senate for its action.”

Current Concerns: In AY 2014-2015, Faculty Athletics Representative Jeff Frederick initiated with former Provost Ken Kitts a request for a policy that requires faculty to excuse student absences for all University-sanctioned events, based on anecdotal evidence of student-athletes being penalized for class absences due to team travel. The issue has become contentious, resulting in a Board of Trustees-level policy that faculty see as an abrogation of their prerogative to organize their classes attentive to the needs and demands of their disciplines and pedagogies.

At the same time, in detailing for UNC General Administration the rate of course clustering of student-athletes, UNCP reported 214 sections, “the highest count at any system campus,” of classes in which student-athletes comprised 25 percent or more of the class membership, according to *The Herald-Sun*. Moreover, the report revealed that 171 student-athletes took three or more courses in which student-athletes comprised a sizable proportion of the class roster and that 27 course sections displayed “some sort of grade discrepancy.”

Given the long-term, systemic, and entrenched problems of academic integrity and athletics revealed at UNC Chapel Hill, the lack of regular, independent faculty oversight in University athletics is a matter of concern to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

In the area of the subcommittees’ responsibilities in curricular oversight, the Executive Committee is concerned by the lack of business before the General Education Subcommittee, mirrored by the preponderance of business before the QEP Committee, a non-Senate committee. In AY2014-2015, the General Education Subcommittee rendered a judgment on fewer than five curricular proposals, whereas the QEP Committee submitted dozens of courses to the Senate for designation as writing-intensive. What’s more, faculty consistently describe discontent with the transparency of the committee, its responsiveness to faculty concerns, and the meaningful, faculty-driven assessment of writing-intensive courses.

External Considerations and Models: At East Carolina, UNC Chapel Hill, and UNC Greensboro, faculty provide advice and consultation in athletics through its Faculty Senate or Council structure, according to my September 2014 review of UNC system faculty governance structures. All system campuses have various committees and subcommittees dedicated to the oversight of academics.

In its statement, “The Role of the Faculty in the Governance of College Athletics” (1989), the American Association of University Professors holds that the faculty as a whole has a “fundamental responsibility” in the oversight of University athletics: “The faculty is responsible for reviewing academic programs for student athletes. The faculty must ensure the primacy of academic concerns in athletics as well as in other student programs. Protection of academic integrity against misplaced internal priorities or external demands in athletic programs, as in other matters, is the essential reason for the faculty’s role in institutional governance.”

Charge: Based on this review of relevant background, exigent circumstances, and potential models, and per the Faculty Handbook’s allowance that “[t]he Committee on Faculty Governance shall review and interpret the Faculty Constitution, the By-laws of the Faculty Senate, and rules of order for the conduct of Senate business” and bring any “[c]hanges in any of these areas ... directly to the Senate for its action,” the Executive Committee charges the Committee on Faculty Governance to consider expanding and refining our subcommittee structure in a way that better aligns with faculty responsibilities in curricular programming and the academic welfare of all students, regardless of their scholarship status or their extracurricular demands.

Thank you for your consideration of these simplifications, modifications, and revisions. The Executive Committee looks forward to receiving your recommendations.

References:

American Association of University Professors. “The Role of the Faculty in the Governance in College Athletics.” n.d. Web. 11 Sept. 2015.

Gronberg, Ray. “Athlete course cluster common, UNC reports indicate.” *The (Durham) Herald-Sun*, 7 Sept. 2015. Web.

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