The Faculty Senate, in its 66th year, has met four times to date (31 October 2019) and has planned and moderated the fall meeting of the General Faculty. The Chair of the Faculty has also been involved in many matters, particularly the Faculty Assembly of the UNC System. This report will describe these activities.

In the second meeting of the Senate (10 September), the first being largely organizational and hortatory, the Student Ombuds, Mike Giancola, spoke on his work with the students and about Pack Essentials, a program of emergency relief for those who may have the kind of food and housing needs studied by Psychology Professor Mary Haskett and a matter of concern for this and other campuses. He was followed by David Howard, who presented OpenStax, a service that permits faculty to search for and use free on-line textbooks in selected fields.

The following meeting (24 September) had two parts. First, an informative session on "How Policy Works," by Vice Provost Katharine Stewart and Associate Vice Provost Courtney Thornton, in which the structure of policies, regulations, and rules was laid out and charted. After this academic Information, the Senate heard from a representative of the Faculty Athletic Council and from the new Athletic Director, Boo Corrigan.

The next regular meeting of the Senate came a month later, on October 4, after the intervening General Faculty meeting. This meeting began a series of "Senate Discussions" of the Strategic Planning activity that is under way. This first discussion addressed the procedure followed in the last plan, and asked whether it was an effective use of faculty time and resources. After this discussion, Nancy Whelchel and Sheri Schwab presented the results of the Employment Engagement Survey, which was a system-wide look at faculty and staff satisfaction. Although the overall outcome was positive, several sub-categories were distinctly less pleased, an issue of concern.

The General Faculty Meeting takes place once each semester, and after remarks by the Chancellor and Provost, typically involves an exploration of an important topic. The topic of this
meeting was Community Engagement, and four faculty (with one administrator) discussed engagement projects and the central role of engagement in the history of the university (since 1909). Obviously, agricultural extension was and remains a key part of NC State's service to the state, but in the past, outreach has been part of many academic areas, including the Humanities, my own realm. We hope to see a revitalization of engagement across the curriculum.

The Faculty Assembly meets three times a semester, and gathers elected representatives from all of the UNC institutions as well as their Faculty Chairs. It is an extraordinary opportunity to interact with faculty from schools very different from State in their mission, size, and history. In his third year as Chair of the Assembly is Professor David Green, a law professor at NC Central. The meetings usually involve remarks and Q&A with Interim System President Bill Roper, as well as with financial, political, and faculty affairs staff. Roper has persistently stressed that we must stop talking about the "campuses" of the university, but rather speak of the "institutions" - independent, different, and self-governing - that make up the System (which is not to be called General Administration). This recognition of the diversity of the institutions is a welcome message to NC State and a warning against any excessive attempt to deal with different campuses in a uniform way. He also warned against mission creep (not his language) by the institutions that may aspire to exceed their role in the system.

Harry Smith, then Chair of the Board of Governor's, spoke to the Assembly and made the same point, citing as example the success of the variable tuition policy. Among the many points addressed by Mr Smith, I must mention his response to the question of Faculty Chair membership on Boards of Trustees, a matter that the Assembly is currently studying. At the moment, four institutions have such membership (non-voting). Smith said he supported this, saying that he had thought it was already the case throughout the system.

Much of last Friday's meeting (25 October 2019) dealt with the number of interim leaders and the form of selection of new chancellors. Boards of Trustees, it was observed, do not always understand "intuitively" the crucial played by the faculty in obtaining "buy-in" for new leadership. We anticipate good relations with the new Chair of the Board of Governors, whose presence on this Board of Trustees I remember well from my previous term as Chair of the
Interim President Roper spoke about the budget and the movement on faculty salaries. The legislature, they tell him, doesn't get the factual information that is available. He spoke about the new approach to Chancellor's compensation, and noted that administrators have mental health issues just as students and faculty do. He encouraged faculty to get together with their institutions's lobbyists and when appropriate visit legislators, trustees, and governors. Finally, one piece of memorable advice: "It helps to be nice."