

Report to the Board of Trustees

Chair of the Faculty

Hans Kellner

27 July 2020

Because most of the faculty pursues its professional activities -- research, writing, course planning -- during the summer, when it is off-payroll, and because the Faculty Senate and Executive Committee turned over on July 1, the summer is normally a hiatus for faculty governance. Our first fall meeting is 18 August.

This summer, however, is different in many ways. The Chair has been in close touch with the faculty chairs (e.g., the Chairs's Committee of the Faculty Assembly) from across the system, working on a number of issues. A document on Principles of Shared Governance is nearing its final form after several years of discussion. The details of fall semester planning have been shared and discussed, and ideas pass from campus to campus. In particular, the relationship of the faculty leadership with the various administrations and boards of trustees across the system has been of great interest.

The Faculty Assembly has a new Chair, Prof. Tim Ives of Chapel Hill, replacing Prof. David Green of NC Central. Both Green and Ives represent the system faculty on the Board of Governor's Racial Equity Task Force, which is expected to make a report on the situation in the UNC System in September. This group has called upon the individual campuses to report activities and situations.

Here on the NC State campus -- or, rather, its virtual counterpart -- faculty leadership has had an active role in the planning for fall. Since the Faculty Town Hall in late June, where the Chair of the Faculty noted a challenging communications situation for faculty, campus processes have become much more open. The Chancellor, who has been very responsive, deserves great credit for this. It seems to be a change in the culture and is to be celebrated.

The Chairs of the Faculty and the Staff Senate now have a weekly meeting with the Chancellor. They also sit in the weekly Executive Briefing Committee., which deals mainly with the work on campus re-opening as worked out by the various task forces.

The Chair of the Faculty also participates in a Return to Campus Exercise, discussing scenarios that might arise and how best to respond.

Finally, there is the Strategic Planning process -- the Chair was part of the Re-envisioning Life-Long Learning and Credentialing group. The report (and those of the other groups) will be available for public comment soon.

We are all trying to re-tool our courses for the various teaching modes -- face-to-face (which is quite different now than before); hybrid (part face-to-face, part remote), and remote. The challenge of shooting amateur lecture videos at home to complement our Zoom classes is considerable.

There have been several issues of concern dealing with the decision to re-open the campus in the fall semester, and inquiring about the conditions for this. There is also still a 603 case pending.

This is the summer of 2020.

Respectfully, submitted,

Hans Kellner

Professor of English

Chair of the NC State Faculty, 2019-2021

Former Chair of the NC State Faculty 2011-2013