Report to University Faculty Council: Notes on Faculty Assembly Meeting Feb. 10, 2023

Agenda item one: Chair Wade Maki’s Report to the Assembly

The chair relayed his recent activities, including [his report](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCVGASYuwqQ) to the Governor’s Commission on the Governance of Public Universities in North Carolina and a recent faculty panel on Chancellor roles at the Board of Governor’s meeting. He noted that though the UNC System office recognizes the reality of low faculty pay, faculty are unlikely to receive special funding given the needs of other, sympathetic groups of state employees, such as teachers and nurses. With that in mind, the system office will seek to receive the same increases as those other workers.

The data of the ROI study for individual institutions will be sent those institutions, which will control access to it. The data for the system will become public when it goes to the legislature in Nov. 2023. Preliminary data about lifetime earnings suggest that attending UNC institutions is ‘worth it.’

Other key agenda items: The conversation then turned to several key issues:

* Link to [FAQ on the UNC System’s review of Faculty Policies](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oN1judAPFlBwiBXDUtkBSklGAnFLYyGE/view).
* Compelled Speech Policy: The DEI working group is working on a statement to send to the BOG. The Assembly Chair is collecting material from campuses across the system to present to the System prior to the BOG meeting next week.
* BOG is working on the issue of Chancellor’s roles in order to consider what qualifications make for successful chancellors. The goal is to update the understanding of the demands of the Chancellor role and to consider what mentorship new chancellors may need.
* **Literacy**:
  + The assembly heard from Anne Ticknor (ECU) regarding the challenges to Educator education. The legislature has pushed a ‘Science of Reading’ model for early grades literacy instruction. The timeline for reviewing and implementing these changes was outrageous. Departments received requests for material for external review in **August** 2022 (included syllabi, course schedule for each session, assignment details, a 1-hr video recording of teaching content, etc.) In **January 2023** the BOG issued a quick resolution on educator education programs requiring full compliance by July 2023, yet the consulting company did not distribute detailed results of those findings or specific recommendations.
  + Dr. Ticknor drew our attention to the larger ramifications of these actions. Literacy and content experts were ignored during the crafting of this legislation and the review process. This is certainly a threat to academic freedom. Faculty across the system should be concerned about what topics and who could be next. Educator education is expansive, and clearly policies could limit what topics are taught within courses across the curriculum offered for teacher licensure.

Link to meeting slides: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-Qz8PrMNCTgxuubVWq6Z7cFdbfomvRf_/view>