



Date: July 22, 2022

To: Dr. Susan Harden
President, Faculty council

From: Joan F. Lorden 
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Re: 2022-2023 Faculty Council Agenda

I look forward to working with you and the Faculty Council on a number of academic and policy-related items that I believe will demand our attention this year. In preparation, I have outlined issues in my order of priority. When you have had a chance to consider your own, I would like to see if we can come up with a joint list to present to the appropriate standing committees of the Faculty Council. We need to bear in mind that changes in one policy may interact with others. Thus, broad consultation with the campus is essential, particularly with the Registrar, the Associate Deans Council, Student Government, and academic advisors. My office stands ready to assist in this and I ask that you work closely with Faculty Governance Assistant Matt Wyse as needed.

In order of priority, my list includes:

1. **Strategic Plan Implementation.** Members of the faculty were instrumental in the development of our new strategic plan, "[Shaping What's Next](#)." As we implement the action items from the plan, it is essential that the faculty maintain their engagement with this work and that newly hired faculty understand their role in the Plan's success. I think it would be useful to consider the continuation of the Student Equity Task Force or similar structure in light of the Plan objectives for "Transforming Students' Lives Through Educational Opportunity and Excellence." While there are many directions that this could go, a useful starting point might be to provide the faculty with an opportunity for discussion of the "Charlotte Model" and the evidence-based practices employed in the Student Experience Project that have been shown to increase equitable outcomes.
 2. **[Free Expression and Constructive Dialogue in the UNC System](#):** The UNC Board of Governors commissioned a student survey to better understand the student experience related to free expression and constructive dialogue on campus and in the classroom. This is an important topic for discussion and central to the work of the faculty. I would like the Faculty Council to take the lead in a broad-based campus discussion of the report and
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associated issues. UNC Charlotte was one of eight participating institutions and Dr. Mel Atkinson of Political Science and Public Administration served on the team.

3. **Mental Health First Aid**: The UNC System Office started the NC Higher Education Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Initiative in 2021. MHFA instructor training was provided to faculty, staff and students, and trained instructors are now ready to teach Mental Health First Aid to groups on campus. I ask that the FEC consider whether to offer this training to relevant faculty groups.
4. **Adding a violation to the Code of Student Academic Integrity** (carryover from 2021-2022). The Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity has seen an increase in the number of faculty members submitting academic integrity violations for violations of syllabus policies. This is not currently a violation listed in our Code and faculty are instructed to handle syllabus policy violations themselves with the student. Some UNC institutions (NC State and UNC Chapel Hill, for example) do list syllabus policy violations in their code of academic integrity. Adding syllabus policy violations to our Code would engage the processes of the Code and the support of the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity. I advise the Faculty Academic Policy and Standards Committee consult with the Office of Student Conduct & Academic Integrity and make a recommendation to the Faculty Council about the advisability of a change to the Code.
 - a. **Code of Student Academic Integrity**
5. **Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) Task Force** (carryover from 2021-2022). In February 2021 I charged the **Student Evaluation of Teaching Task Force** with: a) reviewing the content of the questions used for course evaluations as well as the introductions given to students, b) drawing on existing research to develop a better curated list of core evaluation questions that avoid bias and are focused on the educational process rather than instructor personality and other qualities, and c) developing a list of best practices to mitigate bias in question development for departments and colleges who wish to add additional, unique questions. I ask that the work of this task force be moved to the Faculty Equity Audit Working Group under the leadership of Yvette Huet, Director of ADVANCE Faculty Affairs and Diversity Office, and Leslie Zenk, Assistant Provost, for completion this academic year.
6. **Undergraduate Catalog: Non-Degree Students** (carryover from 2021-2022): The **Undergraduate Catalog** contains procedures related to the admission of students in accordance with **University Policy #207: Policy on Admission to the University**. Part of these procedures limit the number of credits that non-degree students may earn before being admitted to a degree program to ensure that they are and remain admissible. However, we also enroll certain non-degree students that may reach or exceed this threshold of 18 credit hours including international exchange students, UNC Online students, and senior citizens auditing courses. We are asking that the non-degree students identified in the attached draft be excluded from this procedural requirement, as they are enrolled for a time-limited period and have no intention of completing a degree program. The Office of International Programs, Registrar, and Associate Deans have been consulted on this proposed exception. I ask that FAPSC please consider these changes and send them forward to FEC and Faculty Council as appropriate.
 - a. **Undergraduate Catalog: Non-Degree Students (draft)**

7. [Course Numbering and Status](#). Proposed changes to the 2023 General Education curriculum require minor changes to the course numbering policy to allow for a standardized General Education numbering system. The draft edits have been reviewed by the University College Faculty Council and as such, I ask that FAPSC review and send final edits to the FEC and Faculty Council for approval.
 - a. [Course Numbering and Status \(draft\)](#)

8. **Seven-Year Policy Review**. Finally, there are two additional policies that are due for their seven-year review (one that is a carry-over from previous years). I am requesting that FAPSC or the appropriate standing committee review each of these policies for relevance, accuracy, or gaps. Any changes recommended need to be considered by the Faculty Council. If there are no changes, please notify Matt Wyse, Faculty Governance Assistant, that the review has taken place and is complete.
 - [Student Evaluations](#) (carryover from 2020-2021, see SET Task Force)
 - [Academic Credit Hour](#)

Thank you for your attention to these important issues and I look forward to our discussion.

cc: Chancellor Gaber
Deans
Senior Staff
Xiaoxia Newton, Faculty Council President-Elect
Matt Wyse, Faculty Governance Assistant