



Date: September 27, 2024

To: Xiaoxia Newton
President, Faculty Council

From: Leslie Zenk
Associate Provost and Chief of Staff

Cc: Matt Wyse, Faculty Governance Assistant

Re: REVISED: Commencement and New Student Convocation Faculty Attendance Policy

As a follow-up to the July 30, 2024 Faculty Council Agenda memo from Provost Troyer, attached please find a revised draft of edits to the Commencement and New Student Convocation Faculty Attendance Policy.

Currently under this policy, faculty are expected at minimum to attend one Commencement or New Student Convocation ceremony annually. As New Student Convocation has been rebranded to New Student Welcome and now resides under Student Affairs, we would like to eliminate New Student Convocation from the policy. In addition, the policy has been edited to remove specific mention of the frequency of commencement ceremonies and instead simply states that faculty are expected to attend one ceremony per year.

I ask that FAPSC review the proposed policy revision and bring proposed policy changes to FEC and Faculty Council.

1. Current Policy: [Commencement and New Student Convocation Faculty Attendance](#)
2. Proposed Revision: Attachment



Matt Wyse <mwyse@charlotte.edu>

Faculty Attendance at Commencement Policy - revised by FAPSC

1 message

Mira Frisch <mirafrisch@charlotte.edu>

Wed, Nov 27, 2024 at 6:59 PM

To: Xiaoxia Newton <xnewton@charlotte.edu>

Cc: Matt Wyse <mwyse@charlotte.edu>, Ann Dils <adils@charlotte.edu>, Faith Neale <frneale@charlotte.edu>, Mirsad Hadzikadic <mirsad@charlotte.edu>, Lisa Merriweather <lmerriwe@charlotte.edu>, Kimberly Warren <kawarren@charlotte.edu>, Susan Lynch <Susan.Lynch@charlotte.edu>, JuliAnna Avila <javila1@charlotte.edu>, Ralf Thiede <rthiede@charlotte.edu>, Alan Dow <adow@charlotte.edu>, Elizabeth Siler <esiler3@charlotte.edu>

Dear Dr. Newton,
(CC'd FAPSC members and Matt Wyse)

Hello! Apologies for sending this close to a holiday, but I wanted to make sure we got this to you as soon as we could.

Please find attached a revised policy about faculty attendance at commencement. FAPSC reviewed the proposed policy revisions and voted unanimously to endorse all the suggested revisions. We have also suggested one additional edit to the policy title. This should all be clear from the attached document. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns or if you would like for the committee to take any further action.

Thank you all,

Mira Frisch, FAPSC Chair

Mira Frisch, DMA (she, her, hers) | Professor of Cello | Director of String Chamber Music
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REVISED by FAPSC Commencement and New Student Convocation Faculty Attendance policy.docx

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~~COMMENCEMENT AND NEW STUDENT CONVOCATION~~ FACULTY ATTENDANCE AT COMMENCEMENT

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This policy describes the requirements for full-time faculty participation in Commencement ceremonies ~~and New Student Convocation~~ at UNC Charlotte.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

~~Commencement is held twice a year, in the Fall and Spring semesters. New Student Convocation is held once a year at the beginning of the Fall semester.~~ As a professional responsibility and as a show of support for students, all full-time faculty ~~are encouraged to attend both Commencement ceremonies and New Student Convocation, but at a minimum~~ are expected to attend ~~either~~ one Commencement ceremony ~~or New Student Convocation~~ each year. Each department will be responsible for developing a plan for implementing the policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

- **Commencement** (also known as Graduation) – A formal ceremony in which the University awards degrees to graduating students at the end of each ~~Fall and Spring~~ semester.
- ~~**New Student Convocation** – An event dedicated to welcome and introduce new undergraduate students (freshmen and transfers) to the UNC Charlotte academic community. During the event, students learn about UNC Charlotte's traditions, mission, and values that drive the niner spirit.~~
- **Department** – A unit within a college representing a discipline. For example, the Department of English is in the College of Humanities & Earth and Social Sciences (CHESS).
- **Full-Time Faculty** – The ~~tenure-line and non-tenure track~~ members of the teaching and research body staff of UNC Charlotte ~~of any academic rank. Faculty may hold the rank of professor, associate professor, assistant professor, instructor, lecturer, research associate, research assistant, or the equivalent of any of these academic ranks.~~

- **Semester or Term** – A period of study of approximately 16 weeks, usually a third of the academic year (i.e., Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters). The Fall semester begins in August, the Spring semester in January, and the Summer semester in May at UNC Charlotte. The Summer semester generally includes one eleven-week and two five-week half terms.

IV. POLICY CONTACT(S)

- **Authority:** Faculty Council
- **Responsible Office:** Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- **Additional Contact(s):** n/a

V. HISTORY

- **Approved:** April 17, 2002
- **Revised:** February 20, 2013 [changed from “tenured and tenure track faculty” to “full-time faculty”]
- **Revised:** February 25, 2021 [inclusion of New Student Convocation into policy]
- **Revised:** xxxx [removal of the New Student Convocation from the policy, clarification of the full-time faculty definition, removal of commencement frequency]

VI. RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND RESOURCES

- Graduation Policy
- Commencement website
- ~~New Student Convocation website~~

VII. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Where is this policy referenced?**
The policy is published on the Academic Policies & Procedures webpage of the Provost website.
- **Are part-time faculty and faculty affiliates permitted to attend Commencement ~~and New Student Convocation?~~**
Yes, part-time faculty and faculty affiliates are permitted and

encouraged to attend Commencement ~~and New Student Convocation~~
in accordance with their departmental and collegiate policies.