Minutes [approved]
Faculty Council Committee on Fixed-term Faculty
January 13, 2012
2:00 p.m., 215 Stone Center

Present:  DeSaix, Renner, Irons, Kramer, Lee, Toews, Katie Quine (DTH reporter)
Not Present:  Gilliland, Tisdale, Whisnant

The Faculty Council Committee on Fixed-term Faculty met on Friday, January 13, at 2:00 p.m. in 215 Stone Center. Members present approved the minutes of the December 9 meeting with corrections.

In its January meeting, the Committee reiterated its concern for the title “Master Lecturer” as the title for the third-tier for fixed-term faculty in the Arts & Sciences for reasons documented in earlier minutes. In an effort to find an alternative acceptable to all parties, the Committee continued its review of the findings from its research of peer institutions’ practices.

The Committee thanked Katie Turner for collating the collected information into a chart for the meeting. The chart’s purpose was to facilitate comparison among the institutions and to look for patterns and common points. After discussing the chart, the group agreed that the chart confirmed “a great variety among ranks” and the titling of those ranks.

In efforts to find some title for fixed-term rank [other than assistant, associate, and full professor with a preceding qualifier] with recognition across institutions, members observed that Senior Lecturer has some currency across several schools. Therefore, the committee debated the wisdom of “Distinguished Senior Lecturer” or “Senior Lecturer with Distinction” for the third tier to capitalize upon the recognition of Senior Lecturer.

Lloyd Kramer introduced the idea of a “name” to precede Senior Lecturer to denote the third rank, for example the name of a person with positive associations concerning teaching. Quickly researching the topic, Cal Lee noted that Caldwell was the first full-time teacher at UNC. So the idea of Caldwell Senior Lecturer was put on the table. He noted other teachers from the early history of the University whose names might be used, such as Mitchell.

Because time constraints required adjournment, the committee agreed to continue the discussion via email, considering additional names and debating the pros and cons of the idea. Members agreed that a decision whether to make a recommendation to the Provost must be made in the February meeting since initial appointments to the third-rank are forthcoming late in the semester.

The Committee also agreed to carry over three agenda items not discussed in the meeting:
- Revisiting the spring 2011 survey results
- Reviewing the “best practices” for fixed-term faculty developed by the 2009 committee
- Revisiting the list of Committee goals set in the September meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m. Next meeting will be on Friday, February 10 at 2:00 p.m. in 215 Stone Center.