On August 26, 2014, the Global Research Institute (GRI) brought together many of UNC-Chapel Hill's leading researchers on food to help the Institute further develop and operationalize its theme for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017: “Feeding a Hungry World: Food Security in the 21st Century.” Approximately 45 faculty members from units all over campus attended the meeting. The results proved productive and inspiring. Excellent ideas for programs and activities were generated, and participants gained a better sense of the range and depth of talent at UNC — and throughout the Triangle more broadly — conducting research relating to food. At the conclusion of the hour-and-half meeting, those convened asked the GRI to continue bringing the group together to move plans forward, and to develop tools by which they could communicate as a group. A number of participants also volunteered to serve as a theme steering committee for the GRI and/or become involved in research clusters.

Before departing, the participants — unanimously by acclamation — expressed their strong support for the adoption of a food-related theme as the University’s next pan-university campus theme.

The group requested that the GRI communicate this support to the University officers and units charged with choosing the next theme.

Participants noted a number of reasons to support the adoption of a food-related campus theme including:

- The central importance of food quality and food security in today’s world;
- The seamless segue it provides from the current theme of “Water in Our World” given the interrelation of issues;
- The amount, quality, and variety of food-related research being conducted by faculty members in units across campus;
- The range and diversity of courses being taught at UNC on food-related subjects;
- The large number of students and student groups interested in issues relating to food;
- The proximity to other institutions, research, and business establishments with strong research capabilities and assets relating to food (the North Carolina Research Campus at Kannapolis, RTI International and the numerous agri-biotech firms in RTP, and the strong food-related research programs at NCSU, Duke, and NCA&T, and others);
- Community interest in and support of sustainable agriculture and the presence of a robust food culture in the Triangle area;
- The importance of examining food as it relates to culture and community;
- The many possibilities for exciting and diverse programming around food issues;
- And the potential for the food theme to generate external funding from private donors, corporations, foundations, and federal and state agencies.
The following members of the Carolina community offer their support for a campus-wide theme on food and food security:

**Alice Ammerman**
Professor, Department of Nutrition  
Director, Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Gillings School of Global Public Health

**Barbara Anderson**
Lecturer, Department of African, African American, and Diaspora Studies  
Associate Director, African Studies Center

**Stephen Barber**
Administrative Support Specialist, Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, Water in Our World Steering Committee

**Chris Barker**
Director, Office of Translational Technology, School of Medicine

**Jamie Bartram**
Don and Jennifer Holzworth Distinguished Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering  
Director, The Water Institute

**Peggy Bentley**
Carla Smith Chamblee Distinguished Professor, Department of Nutrition  
Associate Dean, Office of Global Health, Gillings School of Global Public Health

**Maureen Berner**
Professor of Public Administration and Government, School of Government

**John Buse**
Professor  
Chief, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism  
Director, Diabetes Care Center  
Executive Associate Dean, Clinical Research, School of Medicine

**Ashley Chaifetz**
Doctoral candidate, Department of Public Policy

**Amy Cooke**
Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Curriculum in Environment and Ecology

**Greg Copenhaver**
Associate Professor, Department of Biology

**Lou Anne Crumpler**
State Director, No Kid Hungry NC  
Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

**Jeff Dangl**
John N. Couch Professor, Department of Biology

**Molly De Marco**
Research Fellow and Project Director, Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

**Jim Ferguson**
Director, Carolina Global Food Program, Global Research Institute  
Lecturer, Department of History

**Marcie Cohen Ferris**
Associate Professor, Department of American Studies

**Greg Gangi**
Senior Lecturer, Curriculum in Environment and Ecology  
Clinical Assistant Professor and Associate Director for Education, Institute for the Environment

**Dan Gitterman**
Thomas Willis Lambeth Distinguished Chair, Department of Public Policy

**Gary Glish**
Professor, Department of Chemistry

**Sarah Grant**
Research Associate Professor, Department of Biology

**Mamie Sackey Harris**
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Public Health Leadership Program, Gillings School of Global Public Health  
Africa Programs Director, Institute for Global Health and Infectious Diseases

**Carol Hee**
Clinical Associate Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship, Kenan-Flagler Business School  
Director, Center for Sustainable Enterprise  
Faculty Co-Chair, UNC Sustainability Advisory Committee

**Bernard L. Herman**
Chair and George B. Tindall Professor, Department of American Studies

**Suzanne Hobbs***
Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management, Department of Nutrition  
Director, Doctoral Program in Health Leadership, Health Policy and Management  
Gillings School of Global Public Health
Dorothy Holland*  
Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology  
Co-Director, Collaborations for Integrating Research and Action

Pam Jagger  
Assistant Professor, Department of Public Policy

Alan Jones  
Kenan Distinguished Professor, Department of Biology

Daniel Lebold  
Director of Development for UNC Global

Christian Lentz  
Assistant Professor, Department of Geography

Paul Leslie  
Professor, Department of Anthropology

Ann Matthysse  
Professor, Department of Biology

Shu Wen Ng  
Research Assistant Professor of Nutrition, Gillings School of Global Public Health

Thupten Norbu  
Associate Director, Carolina Asia Center

Louis A. Pérez Jr.  
J. Carlyle Sitterson Professor, Department of History  
Director, Institute for the Study of the Americas

Morgan Pitelka  
Associate Professor, Department of Asian Studies Director, Carolina Asia Center

Barry M. Popkin  
W. R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor, Department of Nutrition  
Director, The Nutrition Transition Research Program

Terry Ellen Rhodes*  
Professor, Department of Music  
Senior Associate Dean of Fine Arts and Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences  
Co-Chair, Water in Our World Steering Committee

Samantha Terhune  
Associate Director, Carolina Global Food Program, Global Research Institute

Anna Maria Siega-Riz*  
Professor, Departments of Epidemiology and Nutrition  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Gillings School of Global Public Health

Niklaus Steiner  
Director, Center for Global Initiatives

John Stephens  
Gerhard E. Lenski Jr. Distinguished Professor, Department of Political Science  
Director, Center for European Studies

Shai Tamari*  
Associate Director, Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations

Susan Wyler  
Adjunct Instructor, Department of Nutrition, Gillings School of Global Public Health

Cheng Yao  
Associate Professor, Department of Geography

Katie Bowler Young  
Director of Global Relations for UNC Global

Gang Yue*  
Associate Professor, Department of Asian Studies

Steve Zeisel  
Kenan Distinguished Professor, Department of Nutrition  
Director, UNC Nutrition Research Institute  
Director, UNC Nutrition Obesity Research Center

* indicates someone who wishes to express support for this initiative by signing on but was unable to attend meeting