

Rights and Responsibilities Committee

Faculty Senate Report

September 12 1pm, Library 204G

Present: John Fitch (Co-Chair), Nicola Mason (Co-Chair), Norman Powell, Debbie Whalen

Absent: Weiling Zhuang, Nancy McKenney-AAUP Rep, Debora Givens-XC Rep

1. Committee Resolution for Discontinuation of Reductions to Academic Programs
2. Discussion on proposed increase to health insurance - welfare committee (essentially a pay-cut)
3. Ombud search update – First committee meeting (Sept 9) to complete job description

Faculty Senate Rights and Responsibilities Committee Resolution for Discontinuation of Reductions to Academic Programs September 12, 2016

Whereas, the Faculty Senate Rights and Responsibilities Committee shall make recommendations to the Senate on faculty matters including, but not limited to, promotion, tenure, grievance, and workload.

Whereas, the findings and recommendations of the Academic Budget Subcommittee as found in its report of August 15, 2016 appear to rely upon incomplete financial information and contain indications of subjective judgments based on speculative criteria by members of faculty and administration, such as “The expectation is that enrollments will increase,” “Potential for program growth with the New Science Building,” “Difficult to justify not offering [this degree.]” “Recommended that the program look to go fully online—much growth potential there,” “A general review of the secondary education programs is needed to understand why so many produce a low number of graduates.”

Whereas, the findings and recommendations of the Academic Budget Subcommittee as found in its report of August 15, 2016 have not provided detailed evidence of cost savings through reductions in academic programs.

Whereas, to date no evidence of significant reductions to areas of university operations other than academics have been forthcoming from the ECU administration or governing board, including, but not limited to, ECU Athletics.

Whereas, the reduction of several academic programs will result in the termination of a number of full-time, tenured faculty.

Whereas, such a reduction is an additional hardship on the faculty of ECU, compounding the hardships found in recent actions, such as the termination of advising pay for faculty, proposed reduction to benefits including faculty tuition scholarships, dramatic increases in health insurance premiums, reduced opportunities for reassigned time, lack of salary adjustments for cost of living increases, and lack of merit pay.

Whereas, the sudden reduction of academic programs at ECU without equitable reductions in other university areas would result in permanent damage to the academic integrity of the university, the morale of the faculty, and the relationship between the faculty and the president and ECU Board of Regents.

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate calls for an immediate discontinuation of suspensions to any and all academic programs recommended by the Academic Budget Subcommittee as found in its report of August 15, 2016 until equitable reductions in other areas of university operations are identified and implemented.