

THE UNC SYSTEM FACULTY ASSEMBLY & CAMPUS FACULTY SENATES

Overview

The UNC System Faculty Assembly was established in 1972 at the request of former UNC President William Friday. The Faculty Assembly is comprised of delegates from each of the 17 member institutions of the UNC System. The role and purpose of the Faculty Assembly is to exist as a representative body of faculty leaders from throughout the System that serves in an advisory capacity to UNC System leadership.

A faculty senate or council is established on each campus to act as the sole campus-wide, faculty-elected, representative, and deliberative body, which speaks for the general faculty of the campus. The group is organized to present to the Chancellor its point of view on all matters of concern to the campus. *The Code of the University of North Carolina* specifies that each Chancellor shall ensure the existence of a faculty senate or faculty council (Section 502 D). The council or senate may advise the Chancellor on any matters pertaining to the institution that are of interest and concern to the faculty. The chair of each campus's faculty senate is invited to participate in the Faculty Assembly's Senate Chairs Committee.

The relationship between the Faculty Assembly, faculty senates, campus leadership, and System leadership is summarized in the diagram below.

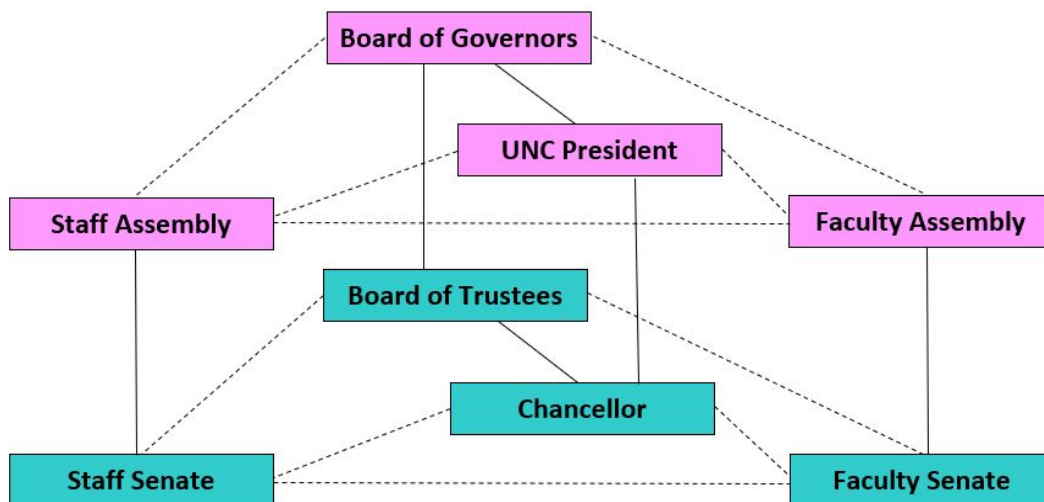


Figure 1. Governance and Communication Structure in UNC System

Core Functions of the Faculty Assembly

The Faculty Assembly serves one primary purpose and several secondary roles. The core function of the Faculty Assembly is to serve as an advisory body made up of faculty leaders from each of the 17-members of the UNC System. This includes serving in an advisory capacity on system-wide issues to the President, UNC System Office, the Board of Governors, the NC General Assembly, and campus faculty and administrative bodies.

In addition to formulating advice and counsel on system issues, Assembly members frequently also serve on working groups, policy committees, or personnel committees of the UNC System Office, and nominate members of the general faculty to serve on system initiatives as required. The Chair of the Assembly and, when present, the Chair Elect attend all Board of Governors' public meetings and serve ex-officio on the Board of Governors' Personnel and Tenure Committee, the Board of Governors' Education Policy and Planning Committee, and on the UNC System Office's Chief Academic Officers (Provost's) Council.

It is important for each faculty senate to receive updates about the information shared with the Faculty Assembly. As such, it is the responsibility of each delegate on the Faculty Assembly to report back Faculty Assembly work and discussions to their campus's faculty senate.

Additional details about the functions of the Faculty Assembly can be found in [the Faculty Assembly Bylaws](#).

Faculty Assembly Meeting Activities

The Faculty Assembly meets at least five times, and typically six or more times, each academic year in the C.D. Spangler Building, Chapel Hill, NC. Meetings generally consist of: updates from the UNC System President, the Chair of the Board of Governors, and members of the UNC System Office; small group and full group discussions of relevant System-wide initiatives and issues; and committee meetings.

The Faculty Assembly Executive Committee will (after consultation with the delegates) form committees related to the on-going work related to, but not limited to, issues of academic freedom, promotion, tenure, faculty development and welfare, academic programs, research, the budget, governance issues, and technology.

Core Functions of a Faculty Senate/Council

A faculty senate or council is often the means by which faculty can provide advice to campus leadership with respect to questions of academic policy and institutional governance, with particular emphasis upon matters of curriculum, degree requirements, instructional standards, and grading criteria, another opportunity provided for in *The Code*.

It is important for members of the senate or council to communicate with and receive communication from the general faculty on the campus, the Chancellor, the Board of Trustees, and the UNC Faculty Assembly. The faculty senate must hold regularly scheduled meetings throughout the academic year. Faculty senate meetings on the campuses, and major reports (on such difficult questions as workload, salary, tenure-review, support for non-tenure-track faculty members, and so forth) should be shared with the Faculty Assembly leadership so that this information can be made available to everyone. Each campus determines whether their current faculty senate chair serves as members of their local Faculty Assembly delegation.

Additional details about the functions of a faculty senate can be found in the [UNC Standards of Shared Governance](#).