

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Sense of the Senate Resolution Number: SSR0124F
Date of Senate Approval: 06/27/2024
Statement of Faculty Senate Action: Faculty Senate Resolution 1 (FS1)

Resolution of the University of North Carolina Asheville Faculty Senate in Response to the 2024 Academic Portfolio Review and Subsequent Proposed Curtailment of Academic Programs

WHEREAS the [Mission](#) of the University of North Carolina Asheville, as approved by the UNCA Board of Trustees and as adopted by the Asheville 2030 [website](#), describes UNCA as the designated “public liberal arts and sciences university” of the UNC System;

WHEREAS we share with the administration the goals of providing an education of rare and exceptional value, learning from the past and applying those lessons so we can move forward productively and wisely;

WHEREAS each academic division (Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences) is integral and essential for a balanced liberal arts and sciences curriculum, diverse academic offerings, and broad appeal to prospective students;¹

WHEREAS each academic program², both through its own courses and its contributions to the Liberal Arts Core, serves the greater mission of the university, to provide a student-centered, relationship-driven liberal arts and sciences education that addresses “the most pressing issues of our time”;

WHEREAS the Chancellor has recommended that four academic programs (Ancient Mediterranean Studies, Drama, Philosophy, and Religious Studies) be sunsetted and a fifth (Languages and Literatures) be curtailed due to a budget deficit caused by decreased enrollment;

WHEREAS the Humanities Division, which is integral to the university’s liberal arts and sciences identity, is the only division that has been targeted for elimination or curtailment;

WHEREAS the metrics for how programs were chosen for elimination or curtailment are unclear, inconsistent, and have yet to be fully shared with the campus, nor has the membership of the body making the decisions been shared;

WHEREAS relevant financial information regarding elimination and curtailment was not made adequately transparent to the campus community, which severely limited opportunities for creative problem-solving;

WHEREAS the specifics of the elimination and curtailment proposal were not shared with the Senate or the Executive Committee as outlined in 14.V.A.2 of the UNCA Faculty Handbook; and

WHEREAS faculty senate has put into place a detailed program review process to be followed in the future ([SD7824S](#));

¹Our tradition of providing a liberal arts education dates back to the [early 1960s](#), and beyond. UNCA was recognized as a public liberal arts university prior to the formation of the UNC System in 1972. The UNC System Board of Governors changed the official designation of UNCA to a Public Liberal Arts University in March, 1992. From Asheville-Biltmore College Catalog (1964-65) p.14 and from our first University of North Carolina at Asheville Catalog (1969-70) p. 16: “The fundamental aim of the College is to provide for serious and able students a liberal arts education of high quality.”

²Each degree granted is referred to as a program. Some departments house multiple programs, at least one program is not in a department; [UNC Asheville Fact Books: 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23](#).

Therefore be it RESOLVED that:

1. The UNCA Faculty Senate stands in support of the impacted programs (Ancient Mediterranean Studies, Drama, Languages and Literatures, Philosophy, and Religious Studies) and calls for the retention of these disciplines and their remaining faculty at the university.
2. The UNCA Faculty Senate asserts that the Academic Portfolio Review (APR) process was neither collaborative nor transparent, and it did not grant suitable time for response.
3. The UNCA Faculty Senate asserts that the program elimination and curtailment recommendations by the Chancellor may, through a reduction in offerings, work against the increase in enrollment sought in the Asheville 2030 plan.
4. The UNCA Faculty Senate calls for the Chancellor to consider implementing changes in alignment with the document appended to the Chancellor's Proposal by our Department Chairs. This document has actionable suggestions that work toward the shared goal of University sustainability, responding to the current budget crisis while protecting the university's academic diversity, its public image, and its liberal arts and sciences mission.
5. The UNCA Faculty Senate commits to working with the administration through shared governance to ensure that such processes and procedures in the future are more collaborative and transparent, as outlined in the chairs counter-recommendation and in Senate documents such as [SD7824S](#).