

**Transition Team  
Campus-wide Work Group Progress Reports  
March 3, 2005**

**Commission on the University Experience**

The Commission on the University Experience was charged to recommend a core curriculum to replace UNC's current general education requirements. The commission reported that it is examining UNC's general education offerings to determine which courses will fulfill state general education requirements in communication, math, arts and humanities, social sciences, and physical and life sciences.

UNC's required courses must match mandates from the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE), which is still developing statewide core curriculum guidelines for the 2005-06 academic year. It is possible that the CCHE will allow each institution to define up to nine credit hours of its general education requirements. Commission on the University Experience members are considering how UNC might define those discretionary credit hours. They have discussed courses that address or provide:

- A learning community
- Common freshmen experience
- Speech
- Foreign language
- Integrated material (such as addressing a global/social issue)
- A capstone course (perhaps in the student's major)
- Team teaching

**Commission on Student Success**

The Commission on Student Success was charged to develop an effective, efficient and comprehensive approach to enhance student success and retention. The commission began with the fundamental activities of defining student success and identifying the functions that contribute to it. The commission is focusing primarily on two areas: consolidating various student services activities and researching the activities of the learning communities.

A consolidated student services area, that reflects the proposal for remodeling Bishop-Lehr Hall before state capital money dried up, would be a clearinghouse for campus student services. A primary function would be to work toward standardized advising, as well as to establish centralized advising for undeclared students. The commission is also looking to implement an online referral system for tutorial services. In addition, the commission is examining how an office of student success would work in conjunction with orientation programs such as Discover.

In researching the activities of learning communities, the commission is considering the development of a first-year experience program for students. It is also examining the role of tutorial services in learning communities. The commission is spending significant time on the issue of advising. It recognizes the need for standards for advising, as well as appropriate

training for advisors. The commission will note the need for both an advising mission statement and an advising coordinating council.

### **Faculty and Staff Professional Development Center Task Force**

Charting the Future calls for a task force to recommend an implementation plan, priorities, programming and staff needs for a Faculty and Staff Professional Development Center. The task force created subcommittees to address the following topics: (1) mission, goals and vision for the center; (2) current professional development opportunities at UNC and other institutions; and (3) assessment of UNC faculty and staff professional development needs.

The task force depicted how the center's development might progress over the next 10 years. It imagines finding funding for the center in three years, beginning to centralize professional development functions and breaking ground for a new building in five years, and housing the center in a new building across from Michener Library in 10 years. The center would offer professional development programs aimed at improving faculty and peer advising, using instructional technology, improving pedagogical methods in learning communities and enhancing departmental programs that prepare graduate TAs to teach. It would also serve as a clearinghouse for other professional development information.

### **Commission on Compensation**

The Commission on Compensation, which began meeting in early February, was charged to recommend how compensation should be structured at UNC. Commission members began by assessing current compensation practices for each employee category—faculty, classified staff and exempt staff. They then turned to drafting a philosophy of compensation, which the university has not articulated.

The commission will consider the definition of equity in compensation, barriers to compensating employees fairly, how to determine who makes compensation decisions, whether funding source matters in compensation decisions, and how compensation is related to faculty and staff retention and recruitment. The commission noted that the greatest challenge will be putting a compensation philosophy into practice.

### **Self-Study Steering Committee for Building an Inclusive Campus**

Charting the Future calls for a self-study that identifies UNC's strengths and opportunities for improvement in building an inclusive campus that fosters student success. The steering committee, which is coordinating the two-part study, has identified a need for comprehensive planning related to diversity.

Study A is evaluating all student support services. The steering committee reviewed and compiled information from self-studies of each cultural center, the Women's Resource Center and the GLBT Resource Office. The committee hopes to complete its report on self-studies of other student service areas by the end of March.

Study B is exploring how UNC integrates diversity into academic and academic support programs. A work group from each college and the library addressed what the college/library does in the following four areas as they relate to diversity: student recruitment, student retention and services, faculty recruitment and campus climate. The groups considered current activities, diversity-related objectives and methods of measuring success. The steering committee has assimilated information from the group reports.

The steering committee noted that UNC sponsors many diversity-related activities, but that the university community doesn't have a clear sense of why it does the activities or what they should achieve. The committee will recommend a campus-wide discussion to define diversity-related goals, how programs can help the university meet the goals and how to measure success.