A History and Background of Academic Affairs

The University was chartered in 1909 as the National Religious Training School and Chautauqua and opened its doors to students in January 1910. The Charter of 1909 reads:

The idea of the National Training School is that religion is the foundation on which the state, education and Community Life should stand. Religion awakens the sluggish, dormant energies of the individual and turns them into channels of usefulness and service. It builds up a better citizenship. It lessens crimes, reduces idleness and teaches lessons of self-restraint. A religious life will tend to the care of the educational and industrial side of life. Change the man, and environments will be changed by the man. Therefore above all things else the Institution stands for a sound body, a trained mind, and well-directed industrial training. (National Training School Bulletin (1916) Vol. IV: (3) p. 8)

Academic regulations between 1910 and 1916 were similar to academic regulations today. Among more notable ones are: (1) only pupils of good moral character will be admitted or retained. (2) No pupil will be advanced to a higher class, except upon the satisfactory completion of the work of the previous class. All tests and examinations questions shall be first approved by the Dean and no promotion to a higher class shall be valid except approved by the Dean. (3) Pupils are required to have prompt attendance upon all required school exercises, either on Sunday or in the week. (4) Any student who fails to present himself for any special or term examination, unless previously excused, will be deemed to have failed to pass such examination. (5) Any student whose semester average falls below C in any subject will not be permitted to the final examination, but will be required to take the subject again in class. (National Training School Bulletin (1916) Vol. IV: (3) pp. 8-10)

In 1916, each student had to own a Bible and participate in one hour of Bible study daily. In addition, a period of silence was observed by all students, during which the student was expected to spend the time in quiet meditation, study and prayer. Since the institution is no longer a Religious School and Chautauqua, religious courses are no longer required, nor are students to have Bibles and Bible study daily. Students in 2009 do have two 50- minute periods per week during which time no classes are held.

Academic programs in 1916 included Theology, Teacher Education, including a major for training rural teachers, Commercial (Business), Music, Domestic Art and Domestic Science, and the academy, which served to prepare students who were not fully prepared to enter the Academy. Academic programs in 2008-2009 include basic courses in English composition, mathematics, social sciences, behavioral sciences, special education, business administration, public administration, criminal justice, nursing, human sciences, psychology, and health. In addition, curricula now include courses in biotechnology, bioinformatics, informatics, metabolic syndrome, Japanese, Arabic languages, geology, solar energy, nanotechnology, technical writing, cultural diversity, international business and law, computer science, forensic science, military science, aerospace, Francophone literature, Hispanic literature, jazz, music industry, and video production. In 2008-09, the University offered more than 100 degree programs. In addition it offered programs to benefit students who may come to the Institution lacking requisite skills continue; these programs include summer Bridge programs, tutorials, supplemental instruction, and mentoring.

The academic programs in 2008-2009 are directed by unit heads designated as deans, chairpersons, or directors. The academic structure includes the following:

The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Science and Technology, the School of Business, the School of Education, the School of Law, the School of Library and Information Sciences, The Department of Nursing, the Biomedical Biotechnology Research Institute (BBRI), and the Biomanufacturing, Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE), the Library, and the University College.

In the early history of the institution, the academic programs were under the supervision of President Shepard and the Assistant to the President. There was a dean of the school who worked closely with Dr. Shepard on matters regarding the curriculum. Later on in the history, deans and department chairpersons, along with their faculties provided the oversight for curriculum development and curriculum revision. From President Shepard’s oversight of the curriculum, to the one dean of the school in the early years, North Carolina Central University can now claim 10 deans and units heads who direct the curricula in the various degree programs and classifications.
Faculty members in 1916 numbered 12, 115 in 1948, and in 2008-2009 that number increased to 649 counting both part time and full time faculty. As in 1916 and subsequent years, much diversity can be reflected in the 2008-2009 faculty, giving the University a cultural richness and diversity of training and experience.

The tuition, board, registration fees, and other incidentals in 1916 totaled $22.50 payable four weeks in advance. This contrasts with our 2008-2009 Tuition, Board, and Fees of $8998.50 for in-state students.

The landscape in 1916 was adorned with ten buildings, lighted by electricity and heated by steam, compared with 62 buildings in 2008-2009, all equipped with wireless internet capability and air conditioning. The buildings in 1916 set on a 32 acre campus, whereas, the 62 buildings now occupy more than 100 acres of sloping hills and verdant green.

Students served in 1916 numbered 143 with 19 graduates that same year from two year programs. The first four-year class graduated came in 1929. In 2008-2009, student enrollment totaled 8383 and 908 students graduated on May 16, 2009.

And so, in 2010, North Carolina Central University will celebrate 100 years of academic history. In the early years of the Institution, academic oversight rested with President Shepard and the Dean of the College. This continued through 1950, with the appointment of Albert E. Manley, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Albert Manley, Dean, handled matters pertaining to academics, instruction, scholarships and undergraduate students. In 1953, George T. Kyle was named Dean of the Undergraduate School. He continued in this capacity through the mid 1960s.

In 1969, the General Assembly changed the name of North Carolina College to North Carolina Central University. On July 1, 1972, North Carolina Central University became a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina.

Dr. Leonard H. Robinson served as Dean of the Undergraduate School from 1969-1971. The title was changed to vice president of academic affairs during his tenure from 1971-1973. He was named vice chancellor for academic affairs and served again from 1973-1978.

Dr. Cecil L. Patterson succeeded Dr. Robinson as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs serving from 1978-1986. In 1986, Dr. Mickey Burnim joined the university as Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs. In 1990, he was named Provost. The position became provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs. In 1995, Dr. Burnim was tapped to serve as interim Chancellor and Provost of Elizabeth City State University. Dr. Patsy B. Perry, former chair of the English Department succeeded, Dr. Burnim as provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs serving until 1998. Dr. Perry was succeeded by Dr. Eugene Eaves who served from 1998-2000. Dr. Eaves was succeeded by Dr. Walter Harris, professor of music, in 2000. Dr. Lafayette Lipscomb succeeded Dr. Walter Harris in 2002, as interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Dr. Lipscomb was succeeded by Dr. Lucy Reuben in 2002. In 2005, Dr. Beverly Jones, formerly dean of the University College was appointed provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs. In 2008, Dr. Lenneal Henderson, Daniel T. Blue Endowed Professor of Political Science, served as interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Dr. Henderson resigned to return to the classroom. Dr. Bernice Duffy Johnson, dean of the University College was appointed as interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. In 2009, Dr. Kwesi Aggrey, formerly chief academic officer at Indiana University Northwest, joined the university as provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs.

Mission

The mission of the Academic Affairs Division is to provide exemplary academic leadership for the University’s students and faculties through continued development and support of deans, directors, and department chairpersons and to enhance the teaching, learning, and research environments by strengthening the academic infrastructure.

The Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs is the chief academic officer (CAO) of the University, overseeing the University’s academic programs, research, personnel, resources and support services. The Provost provides academic leadership and oversees the quality of instruction and research through collaborative work with deans, departmental chairs and faculty, addressing issues such as effective planning, management, and program reviews. The Provost administers and monitors procedures and criteria for faculty appointments, tenure, and promotion, working to ensure the quality of student learning by enhancing teaching and learning, coordinating initiatives in undergraduate education and fostering a diverse climate University-wide.

Goals of the Division

1. To aid in the University –wide effort to stabilize student enrollment;
2. To improve administration by decentralizing decision making with responsibility and accountability given to the deans and support unit heads;
3. To continue the use of our established channels of communication so that there is the opportunity for input and feedback consistent with the tradition of collegiality;
4. To continue to bring greater clarity to existing institutional academic policies and procedures, and to create new ones when needed;
5. To continue working to bring greater efficiency to our student class registration system;
6. To reinforce the greater emphasis on the importance of scholarly research and productivity;
7. To continue strengthening the institutional planning system; and
8. To continue to emphasize effective teaching.

Administrative Officers

Vice-Chancellors for Academic Affairs
Provosts and Vice Chancellors for Academic Affairs

Dr. Leonard H. Robinson (Dean of the Undergraduate School) 1969-1971
Dr. Leonard H. Robinson * 1971-1973
Dr. Leonard H. Robinson ** 1973-1978
Dr. Cecil L. Patterson 1978-1986
Dr. Mickey Burnim*** 1986-1995
Dr. Patsy B. Perry 1995-1998
Dr. Eugene Eaves (Interim) 1998-2000
Dr. Walter Harris 2000-2002
Dr. Lafayette Lipscomb (Interim) 2002
Dr. Lucy Reuben 2002-2005
Dr. Beverly Washington Jones 2005-2008
Dr. Lenneal Henderson (Interim) July-September 30, 2008
Dr. Bernice D. Johnson (Interim) October-December 31, 2008
Dr. Kwesi Aggrey January 2009

* Vice President for Academic Affairs
** Title Changed to Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
*** Title Changed to Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Deans, Chairs, and Directors - 2008-2009

Dr. Faye Calhoun, Interim Director Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/ Biotechnology Research Institute
Dr. Lorna Harris, Chairperson Department of Nursing
Dr. Ceasar R. Jackson, Dean College of Science and Technology
Dr. Bernice Duffy Johnson, Dean University College
Dr. Mary Mathew, Interim Dean College of Liberal Arts
Dr. Percy Murray, Dean School of Graduate Studies
Dr. Irene Owens, Dean School of Library and Information Sciences
Dr. Raymond Pierce, Dean School of Law
Dr. Bijoy Sahoo, Dean School of Business
Dr. Theodosia Shields, Director James E. Shepard Memorial Library
Dr. Li-an Yeh, Director Bio-manufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE)

Prepared by Ms. Terri Godwin
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