



National Research Council Faculty Questionnaire

In the next few days, faculty members involved in doctoral graduate education within 54 different doctoral programs at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will receive a message via email and the U.S. Postal Service from the National Academies, inviting them to participate in the National Research Council (NRC) doctoral education assessment project.

This is a particularly important study for Carolina in promoting the stature of our doctoral programs. Therefore, along with the Provost and the Chancellor, I urge all faculty members to respond to this Faculty Questionnaire. For a large portion of the faculty, the questionnaire should take 15-20 minutes. For faculty in the Arts and Humanities, the time commitment could be a little longer.

Please note that faculty who want to be eligible to participate in the Ratings stage of the NRC need to submit the questionnaire no later than **Thursday, February 15, 2007**. The questionnaire has been approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of the NRC and accepted by the IRB at UNC.

Although details of the study can be found at the websites noted below, I thought it would be helpful if I provided faculty with a brief summary of the project.

<http://www7.nationalacademies.org/resdoc/>

<http://gradschool.unc.edu/nrc/index.html>

The study includes over 200 doctoral-granting universities in the U.S. and its goals are to help universities improve the quality of their programs through benchmarking, as well as provide potential students and the public with accessible, readily available information that they can use to make decisions about pursuing doctoral education.

I am serving as the Institutional Coordinator of the study at UNC, along with Assistant Dean Stephanie Schmitt and Assistant Provost Lynn Williford. Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have questions. We have also prepared a tip sheet to assist you in your response, and it is included with this communication.

I thank you in advance for your willingness to participate in this important study.

Sincerely,
Linda Dykstra
William Rand Kenan Jr. Professor
Dean of the Graduate School