

UNC acceptance standards stiffening

By David Plunkett

Important changes in admissions standards at the 16 University of North Carolina institutions are under consideration by the Board of Governors.

They include the establishment of a common minimum entrance re-

quirement for all of the schools, effective fall 1988.

Presently each school in the university system sets its own entrance standards beyond a high school diploma representing successful completion of 16 units.

The Board meets this month to consider the

recommendations of The Committee on Educational Planning, Policies and Programs, said Ken Cagle, SGA president.

In a letter to the committee, dated January 6, William C. Friday, president of the UNC system, said, "We should proceed to define a common minimum

requirement beyond the present general requirement of the high school diploma or its equivalent for admission to any of our campuses."

The committee recommends establishing a minimum general admission requirement of a high school diploma or

its equivalent and raising the number of required high school credit units from 16 to 20.

Included in these units are a common core of four units of English; three units of math, including algebra and geometry; two units

Continued on page 8

Kaleidoscope

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Growth pains plaguing campus

By Penny Kramp

Freshman enrollment is on the rise at UNCA and with it come problems of crowded classes and lack of facilities to handle the growth.

Dr. Kendall Rice, director of admissions and enrollment, said enrollment is up nearly 50 students from last spring to an approximate head count this spring of 2450 students.

This is a considerable increase during a national trend of declining enrollments in most universities.

Dr. Rice attributed the growth to four main factors:

1. New programs added in the last five years.
2. Urban location convenient for commuter students.
3. Evening classes to accommodate working students.
4. An increasing academic reputation.

While an increase in enrollment is a compliment to a university, it can cause some major problems.

One problem is UNCA does not have the facilities to handle an increasing growth of this type, said Rice.

"We are almost at the point where we can't grow very much more. A 3% increase is as much as we could handle next

year," he said.

Rice said higher admissions standards for freshmen should help correct the problem.

Another problem increased enrollment creates is ballooning class size. Many freshmen had difficulty getting into required English classes this year.

Dr. Jeff Rackham, chairman of the UNCA literature department, said the department had to add freshman composition courses at

night.

He said in the spring semester of 1981 UNCA offered 11 sections of Lang. 103 and 5 sections of Lang. 102. There are 13 sections of 103 and 5 sections of 102 this semester.

However, Dr. Rackham said, "the department could have filled 15 of 103 and 7 of 102," indicating the freshmen language classes are currently over-enrolled.

"It's a bad situation to have 26 students in

a class where you should have 20. It means less personal contact between the student and the professor," said Rackham.

Next spring the literature department plans to offer 14 sections of 103 and 7 sections of 102.

"This is not so much to absorb new students as to keep classes at 20 students," said Rackham.

Rackham disagrees that higher admission standards will stabil-

ize the increase.

"The higher standards a university has, the more students want to enter the school. It is the same reason Chapel Hill turns away students," said Rackham.

Rackham does not see the growth as beneficial to the quality of UNCA.

"I think I can speak for myself as well as the rest of the faculty when I say we want the university to remain small. If growth comes too fast then it reduces the personal quality."

"After attending a school with 14,000 students and graduate school with 22,000 students it is a joy to teach at a smaller university," said Rackham.

Rackham said he does not anticipate a problem in having enough classes next fall because the faculty will be prepared for an increase.



"Alcohol Awareness Week" Begins Feb. 6: Kicking off the week is a fair Feb. 7 in the Student Center Lobby featuring displays and booths by community groups. Former Carolina football player Steve Streater is coming to lunch in the Student Center Feb. 8. A movie, "Calling the Shots," comes to the Snach Bar at 7 p.m. Feb. 9; and the Second Annual Moonshine Run takes place Feb. 11. Runners must register by calling 258-6513 before noon Feb. 10.

Photo by Pam Walker

