

Harris resigns as AD, UNCA steady on course

By Dale McElrath

UNCA Athletic Director Ed Harris announced his resignation to take a similar position at Missouri Western State College Friday, amid speculation the action signals a "de-emphasis" of athletics at UNCA.

However, UNCA Chancellor David Brown said the university's move toward NCAA



CHANCELLOR BROWN looks on as Ed Harris explains his resignation as UNCA director of athletics. Staff photo by Penny Kramp

Division I status is "steady on course."

"We have a long-term commitment to provide financial support for all the sports programs," Brown said.

"I have done everything in my power to convince Ed this is the wrong move," Brown continued. "But he has decided to take the position. We will be sorry to see him go, but that

doesn't change our stand on athletics."

Harris said he's leaving to search for "more professional challenges."

"My wife and I have struggled with this decision for several months," Harris said. "I'm at a point in my professional life where it's time for challenges. I'd like to test my skills in another position." Continued on page 5

THE BLUE BANNER

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UNCA figures leave fold

By Penny Kramp

One could call it the winter of UNCA's discontent.

As cold winds blasted campus, a series of six resignations from the board of trustees, administration, and faculty rocked UNCA in January.

In a board of trustees switchover Tommy Arnold, chairman of the board of trustees, stepped down from the post he held since 1983. The board unanimously voted Vice Chairman James Ellis as his replacement last Thursday.

In addition to Director of Athletics Ed Harris, (see related story), UNCA lost three more administrators.

Director of Institutional Research Dennis Hengstler, Director of Enrollment Kenneth Rice, and Director of University Graphics Dean Hines relinquished their jobs in order to accept more promis-

ing positions.

On the faculty side, Dr. Gene Rainey, professor of political science, conceded his post as chairman of the department to Dr. Bob Farzanegan, professor of political science.

There is no apparent common denominator to the sudden rash of resignations.

"I think it is just the case of people pursuing private interests and not a problem with the administration," said Rainey.

Arnold, who led the search committee for Chancellor Highsmith's replacement, left because of a state clause prohibiting a person from serving as a trustee if his spouse is an employee of the state.

Arnold's wife, Genevieve, began teaching a developmental studies class at UNCA this semester.

Arnold said there are no hard feelings and he wholeheartedly agrees with

the law. "It is fair. The state is just trying to avoid hiring people who might take advantage of the situation," said Arnold.

Arnold does not see the resignation as an end to his involvement with the college.

"I'm not being let off the hook. I plan to work with the university on a volunteer basis," said Arnold.

Leading the chancellor search was the most rewarding experience of his term because the trustees had a very active role in the decision, according to Arnold.

"The trend of the trustees becoming more involved is very necessary to improve the future of the college," advised Arnold at the board's meeting last Thursday.

Ellis, former director of administration for the Biltmore Co., has served

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Staff photo by Sylvia Hawkins

FRUSTRATED STUDENTS braved arctic-like weather, only to discover classes cancelled on Monday.

Big Chill strikes

By Donna Obrecht

A disc jockey surprised Vice Chancellor Laurence Dorr while driving to work Monday morning when he announced the cancellation of UNCA classes.

The record breaking cold weather hadn't been enough to convince Dorr, who is usually responsible for that decision, to close the university.

Because of what Dorr called an "unfortunate mix-up," Chancellor David Brown made the decision

about 7:30 a.m. to cancel day and evening classes.

"We had some confusion Monday over who was responsible," said Brown. "I thought Vice-Chancellor Dorr was out of town, but I was mistaken."

"Coming from an environment slightly to the north, I first thought classes should go on, but I'm smart enough to know to listen to people who've been here longer," said Brown.

"I received a single

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Former Board Chairman Tommy Arnold Staff photo by Sylvia Hawkins



New Board Chairman James Ellis Staff photo by Sylvia Hawkins



Dr. Dennis Hengstler Staff photo by Sylvia Hawkins