

News

Trail of recent events

Gardner-Webb has made a place on the map

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Pilot editor

Just over two weeks ago, the *Shelby Star* shocked many GWU students and faculty with the news of an impending NCAA investigation of the school. The days following saw the administration, faculty, staff and students in the Gardner-Webb community become frustrated, angry, sad and confused. Two weeks later the latest happenings at GWU have made tiny Boiling Springs a name in several *Charlotte Observer* stories, an editorial in the Richmond, Va. *Times-Dispatch*, a blurb in *USA Today*, a spot in several area TV news stations, articles in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as well as in several Baptist newspapers. The GWU investigation now has its own separate link on the *Shelby Star* Web site. Still, many remain ignorant of what is happening. The daily recap below serves to inform those seeking the facts.

Tuesday, Sept. 10

- Shelby Star* reports an impending NCAA investigation of GWU for four separate violations, including a memo from President White requesting use of the regular repeat rule for academic dishonesty.

- Gil Blackburn, vice president for academic affairs, leads seven faculty members (Phil Williams, Ron Williams, Darlene Gravett, Gayle Price, Gil Blackburn, Carolyn Billings, Jeff Tubbs and Stephen Perry) in approaching White to request a meeting with faculty.

- Carolyn Billings, vice chair for the faculty, calls an emergency faculty meeting.

- White admits to faculty that he "made a mistake."

- Four faculty members deliberate on what led to the investigation.

- Faculty members make a 63-39 no confidence vote in White and a 112-5 vote of confidence in Blackburn.

- Billings informs Tommy Hardin, chair of the board of trustees, of the faculty vote.



Thursday, Sept. 12

- Athletic Director Chuck Burch answers students' questions at a SGA forum.

- Several GWU senior staff and faculty members issue a response to the no-confidence vote, in support of White.



Friday, Sept. 13

- The trustee executive board meets off-campus to review the actions and charges made in the Sept. 10 faculty meeting.

- Board releases a statement expressing "full confidence" in White.

- Board launches an investigation of the allegations made against White.

- Board apologizes for any embarrassment caused to the Carlos Webb family.



Tuesday, Sept. 17

- NCAA investigators begin conducting interviews at GW.

- Tommy Hardin, chairman of the GWU board of trustees, issues a statement to student, faculty and staff:

- says the trustees are "concerned and disturbed" by actions on campus and in the media concerning White's conduct,
- says trustees have "heard much innuendo and hear-say" from faculty and students,

- promises to "learn the facts" and "ensure the integrity" of the school will remain "above reproach,"

- states that the trustees have hired an attorney, Ed Hallman (of Decker, Hallman, Barber and Briggs in Atlanta, Ga.) to conduct a "complete and impartial" investigation and

- urges everyone to "temper their debate and allegations."



Photo by Scott Holstein

President Christopher White leaves the LYCC after meeting with NCAA officials Wednesday, Sept. 18. White is under investigation for writing a memo to the Registrar's Office to ignore a cheating F policy for a former basketball player. The school is also under investigation for three, maybe more, NCAA violations. The news of the violations broke two weeks ago.

— Information provided by The *Shelby Star* Web site

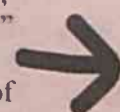
Wednesday, Sept. 18

- Faculty members express concern over the trustees' investigation:

- Phil Williams, of the business department, tells the *Shelby Star* he is "concerned that the investigation is directed at us, those of us who raised the issue."

- Attorney Ed Hallman conducts interviews with faculty.

- Hallman acknowledges he represented GW in a lawsuit about three years ago in an unrelated case.



Friday, Sept. 27

- A meeting is scheduled for the board of trustees at noon at the Northside Country Club in Shelby to discuss the current situation.



Wednesday, Sept. 25

- Students meet midday in the Chapel to pray for healing.



Tuesday, Sept. 24

- Attorneys from Decker, Hallman, Barber and Briggs, hired by the board of trustees, meet with 13 GW students to discuss student opinions.



Friday, Sept. 20

- Faculty members further question Hallman's ability to remain impartial when reports surface about his previous affiliation with the university

- Ron Williams, of the religion department, tells the *Shelby Star* his interview with Hallman (on Sept. 18) left him feeling as if the attorney "is here to vindicate the president rather than present the facts."

- Hallman meets with the eight faculty members who confronted White on Sept. 10:

- tells them he has the right to analyze all of their e-mails from computers at work.

- ~Faculty members oppose the e-mail viewing as an invasion of their privacy.



Thursday, Sept. 19

- Hardin states that the trustees are aware of Hallman's past dealing with Gardner-Webb

- Hardin ensures Hallman's impartial and objective investigation.