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## Students express mixed feelings toward UNCW

HEIDI BING  
NEWS EDITOR

As UNCW prepares for its national reaccreditation process, administration is making an effort to gather student viewpoints on both the positive and negative aspects of the university community. On Tuesday, independent consultant Walker Johanssen held a series of conferences on campus where he met with students to discuss the issues that they find important. The perspectives gathered during these meetings will be incorporated into a report that the administration will use to implement changes at the university.

"The school needs to identify and measure its effectiveness and its tools for implementing instructional effectiveness," Johanssen said. "Ultimately this has to do with students. Are [they] happy here? Are [they] learning?"

Johanssen, who runs a business that works with colleges on reaccreditation issues, met with five groups during the day. Two groups were available to all undergraduate students, one was geared toward female students, one toward student athletes, and the final group focused on minorities.

During the sessions Johanssen served as a mediator to stimulate discussion between the students who attended.



Students discuss various university issues on Tuesday with consultant Walker Johanssen, who is gauging the general attitude of students toward UNCW.

Johanssen asked students to address general issues about UNCW's reputation along with issues that are of specific concern to students such as parking and campus safety.

One initial topic that the forum focused on was the university's reputation as a beach "party school." Many students admitted that the university's primary attraction is its location and one student said her high school teachers had criticized her for choosing to attend an "easy school." Some students felt that the school has been able to overcome this reputation due to its

recognition of the marine biology program and increased enrollment.

"Since I was going into marine biology, the fact that UNCW was in the top five programs was very important to me," Senior Jessica Maher said. "Because I didn't grow up in North Carolina I didn't hear rumors about the school and my view was positive."

Johanssen said he was surprised by how positive the student opinions were concerning interactions with professors.

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## Bond proposal meets praise and criticism

TODD VOLKSTORF  
STAFF WRITER



The \$3.1 billion bond issue will determine the future of construction at UNCW and UNC-system schools statewide. UNCW stands to receive \$108 million from the bond.

Pending the outcome of the Nov. 7 election where North Carolinians will vote on the higher education facilities bond referendum, UNCW may get the funding needed for continued growth and success as one of the top public educational institutions in the region.

The higher education bond referendum is a \$3.1 billion package intended for new construction and renovation projects at the state's 57 community colleges and 16 universities. If the referendum is OK'd by voters, UNCW will receive \$108 million.

Mimi Cunningham, assistant vice chancellor of university relations, believes that this is an extremely important issue

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