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Diversity plan attempts 'culture change'

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Last month marked the launch of UNCW's Diversity Initiative Plan, which according to the plan's executive summary "is a bold attempt to bring about something akin to a culture change."

The initiative plans to implement an increase in minority enrollment, the addition of a diversity course to the basic studies curriculum, and the fostering of a meaningful connection with the local community.

As of fall 2003, UNCW had the third lowest student body diversity rate of all NC public universities: 89.9 percent white, 4.8 percent black, 1.7 percent Latino, 1.5 percent Asian, .8 percent American Indian and 1.3 percent other.

The biggest obstacle to promoting diversity is the "general perception that has developed over the years that UNCW is not tolerant to a diverse climate" said Dr. Denis Carter, Associate Vice Chancellor and Chair of the Diversity Initiative Plan. In recent years this perception has gained the attention of administrators, faculty, and students.

In 2002 the Chancellor's Task Force on Diversity began to formulate strategies that could enhance the level of diversity at UNCW. In fall of 2004, the Diversity Initiative Plan went into action.

The Diversity Planning Committee, which has been responsible for the initial phases of the plan, met at the end of January to review the status of this year's top priorities.

Two of the priorities for 2004-2005 have been successfully

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Nolan Dean | THE SEAHAWK

A guy's survival guide

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Every February 14th we men are plagued with pressure to execute the perfect Valentine's Day. Don't fret over your plans, though. They're doomed to failure. Something always manages to go wrong: flowers wilt, chocolates melt, or reservations are lost.

Well, this Hallmark holiday, it seems necessary to provide our male readers with a guide to surviving V-Day. It should be forewarned that each and every girl (or part-

ner) is special and unique and these suggestions are just guides, so use accordingly.

The first step is deciding what to wear. Depending on what you choose to do and where to go is ultimately the deciding factor, but on her special day she wants to feel like you went out of your way for her, so if you don't normally dress up, give it a try. Cologne is key. In a student survey, fragrances from Ralph Lauren dominated.

"I love the smell of Polo Blue. It is the ultimate man's fragrance," says UNCW diver Christina Haley. Ralph Lauren's Silver was also a women's

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SGA encourages students to get involved in UNCW politics

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With one election already completed, UNCW begins an election of its own. Beginning this month, the Student Government Association opens the floor for hopeful representatives.

February marks the start of the month-long process of nominating, campaigning and debating before the March 15-17 election. Some of the positions up for grabs include student body president and vice president; senior, junior and sophomore class presidents; and numerous representatives including 15 at-large.

"Anyone can be president or student body vice president," said Rhonda Pennington, current president of the senior class. "You don't have to be a member of SGA. There are positions for everyone out there. If anyone wants to run for some-

thing, they don't need any previous experience."

In the past, SGA elections have flaunted several positions that no one ran for, leaving offices open and jobs unfilled. The only way to prevent that, though, is for plenty of students to run for office this year – and that's what Pennington and the election board are asking.

One of the basic requirements is that candidates must have completed at least one semester at full-time status with at least a 2.5 grade point average.

"As of right now, we're just trying to get students just to print off a packet and nominate themselves to run for a position," Pennington said. "Then we'll just try to let other people know the elections are coming up."

Zack Wynne is the current president of the SGA. He has served for two years and knows how important his job is.

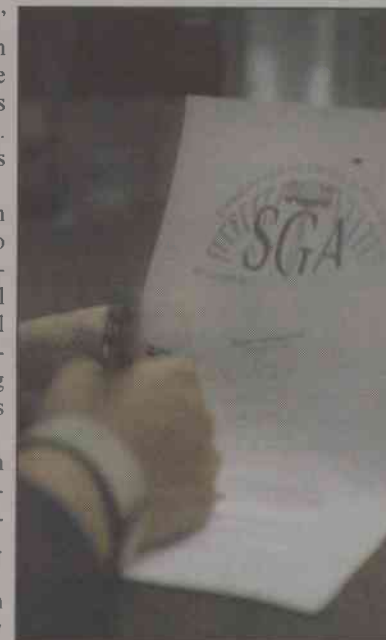
"It's really a full-time job," he said. "You have to be on top of e-mails, answering the phones, going to meetings everywhere... it's a lot of work. 60 hours per month is what's asked."

After turning in an election packet and being cleared to run, nominees will begin campaigning on February 16 until March 15. Then students will get the chance to meet the candidates in an informal setting before kicking off the debates at the Hawk's Nest.

The requirements for each position are noted in an election packet the SGA has prepared on-line at www.uncw.edu/sga.

All packets are due in room 205 of the University Union by February 11.

Call the SGA office at 962-3553 with questions.



Andrew Bader | THE SEAHAWK

SGA elections will take place February 16 through March 15.

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