

FSU name change comes up again during the summer

by John Caldwell
Interim Managing Editor

During a recent retreat at Fayetteville State University, board of trustee member Dr. J. Wayne Riggins raised the idea of a name change, the Fayetteville Observer reported on August 5. The suggestion of changing FSU's name to the University of North Carolina at Fayetteville is not a new idea. According to the Fayetteville Observer's story, Riggins had spoken with three students who brought the name-change up. He, in turn, promised to address it at a trustees meeting.

In 2002 State Rep., Bill Hurley of Fayetteville (now retired) proposed a bill to fund a study examining possible effects of changing FSU's name. An old

Fayetteville Observer editorial, titled "UNC-Fayetteville? Studying name change is a good idea" suggested Hurley, "initiated what people had been pondering quietly for years... in near whispers." The article goes on to reference the 16,000 FSU alumni "revering its current name while opposing the study."

On September 26, 2002 the board of trustees voted no to the name change or a study, after students and alumni rallied against them both.

During the recent retreat, trustee Ben Brown said students expressed opposition to the name change. Although, according to the Fayetteville Observer, he added, "it warrants a good open discussion."

FSU's vice chancellor and

chief of staff, Thomas Conway said, "Chancellor James Anderson has indicated that any discussion about changing the school's name should be done in the context of potential benefits. School officials only should consider the move if it helps FSU accomplish its mission," according to the Fayetteville Observer. As with most universities, FSU's name has changed several times throughout the course of history.

The most recent change was in 1969 when Fayetteville State College became Fayetteville State University, corresponding with its designation as a regional university by the North Carolina State Legislature.

The institution became FSC in 1963 when Fayetteville State Teachers College dropped

"Teachers" from its name to correspond to the expanded degree catalog. And the FSTC designation came about in 1939 when it changed from the State Colored Normal School.

The university began as the Howard School in 1867, and its name was changed for the first time in 1877 to State Colored Normal School.

FSU Names:

- 1867: Howard School
- 1877: State Colored Normal School
- 1939: Fayetteville State Teachers College
- 1963: Fayetteville State College
- 1969: Fayetteville State University

THE VOICE

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