

THE GUILFORDIAN

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Task force report released

◆ The Academic Structure Task force recommendations cause conflict across the campus

BY ELLEN YUTZY
Staff Writer

Students may be mostly unaware of the unrest, but waves caused by the Academic Structure Task Force draft report are sweeping across campus. The report, issued on Nov. 25, 1997 for faculty feedback, concerns many members of the Guilford community.

Essentially, the report functions not as a specific proposal for action, but a compilation of the analysis that the Academic Structure Task Force did over the semester. They make several recommendations for downsizing the size of the faculty at Guilford, relying primarily in the short term on attrition.

The long-term suggestions are causing most of the controversy. In a list entitled "Departments Suggested for Possible Review for Mergers, Reduction to 'Service' Status, or Termination... [list two]" the task force included 11 different departments (see pg. 3).

The task force invited faculty

responses, which will be included in their final report.

Many departments filed responses to the report. The questions raised mostly center on the process used by the task force to judge the viability of certain departments. The task force lists eight criteria (see sidebar) used in their process, and writes that they are not weighted in any formulaic way. In the explanations for including departments on list two, the task force addresses primarily the first criterion, quantitative data. Geology professor Charles Almy said, "They gave a list of eight criteria, but they only considered the first."

So many people had similar questions that the task force added the following passage to the final report issued on Monday, Dec. 8. "Our discussions drew on various of the criteria, but we found that we had more clear-cut data on some criteria than on others, and that we were able to reach agreement more easily about some criteria than others."

The report explains, "As a re-

sult, when it came to providing justification for our recommendations, the task force was more likely to agree on harder data...than on more qualitative evaluations."

Richie Zweigenhaft, chair of the task force, said, "We did draw on all of them, at times...as we looked at the more qualitative data, we found it was hard to get a handle on those."

There is disagreement, though, even about the hard data. The Theatre Studies Department, included on list two, feel that the data is flawed in general. They filed their own analysis to correct what they saw as misrepresentation of the department in the data used for the report. For example, by averaging practicum courses into the student-faculty ratio for theatre classes, the student-faculty



Carolyn Beard Whitlow is one of the members of the task force.

ratio used by the task force was much lower than the size of average classes. **PLEASE SEE REPORT ON PG. 3**

INSIDE

A SUMMARY OF THE
ACADEMIC
RESTRUCTURING TASK
FORCE'S REPORT NEWS
PG. 3

CLASH OF THE TITANS:
A LOOK AT THE PAIN
AND THE GLORY OF
SCRABBLE FEATURES
PG. 6

CONFESSIONS OF A COKE
ADDICT FORUM PG. 14

GLOBAL WARMING
SUMMIT HELD WORLD
AND NATION PG. 11

KETCHUM WINS AWARD
SPORTS PG. 15

Security director arrives

◆ Sylvia Chillcott takes charge of the Guilford Security and Safety Office

BY JESSE LAPLANTE
Staff Writer

Security. The very word sends chills down many a student's spine and leaves negative images of Ge-stapo thugs dancing in their heads.

Like it or not, however, the Security and Safety Office is an important part of the Guilford community. By protecting students and making sure the rules and regulations of the college are observed, Security and Safety plays not only a protective role but an educational one as well. Just ask new security director Sylvia Chillcott.

As of Dec. 1, Chillcott has been on campus, getting to know the administration and the students. Although she has not met everyone yet, it is her goal to be familiar with the Guilford community by next semester.

Chillcott brings over ten years

of experience in public safety service to Guilford and hopes that she can apply that knowledge here. Previously she was the Director of Public Safety at Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota Florida, which, she is quick to point out, is not the clown college.

After working three and a half years at Ringling, Chillcott says she is happy to be returning to North Carolina, which is her home. Before working in Florida she worked at Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina, which is also where she grew up. She also graduated from Catawba with a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology with a minor in history.

Her first impression of Guilford when she came in late September for her interview, a two-day process, was that of the "traditional college campus atmosphere."

"It was like being back in that

liberal arts school atmosphere I was accustomed to at Catawba," says Chillcott, who also credits Guilford's history and architecture as factors that drew her in.

When asked how she feels she can apply her previous knowledge to the Guilford community, a smile creased Chillcott's face. "I consider myself a professional student. I learn something new everyday," she replied. "My whole objective is to oversee the well-being of the student body," without whom Chillcott says she would not have a job.

Chillcott wants to know the students, and wants to be able to learn from them. She would like for every student to feel comfortable in talking to her about security-related problems, or anything else they have to say. "The security department is just as much a part of the educational process as other programs," she says, **PLEASE SEE SECURITY ON PG. 2**

You can get more of what you want with a kind word and a gun than with just a kind word.—Al Capone