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## Faculty question dedication to diversity *Black professor appeals negative tenure recommendation*

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Staff Writers

Guilford College has stated its commitment to diversity and anti-racism. This commitment has recently come into question.

Guilford College adopted a "Diversity Hiring" policy in 2001. The school wanted to establish guidelines for hiring and retaining faculty of color to ensure a varied teaching staff and to help rectify past injustices.

"The term 'diversity' by itself is almost hollow," said Jonathan Malino, Professor of Philosophy and member of the Clerk's Committee, which wrote the policy. "You have to define what kinds of diversity are educationally significant."

The school defines diversity to "include group differences (based on age, race, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, ethnicity, religion and national origin) as well as individual differences, includ-

ing career and life experiences, socio-economic background, geographic roots and other variables."

The idea is that a diverse faculty is important to ensure a balanced and suitable liberal arts education.

"Having a faculty representative of people of diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives is central to our heritage and to the mandate we have to prepare our students for the society in which they will live and the vocations they will pursue," the policy states.

Malino pointed out that while this sounds like a great idea on paper, it does no good if the poli-

cy isn't being implemented.

"What should an anti-racist commitment mean in a process of

In 2002, the school committed to creating an anti-racist community. Adrienne Israel, Vice

President and Academic Dean, played a large role in creating the anti-racism emphasis.

"I had gone through anti-racism training with a group called Crossroads Ministries while I was still a faculty member, and I wanted to expand what I had learned to the whole school," Israel said. "A group

went to the Board of Trustees to ask for the school's support and commitment."

The diversity policy, particularly the desire to retain as well as

hire faculty of color, has come into question recently in light of Eleanor Branch's tenure case.

Eleanor Branch, Assistant Professor of English, was not recommended for tenure, making her the second black woman in three years to receive a negative tenure recommendation at Guilford. Though the last case may not have necessarily been about race, Branch feels that because she is an African American woman who teaches difficult subject matters, her review was negatively affected.

"This is too bad," said junior Thomas Warren Parker, who has had classes with Branch for three semesters. "If race really was the deciding factor in whether or not she gets tenure, then that doesn't say a whole lot about our school."

The tenure process at Guilford involves three evaluations. The first comes after a professor's first



PHOTO BY LANDY HAARMANN

**Eleanor Branch was not recommended for tenure.**

hiring and retaining?" Malino asked. "Has the college followed up this policy to find out where else that value of diversity is spelled out in concrete terms?"

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## HEAT augments inadequate public transit system

**Olivia Honeycutt**

Staff Writer

When Political Science major Sara Poznik moved to Greensboro from Madison, Wis., she assumed that she would be able to ride the city bus from her apartment near UNCG to Guilford College.

"I haven't ridden the bus yet," Poznik said, "but it's not for lack of trying." Poznik said that the process was so time-consuming and confusing that she bought a bike and rode the five miles to school everyday instead.

Many cities around the world rely on public transportation. International student Micheline Pereira is from Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

"In my home city, we enjoy extensive public transportation," Pereira said. "Everybody uses it - we need it every day. When I came here, I was surprised at the lack of transportation options. With a new system, some students will be able to enjoy and appreciate Greensboro more."

This August, the Greensboro Transit Authority (GTA) will implement a new transportation system: HEAT (Higher Education Area Transit). This service is different from the existing one because it is a university- and college-focused transportation system.

Currently, the GTA services the Guilford College area with one route. Busses come

once per hour. This has left some students unable to use public transportation to get around Greensboro.

"I think that a change in the bus system would be very beneficial to minority communities in the Greensboro area," said sociology major Cassandra LeGrande.



COURTESY OF GUILFORD COLLEGE

**Many complain of Greensboro's public transportation.**

"I think attention needs to be brought to the fact that, although the bus system provides minorities with 'transportation,' it limits us because (the system) has its own limitations. It needs to be understood that a better bus system would help provide better opportunities for

the minority."

Libby James, the city's Public Transportation Division Manager, affirms that this type of service has been needed in the Greensboro community for a long time.

"I'm extremely excited," James said about HEAT. "It is probably one of the most

exciting public transportation services Greensboro has implemented."

The new service promises to expand available transportation dramatically. The system will allow students to travel between different colleges' campuses as well as to select stops in Greensboro. The

service is free for any student with a valid college ID.

According to the national 2000 census, Greensboro's college student population was about 10 percent of the total population. Outside of Guilford College, Greensboro is home to two state universities, UNCG and NC A&T SU; two private colleges, Greensboro and Bennett; one multi-campus technical community college, GTCC; and several private technical schools.

These schools have provided funding to the GTA to give students free access to the citywide bus system. According to Adrienne Craig, Coordinator of Student Involvement and Leadership, each school will pay an amount based on the institution's population size. Funding will not come from student activity fees.

"This service will not only benefit college students," James said. "It will also provide additional routes and riding services to the general public."

HEAT will add new routes to the current public transit system. Some routes that are already in service will be enhanced. The new routes will be express routes. This means that stops will be kept to a minimum. According to their newly updated Web site, www.rideheat.com, the GTA encourages students to send "suggestions for stops or other areas to be served by HEAT."%