

CHABOTAR

A decade in the making: a presidential assessment

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Guilfordian, Guilford was heading into certain financial ruin around the time Chabotar arrived. In fact, Chabotar turned down the presidency the first time it was offered to him because he feared that the College was too far gone.

The College was spending 13.5 percent of its endowment when most other colleges spend only 5 percent. Additionally, the revised budget had an operating deficit of \$3.4 million.

Despite seven attempts in 10 years, Guilford still lacked a formal strategic plan.

Furthermore, the College's total debt had jumped from \$11.7 million in fiscal year 1995-96 to \$29.3 million in fiscal year 2001-02, according to the report.

The report also said that Guilford's academic program lacked focus.

"Academic offerings had grown to include so many different majors and concentrations that, technically, each program averaged less than one faculty member after dividing the number of programs by full-time equivalent faculty," said the report.

Campus buildings and grounds were also noticeably suffering.

"Everywhere we went, we saw peeling paint, chipped concrete and cracked windows," said Chabotar. "There was even 'crime scene tape' in front of the library to warn pedestrians to stay away because of the danger of falling debris from building columns and the roof."

Cochran told The Guilfordian that buildings and grounds have changed for the better with Chabotar at the helm.

During the last decade, Chabotar let data guide the College because he believes that "some folks do not let the facts get in the way of their biases."

This has caused some like Professor of Mathematics Elwood Parker to question his management style.

"His reliance on reports and raw numbers is what most disturbs me," said Parker. "There are often compelling reasons why an underrepresented department does not seem to do well in, let's say, the recent prioritization, and under Kent's presidency those concerns go unnoted."

Cochran observed that Chabotar's management style is

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Kent Chabotar, president

very hands-on, which differs from that of most administrators in his position.

"Kent likes to go out with the gardeners and pull the weeds sometimes," said Cochran. "Sometimes that makes people a little uncomfortable."

Adrienne Israel, vice president and academic dean, said that Chabotar has developed and adapted to Guilford over time, especially in adjusting to the Quaker process and consensus.

"It was overwhelming for Kent to go into meetings with his ideas 10 years ago," said Israel. "Kent misunderstood passionate conversations about a given topic to be the end of a successful idea, and he was mistaken. Kent, in turn, has taught

me how to be a better leader by his example."

Chabotar told The Guilfordian that besides balancing the budget and fixing the campus, Guilford needed a long-range strategic plan to ensure its survival.

"The college went from monumental deficits to turning profits," said Blass. "Buildings and grounds were restored and beautified over the past decade. Enrollment and the number of students of color have become more robust."

The strategic plan measures Guilford's progress with data-driven indicators.

Among them are criteria such as total funds raised, percentage of people of color among the faculty and students, student-to-faculty ratios and graduation rates.

Chabotar knew turning the College around would take time, but he underestimated just how long he would stay.

"I thought I'd be here five years," said Chabotar. "I thought that's how long it would take to right the ship. The ship got righted. I fell in love with the South, the culture, the people, and five years became 11."

"I also felt a responsibility to the College not to leave until we were in a good place. A college president should have a good reason to stay for less than five and more than 10 years. You better have some things you want to accomplish and not just be treading water."

"Right now, that includes finishing a capital campaign, implementing our second strategic plan and working with faculty and others on principled problem solving, experiential education, study abroad and other initiatives important for students, such as the January Term. After I leave the presidency, I plan to stay at Guilford as a professor of political science."

Next week, The Guilfordian will assess how Guilford's finances, fund-raising, diversity, facilities, academics and strategy compare to other private colleges during Chabotar's presidency.

Stay tuned.

SENATE UPDATE

This Week's Developments

Learned about and discussed the upcoming Experiential Learning Requirement with Curriculum Committee reps.

Had an informational forum about the Guilford Farm.

Next Week's Plans

Discerning appropriate implementation of student scholarships.

Brainstorming action steps to make Founders Hall more student friendly.

Contact Us!

We need to hear your voice! Have an idea? Concern? Great recipe? It's important to us.

Questions? Email: senate@guilford.edu or visit <http://guilfordsenate.wordpress.com>

Compiled by Tim Leisman, Community Senate President

Greensboro task force for safer clubs

BY JAMIE LUCKHAUS
STAFF WRITER

On Friday, Feb. 2, around 2:30 a.m., two men were shot and injured at Greensboro's Club Inferno, at 212 S. Elm St., according to the News and Record.

The 22- and 23-year-old gunshot victims were taken to the hospital with non life-threatening injuries. Police gave no motive for the shooting and believe neither victim was the intended target.

Shooter Micaiss Oshea Goddard, 22, was arrested and charged with three counts of assault with a deadly weapon and one count each of carrying a concealed weapon and discharging a firearm within the city limits, according to the News and Record. He is now in jail with a \$75,000 bond.

In response to this incident, District 3 City Councilman Zack Matheny is leading a three-man task force to come up with new proposals for ways to make downtown Greensboro safer. These proposals will include new safety regulations for all businesses that serve alcohol late at night.

"Business owners, mostly downtown, met with me a few years ago and laid out some ideas on safety and their needs," Matheny told The Guilfordian. "In addition, repeatedly, I receive feedback from citizens about public safety, again, mostly regarding downtown and their fears. The task force was created recently to make a more formal meeting

in determining future steps."

A meeting will be held at the end of February to discuss their proposal.

One of the task force's ideas is to implement a three-strikes rule for Greensboro businesses.

"There would be a list of major Class I offenses," Matheny told the News and Record. "The category would include shootings, stabbings and serious assaults. They'd have three strikes before it goes into effect."

After three strikes, the business would be closed.

Since many Guilford students spend their weekends downtown, these new regulations could have a direct affect on student safety.

"Businesses have a responsibility to make every effort to have a safe place for their patrons, and if they are not doing that, then should be held responsible," said Director of Public Safety Ron Stowe.

Senior Brittany Moore agrees that business owners should be held accountable.

"If you have a business ... and you know there is going to be alcohol involved, I feel like you should go the extra mile to provide security," said Moore.

The debate over stricter safety regulations is far from new. Last Friday's incident merely added to the push for new rules.

However, this also brings up the concern that the new regulations will be too invasive.

"I've been to clubs in other cities and been searched, which makes me feel violated," said junior Jodie Geddes.

"Figuring out the balance between privacy right and community security is the key," said Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Aaron Fetrow. "How much privacy are you willing to give up to make sure you are safe?"

According to the News and Record, Greensboro business owners have criticized the proposal, claiming it is "confusing, overly broad and unnecessary."

Matheny believes the proposed regulations will be mutually beneficial in the end.

"If citizens feel safer because they feel business owners and our police department are working together, then they will patronize more business thus the businesses increase profits," Matheny told The Guilfordian.

"Everybody wins."

City Councilman Zack Matheny encourages students and community members to share their ideas about club safety.

Go to WWW.GREENSBORO-NC.GOV or call the city phone at (336) 373-2396.