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Nursing department under investigation

By Rick Monroe

Philip Hildreth, vice chancellor of academic affairs, disclosed Thursday afternoon the College of Nursing is being investigated by his office. Hildreth confirmed the investigation stemmed from complaints made by Donna Blunt, a junior nursing student, who alleged she was unfairly treated while trying to register for senior level nursing courses. Hildreth refused comment on details of the investigation. "I can't say anything because of the restrictions of HEW and the Buckley Act," Hildreth said. (The Buckley Act deals with a person's right to inspect their own private files kept by an institution and regulated unauthorized inspection of these records.)

Dean of Nursing Louise Schlacter was not aware of the investigation but shrugged saying, "I'm sure he just wants to get all the information before going on."

Blunt, whose complaint to the vice chancellor initiated the investigation, explained her problem was the dean's alleged refusal to allow her to register for senior level courses before completing all required junior courses. According to Blunt, Schlacter based her refusal on a College of Nursing rule in the 1978-79 *Undergraduate Catalog* which Blunt quotes Schlacter as reading "no student may register for senior courses until all of the junior courses were completed." The text of the regulation, found on page 254 of the 1978-79 *Undergraduate Catalog*, states, "... students may not attempt senior level nursing courses until all junior level nursing courses have been completed. . ."

Blunt feels this is ridiculous. "If you don't assume people are going to pass the courses they're taking now," she said, "the whole idea of preregistration is crazy."

Blunt's problems began when she was going through drop/add early this semester. In a statement prepared by Blunt, she said the difficulty began when an assistant professor of nursing, Sue Head, refused to sign Blunt's drop card for Nursing 401 and add card for Nursing 302 without Blunt submitting a drop card for Nursing 404, which she would take in the last half of the semester after completing 302. She was repeating 302 after failing it during the fall semester. According to Blunt, without her taking 404 this semester, she would not graduate on time and would have to take the course during the summer.

Blunt reminded Head of a letter she had received from former Chancellor D.W. Colvard before his retirement assuring her of a space in Nursing 302 during the first seven-week block of the semester and her eligibility tak-

ing any senior level courses during the last seven-week block of the semester. According to Blunt, "(Head) replied loudly, 'You're ineligible, Donna! You can meet with the dean at 4 p.m. about it.' I asked, 'Well, when am I supposed to take my senior courses?' Head replied, 'Next

year.' (Carol Fray (who had been in the office when Blunt entered) started to ask Head why I could not take the course. Head just said I was ineligible. I told her again I would not drop 404 . . . and exited while Fray was trying to get a reason from Head about why I could not take the course.'



Phillip Hildreth.

Hildreth refused comment but did confirm reports an investigation was presently underway in the office of Academic Affairs.

After her encounter with Head, Blunt went to the vice chancellor of academic affairs office and arranged for assistant to the chancellor, Ron Ostrowski, to accompany her during her 4 p.m. appointment with Schlacter.

When Blunt and Ostrowski arrived in Schlacter's office, Blunt described her meeting earlier that day with Head. According to Blunt's statement, "The dean said according to the catalog, I had no right to register for senior courses because there was a rule in the catalog which said, "no student could register for senior courses until all junior courses were completed."

Blunt's statement continued, "I told the dean I was not aware of any such rule and the catalog states you cannot attempt your senior courses until all of your junior courses have been completed and by the time the second (seven week) block starts, I (continued on page 3)

Karen Popp "believes in students"

By Luann Whitley

"Karen Popp believes in students," will be the campaign slogan for the junior political science/business administration major, who is putting her name on the ballot for student body president.

Popp is presently a member of the Student Legislature and feels she has "a good grasp on the different problems of UNCC students. I've been involved in a wide variety of organizations and programs. I think being student body president involves more than just working with the student government," Popp said. "My platform issue will be students' rights. The rights of the students are not written down anyplace in the constitution. I would like to see the 'Bill of Rights for Students' added to the present constitution," Popp said.

Also, Popp is working on obtaining a child care center on campus. "A child care center would be a good source for student jobs and practical experience for certain majors," Popp added.

"Awareness is the key to organizing the students and to arouse more participation in campus events. I would like to propose a Presidential Council made up of the presidents from all the clubs, special interest groups and organizations on campus. We could work directly with the administration and help to straighten out some of the problems on campus," Popp said.

"As president of the student body, I would be mainly concerned with students, working from student input

and student concerns. I am very aware of the present problems such as parking on campus. I want to promote "team building" within the Student Association which would instill trust and respect within the organization," Popp said.

Popp is 21 years old and has acquired a long list of past activities as a student at UNCC, such as women's basketball, second year resident ad-

visor, co-chair of the Awareness Resources Center, University Senate, Women's Studies Committee and has been a member of the North Carolina Student Legislature. Popp wrote a bill while in the North Carolina Student Legislature presently being considered in the state legislature in Raleigh. The bill deals with nursing homes and homes for the aged.



Karen Popp is the third candidate for student body president to announce.