

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
ASHEVILLE
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Office
at Banking
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Phone 255-2231

Chancellor Outlines New Programs

Chancellor William Highsmith outlined a series of new programs designed by the Education Programs Committee of the UNC-A Board of Trustees at a meeting held this week. Dr. Francis A. Buchanan of Flat Rock, chairman of the Education Programs Committee submitted an outline of the programs but voting on the motion was delayed until members of the committee have the opportunity to meet with the senate of the Student Government Association and other concerned students. In a surprise move, Ray Gasperson read a resolution passed by the student senate questioning the benefit of the proposed programs. Gasperson expressed fears that the new programs would detract and possibly abolish the liberal arts aims of UNC-A. Gasperson requested a meeting with representatives of the Education Programs Committee. That meeting will be held Sunday, March 4, at 8 p.m. in the Science Building in Room 122.

In proposing the new programs the Education Programs Committee stated that "the Board of Trustees wishes to emphasize its concern and support for the academic standards already developed at UNC-A. There is no desire to lower the admission, retention, or teaching standards as currently used. The resources that will be necessary for the new programs requested should be provided without weakening in any way the academic programs currently being taught."

The new programs that would be submitted to the Board of Governors include major programs in management, environmental sciences, music and dance, a school of health sciences, and graduate programs.

As outlined by the Education Programs Committee, the program in management "would build on the basic education provided by the all-university requirements. It would provide for theoretical education and practical on-site learning experiences. The purpose would be to provide an education for future managers of human organizations, whether the organization be an industry, a business, a school, a hospital, or a governmental agency." In reviewing the program, Chancellor Highsmith said the program represented the "broadest kind of educational program tied to the liberal arts program."

The environmental sciences program would offer two options to the student who chose this area for a major. It would offer concentration in social sciences and concentration in natural sciences. The program is designed to provide educational training for people who want to become professionally involved

in the growing interest in studying and protecting the environment." Chancellor Highsmith noted that this was "an important field that will not go away."

One of the most important new programs proposed to the Board of Trustees is music and dance. The new program would be designed to eventually offer a School of Fine Arts at UNC-A. The inclusion of music and dance would be coupled with the existing drama and art programs to complete the Fine Arts school. The Chancellor noted that a new building would be needed in the future and went on to say that this program is still "a few years away." He went on to say that a School of Fine Arts would serve to make "UNC-A a cultural center for this part of the state."

The proposed school of health sciences features a combination of health related programs including mental health, environmental health, medical technology, and public health administration. The report submitted by the Education Programs Committee noted "there is a growing demand for properly educated health personnel to provide health and medical services for a population which is becoming more and more insistent that such services be available to everyone."

The Board of Trustees was asked to go on record to the Board of Governors that they are willing "to assume responsibility for graduate programs when the needs are clearly defined and the necessary resources are available." Chancellor Highsmith stated that such a demand for graduate programs would grow from the new programs.

In summarizing the programs Chancellor Highsmith reviewed the events of the past several years that led to the proposed programs. He pointed out that other institutions are competing for students and that the university must offer new programs that fit the liberal arts attitude of the university and at the same time fill the needs of the people of the state. He pointed out that there is only one institution in the state that offers courses similar to the proposed health sciences. By offering such a program UNC-A could fill this gap according to the Chancellor. He stated that the "programs are essential to the welfare of UNC-A and will help this institution meet the social needs of the people of this area." Highsmith went on to say that these programs represent an "important and significant step in the history of UNC-A."

Questions raised by Gasperson about whether the courses should be offered by UNC-A will be considered at the joint meeting slated for Sunday night.

The Board of Trustees will meet again on March 5 to vote on the motion that the proposed programs be submitted to the Board of Governors for their approval.

Editor's note

It is important that we students consider the addition of new major programs at UNC-A will alter the purpose and goals of this institution, in the future. The programs, in general, are rather vocational excepting the music and fine arts major. If these "vocational" courses can be made to fit into our present definition of liberal arts, which would require including the liberal arts curriculum in their teaching, then these courses are worthwhile. To alter the quality and type of education defeats our purpose and our creation as a state university.

The final decision as to whether we add these schools to our curriculum rests with the Board of Trustees. We are willing to listen to us concerning the new programs and will attend a forum on Sunday, March 4 in the Science Building, Room 122. Please express your views concerning the changes by attending the forum on Sunday and by discussing the implications of the changes with the Trustees.

Thanks,
 Zollie Stevenson
 Editor, The Ridgerunner

Students leave?

at there is too much emphasis on preparation for graduate school. Mr. Harris also said that far the survey has shown a variety of reasons to cause students to leave. Among those not previously mentioned are a dislike for certain professors, dorm life, a feeling of not being a part of the campus, and being tired of school.

To alleviate the problem of students' leaving the UNC-A campus life, Mr. Harris gave some suggestions. Mr. Harris said, "I think there needs to be a great concern for the student's total development." Mr. Harris



pressed his concern for the lack of extra-curricular activities to keep students involved. Mr. Harris had another recommendation to "continually evaluate our programs, improve and possibly expanding them, to meet the students' needs." This is he feels is being done.

Both Mr. Harris and Dr. Kraer feel that the survey will greatly aid in determining the main things that cause students to leave. They hope that some patterns will develop to predict the major reasons, so that they can be corrected. Both are optimistic about the outcome of the survey, and the eventual solution of this problem.

Editor and Business Manager year will be accepted until a resume of previous efforts for applying to Dr. Robert ment. The Editor receives a venues, the Managing Editor e Business Manager receives

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fact, it seems imperative that the individual and his rights have top priority. It is imperative that the individual matter, in some capacity. For if not, we are nothing, or at best, a boldly innovative nothing.

interest is the key to new courses. There seems to be no doubt that students have reaped the benefits of these innovations and will continue to do so.

230 MERRIMON AVENUE ASHEVILLE, N. C.
 PHONE 254-2364
 OR 253-1232