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Photo by Jonna McGrath

Desire for ROTC: Do students and faculty think it's needed?

By West Tucker

The issue of whether to work to bring the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) to UNCA is one of popular support, or perhaps the lack of it.

Chancellor David Brown said discussion about the matter is "just another example of the power of the press to create an issue where there isn't one," but at least one faculty member disagrees.

Dr. Walter Boland, sociology professor, said bringing the ROTC to the campus would generate much needed financial aid monies and said the notion that the presence of the ROTC would not fit into a liberal arts curriculum is "hogwash."

He said there are many other small liberal arts colleges that have incorporated the ROTC into their programs with great success. Brown agreed that incompatibility was not the problem.

"We lose a lot of potentially good students due to the cut-backs in federal aid. The scho-

larships and aid associated with the ROTC program would be a great asset," said Boland.

He said the issue is not one of sensitivity to the student body, but rather one of practicality. He said this is just one more avenue to obtain scholarship money. The ROTC could be used "to try and draw some students here that presently think they may get a more reasonable education elsewhere," said Boland.

Not only is there a lack of knowledge about how faculty members and students feel about bringing the ROTC to UNCA, but just how many students the program would draw if installed is also in question.

Although Chancellor Brown said he does not consider the matter a major topic of discussion, and did not wish to "pre-empt any future discussion," he raised some practical considerations.

"It's an issue of size, demand and economic feasibility," said Brown. The hesitancy of the ad-

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Financial aid checks slow in getting to students

By Michele Samuel

For the past two years, the UNCA student government has submitted a resolution to the financial aid and business offices suggesting that they look into ways to speed up the disbursement of financial aid funds to recipients.

Currently, financial aid monies are not usually distributed until about 30 days after the beginning of classes.

The administration is now considering distributing 50 percent of the aid due full-time students at registration, said William Pott, vice chancellor for finance.

According to Marthe Fletcher, the SGA senator who sponsored the latest resolution, at least five other state universities

disburse financial aid funds within at least three days of the beginning of classes.

"We'd like to do something," said Dr. Douglas McConkey, new assistant vice chancellor for enrollment services, "but it just takes a while.

"We have an extensive reliance on the computer and we are currently implementing a new, more automated system," said McConkey.

This should make it easier in the future, he said.

Fletcher said late distribution of the financial aid monies can cause hardships to some students, especially since 80 percent of the UNCA student body commutes and about half of those maintain their own households.

Pott said the administration

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Faculty Senate changes deadline for teachers to give first grade

By Scott Luckadoo

UNCA's Faculty Senate approved a plan last Thursday that will force faculty members to give students some kind of grade one week before the withdrawal date deadline each semester, according to Dr. Anthony Coyne, faculty senate president.

The previous rule required professors to give students the results of at least one evaluation by the midpoint (eight weeks) of the semester.

Neither the old rule nor the new specifies that the evaluation be a major test grade.

Coyne, who is also an associate professor of philosophy, said the new rule reads as follows:

The student will receive the results of at least one evaluation by the end of the fifth week of the semester.

Thus the new rule specifies

each student an evaluation before the withdrawal deadline, which is at the end of the sixth week, according to Coyne.

Coyne also clarified the meaning of evaluation.

"The evaluation does not have to be a whole test. It may be grades from weekly quizzes given by the instructor," he said.

The deadline for withdrawing this semester was Oct. 8. Under the old rule, instructors had to give the student an evaluation by fall break, the midpoint of the semester.

Had an instructor not given an evaluation before Oct. 8, the student may not have been aware of his progress in a particular course.

As a result of the new rule, next semester the instructor will be required to give an evaluation by Feb. 28 instead of by spring break.