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The Blue Banner

"Where there is an open mind, there will always be a frontier." — Kettering

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Faculty resolution: Reopen chancellor search

Steve Peake
Staff Writer

UNCA faculty members passed a resolution Monday asking C.D. Spangler, president of the UNC system, to reopen the search for a new UNCA chancellor.

The vote came after several weeks of controversy surrounding the list of finalists recommended by the chancellor search committee, chaired by John F.A.V. Cecil. That list did not include the name of Roy Carroll, interim chancellor.

At the time of the faculty vote, the search committee had already forwarded a list of an unspecified number of recommended candidates to Spangler.

At a special meeting in the Humanities Lecture Hall, faculty members listened to short

speeches for and against the resolution, according to William Thurman, professor of classics and ancient history, who attended the meeting. Members of local media remained outside the closed meeting.

Thurman said the vote to pass the resolution was decisive. "The resolution to ask Dr. Spangler to continue the search passed 96-26. I believe there were seven abstentions," said Thurman, speaking minutes after the vote.

The faculty then decided by a voice-vote to send the resolution to Spangler, said Thurman.

As faculty members streamed from the hall afterwards, only a few were willing to comment on the meeting or the resolution.

"We have a very reasonable faculty," said Deryl Howard, professor of philosophy.

"I think the vote indicates a lot of people are seriously concerned and really want to work together in a way that's best for the university," said Laurence Dorr, professor of philosophy.

Dorr said he was happy at the lack of hard feelings at the meeting. "There was no irritation and no anger," Dorr said. "People really are interested in working together. I don't think it was any crisis-thing at all."

UNCA student John Schoultz, who sits on the search committee, expressed dismay Tuesday at the meeting's outcome. "I'm disappointed at the vote," said Schoultz. "It hurt, considering I had personally worked for the last six or seven months on the search."

Schoultz, who until this month served as president of the Student

Government Association, said the committee had logged long hours in the search. "The entire committee has literally put in hundreds of hours (in the search), all with the best interest of the university at heart."

The faculty resolution is non-binding, meaning Spangler still has the final say in recommending a candidate to the UNC System Board of Governors, said Larry Wilson, vice chancellor for academic affairs.

"This faculty does not have a binding action or a responsibility in the decision-making process of finding a chancellor," said Wilson. "This is private faculty business. The president (Spangler) did not ask us for this."

The meeting came after growing faculty discontent over the list of final candidates for the top post at

UNCA. At a meeting of the faculty senate March 21, Dorr said, "We have a real problem here. The almost universal response to the candidates has been, 'These people don't look like what we need here.'" Dorr asked that the UNCA Board of Trustees meet with members of senior faculty to discuss the search results.

At that meeting, Alan Comer, who chairs the biology department, disagreed with Dorr's assessment. "I would object to that committee meeting with a group that has appointed itself 'senior faculty,'" said Comer. "It seems a little late in the game for that."

Comer reportedly spoke against the resolution at the special faculty meeting Monday.

Wilson denied reports that the special meeting was the first such

action on campus in 20 years, as had been reported in local media last week. "That's absolutely untrue," said Wilson. "There have been many special meetings of the faculty. The most recent was just last year."

The current search began last year, when David G. Brown resigned as UNCA chancellor to accept the position of provost at Wake Forest University. Carroll has served as interim chancellor since that time.

The flap over the list of final candidates has captured the attention of local and state-wide media in recent weeks. Articles have appeared in the Asheville Citizen, the Charlotte Observer, and the Raleigh News and Observer.

Job outlook for graduates dim

Stacy Libby
Staff Writer

As graduation nears, the Career Center is playing a key role in many seniors' job searches. "Right now, a student just getting out of school is going to have a hard time getting a job," said Elaine Thompson, assistant director of the Career Center. "You need to know how to get a job, you need to know how to conduct a job search. We can help with that process, she said.

"It takes most folks about six months to find a job. If you stay in Asheville, it could take a year," she said. "People get really upset [about this], but if you stay in Asheville, you are making the choice of the geographic area over the career."

"We are in the middle of a recession and a lot of the larger companies are laying off people. For instance IBM, who has always seemed recession-proof, in the last year has laid off 12,000 people," she said.

"The best opportunities are going to be in small, fairly new companies. Some large companies have increased their employees, like Wal-Mart, and others are cutting back drastically," said David Johnston, director of the Career Center. "Government hiring [on the state level] is just about at a stand still. Teaching is not going to be as readily available in this state, as well as some others."

"What we think is happening is that everybody is streamlining. They are trying to do as much as they can with a lot less. The good thing is that I don't think the recession is going to last," said Thompson. "I don't think that those companies who have streamlined will fill those positions again after we come out of the recession. So what is going to happen is the job market will remain very competitive and very tight."

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Splash!

Brian Corbin braves the dunking booth outside Highsmith Center this past Wednesday.

Photo by Miranda Wyatt

Budget cuts to affect Ramsey Library

Julie Partin
Staff Writer

Ramsey Library received a cut of \$100,000 for the previous fiscal year and the 1991-92 year appears to be as bad, said Mel Blowers, university librarian.

Blowers said that scholarly journals are being affected by the cuts.

Blowers said the publications of scholarly journals are mainly controlled by a few companies.

Combine the monopoly of publication with the relatively small circulation the journals receive and the outcome is "a crisis in scholarly publications," said Blowers.

Other areas besides journals are being affected by the reduction in the budget.

"Almost \$200,000 of book orders will not be sent out until the next year's budget goes into effect," said Blowers.

Blowers said that with no additional orders the 1991-92 budget will barely cover the expenses of the back orders and the current subscriptions of journals.

"The cost of scholarly journals produced domestically has increased on the average 12 percent per year," said Blowers.

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Brunnick discusses loss and depression

Paul Folger
Staff Writer

On April 17, Vicki Brunnick, UNCA's substance abuse coordinator, spoke on how to deal with loss in one's life.

"Loss is any situation in your life where there is a change. That change could be loss of a job, a relationship, or a loved one," said Brunnick.

Brunnick said that depression can be a loss too. Brunnick said, "This year we had an early spring. It's paradoxical because when there is an early spring more people are depressed."

"Seasonal Affect Disorder (SAD) is an actual depressive disorder that people experience," said

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Staff Photo

Relaxation

Students take time out from studying before the stress of finals week begins.

Plans underway to re-establish WNC Environmental Council

Susan Woody
Staff Writer

Charles Taylor plans to re-establish the Western North Carolina (WNC) Environmental Council, according to Doug Bassett, press secretary for the congressman.

"He feels it is important to keep a variety of different people talking to each other," said Bassett.

The WNC Environmental Council advises state and local governments on environmental issues.

"The council was part of Martin's administration 18 months ago," said Bassett.

Bassett said state funds, allotted for the council members, helped pay for their travel expenses.

Because Governor Jim Martin did not renew funds, the old council ended, said Bassett.

"I was disappointed the North Carolina government disbanded

the old council," said Charles Woodward, executive director of the multiple use council.

A press release said Taylor understood budget realities forced the state government to disband the old council.

"But our work must continue," said Taylor.

Taylor wants to reactivate the council "because we face environmental issues in WNC that are too important to ignore," said the press release.

Taylor served as vice-chairman of the old council, said the press release.

The press release said his executive commission ends May 1.

The council is still in the planning stages, said Bassett.

"This will be made up of people in WNC," said Bassett.

Taylor will ask all of the current Eleventh District members to participate in the new Environmental Council, said the press release.

Two members from the old council, Woodward and Bill Thomas, will serve on the new council, said the press release.

Thomas is the former president of the state chapter of the Sierra Club, said the press release.

Taylor plans for the council to "continue its role as an advisory committee to the state and local governments," said the press release.

"The council will also provide a balanced forum for the discussion of environmental issues affecting WNC," said Taylor.

Environmental issues facing WNC include clean air, clean water, and park land, said Bassett.

Bassett said one-third of the district is under federal control.

The press release said the council meeting location format will stay the same.

Bassett said the format remained unplanned.

"It moves throughout the district," said Bassett.