

The Blue Banner

"Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do." -- John Wooden

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Staff Photo By Lat Ray

The faculty senate held its first meeting of the 1993-94 year on Thursday, Sept. 9.

Faculty Senate holds first meeting

Kent Thompson
Staff Writer

The faculty senate held its first regular meeting of the year last Thursday in Karpen Hall. The meeting was called to order by Shirley Browning, chairman of the faculty senate.

One item of business discussed at the meeting was whether or not to submit a letter of resolution to the leadership of the university system. The letter would express the faculty's concern and uneasiness surrounding the resignation of UNCA Chancellor Samuel Schuman.

"This letter of resolution is a way to try to attempt to bring together all the various concerns that are in the minds of the faculty and express them in some fashion that will alert the leadership of the university, board, board members, and president that there is some concern," said Browning. "It would probably be in the self-interest of not only UNCA, but the entire university system, if there was some clear, professional attention given to these concerns."

Faculty members were surprised by

the announcement of Schuman's resignation on Aug. 11. "It came as a shock to everyone," said Browning. "It's quite reasonable for people to wonder what's going on."

Although this is a sensitive issue, the mission of the university has not changed. "We see no evidence of any change in the mission," said Browning. The chairman of the board of trustees, James B. Banks, has circulated a memo to the faculty, reaffirming the university's mission.

Michael Gillum, professor of literature, and Linda Nelms, assistant professor of management, were asked to prepare the letter. The letter should express what they feel are the faculty's concerns, said Browning. It will be presented at the October faculty senate meeting. The senate will look at it, modify it and decide whether or not to accept it.

In a special meeting last week, the faculty senate selected a list of names to submit to Banks. From that list, he will select people to be on the search committee for a new chancellor. Banks will be the chairman of the search committee, said Browning. When the interview process has been

completed, the search committee sends at least two names to the president of the university system, who makes his recommendation to the Board of Governors.

It is expected to be announced by the end of this month who will be on the chancellor search committee. The committee will be made up of board members, faculty, a representative from the administration, and a student, Browning said.

Another issue discussed at Thursday's senate meeting was student enrollment for the fall semester. Larry Wilson, vice chancellor for academic affairs, reported freshman enrollment at 401, up 10 percent from last year. He reported average SAT scores for the freshman class to be 1056, also up from last year.

Wilson reported that there are fewer than expected continuing students this year, many of whom had an above average GPA. Wilson said there are two significant factors in some students not returning. "There is still a fairly weak economy, and personal finances may not be very secure," he said. "Last year, the federal government made major changes in financial aid."

UNCA hires eight new faculty members

Brenda Webster
Staff Writer

UNCA welcomes eight new faculty members this year, and they all are participants in the New Faculty Mentoring Program.

"At the beginning of the school year, I hold a dinner party where senior faculty mentors and new faculty mentees meet," said Tucker Cooke, chairman of the art department and director of the New Faculty Mentoring Program. "During this time, the new faculty mentees pick three people with whom they would like to work."

"The reason this faculty mentoring program works is that everything said, discussed or questioned, between mentors and mentees, is totally confidential," said Cooke. "The administration cannot be involved in this program. They support it, but it's really a program of faculty supporting faculty. This is the second year of the program, and we are very pleased with its success."

"This mentoring program would never have been offered at a larger institution," said Lisa Roberts, a new faculty member. "The advantage of a small university is that there is more interaction between different departments, and you are not pigeonholed within your own department."

Roberts' titles at UNCA include public services librarian, assistant professor of library science, head of special collection, and university archivist. She holds a master's of library science from the University of North Texas and teaches library Research 102 this semester.

Helping students develop research skills, stimulating their curiosity, and instilling confidence in students is the primary objective in teaching library

science, said Roberts.

All of the new faculty members said UNCA's fine reputation as a small, selective liberal arts university is what mostly attracted them to the college.

"UNCA is small enough to be friendly, but selective enough to bring in quality students," said Dr. John Stephen Frost, a new visiting assistant professor of biology.

"The philosophy of the administration, through the faculty, through the staff, is extremely supportive, and UNCA has a reputation in the public as a good liberal arts school," said Frost.

Frost holds a doctorate degree from the University of Arizona, a post-doctorate from Indiana University, and comes to UNCA from his last post at the University of Kansas. This semester he teaches Cell Biology, Principles of Biology and Developmental Biology.

"Liberal arts are very important, and that is what people in the workplace are focusing on," said Nancy Elizabeth Fitch, new faculty member.

"I think that a liberal arts education will help students get the careers that they would like, but that it will also prepare them for life-long learning," Fitch said. Fitch is an associate professor of history and holds a doctorate in history from the University of Michigan. This fall she teaches U.S. History to 1865, Afro-American History Survey, and interns in Humanities 214.

"Smaller colleges allow me to make a difference," said Robert Bowen, visiting assistant professor in drama. "I really do enjoy working with the

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Staff Photo By Chan Carter

Three of the eight new UNCA faculty members are Nancy Fitch (l.), associate professor of history; Lisa Roberts, public services librarian; and Robert Bowen, visiting assistant professor of drama.

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The forecast for Thursday and Friday calls for variable cloudy skies, with widely scattered showers. The low Thursday will be in the low 60s, high Friday will be near 80.

Weather Report courtesy of the National Weather Service

UNCA Atmospheric Science Department offers updated forecasts through the 24 hour Weatherline...251-6435

Church sponsors campus group

Lynne Delk
Staff Writer

The United Methodist Church of the Asheville district will sponsor a new student group on the UNCA campus.

The group will hold their first meeting in room 37 of the Highsmith center on Thursday, Sep. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

"Our district has been interested in having a presence on campus and offering the students a way of exploring their faith," said Reverend Cecil Donahue, the United Methodist Campus Ministry (UMCM) advisor.

Most larger campuses in the North Carolina university system have United Methodist groups organized on campus.

Wesley Foundations are present at Chapel Hill, Appalachian State and UNC-Charlotte. The UMCM group will act as a beginning step to forming a Wesley foundation at UNCA. "Our eventual goal, a few years down the road, would be to have a full-time service," said Donahue.

The UMCM group for UNCA will offer a variety of opportunities for United Methodist and all other interested students to meet together on a regular basis.

"The only requirement is that you want to be there," said Donahue.

"Wesley would call it, 'working out your own salvation,' that's the terms he used," said Donahue. John Wesley's ideas founded the Methodist faith.

Covenant Discipleship groups will offer a chance for small groups of students "to explore their faith and see how it relates to their education" by performing "acts of love and

compassion, acts of justice and fairness, acts of personal devotion, and acts of public worship," Donahue said.

"Over a period of time, the hope is that friendships deepen and you begin to have a sense of what God is doing in your life," said Donahue, the minister for Mars Hill United Methodist Church.

Mission trips will offer students an opportunity to work in the area of building teams, said Donahue.

"One of the key things about any Christian's life is that you are serving God in some way and being in the active mission is one of the most exciting things, I think, you can get involved in," said Donahue.

Local building project opportunities include working with Habitat for Humanity, said Donahue.

We also "have a building team program through our church that sends students, as well as adults, down to Homestead, Florida to help rebuild from the hurricane," said Donahue.

The Methodist church rents a house in Homestead and groups go down year round to rebuild the town, said Donahue.

"I would hope that maybe during some of the breaks we could take a trip down there and spend a week," he said.

The church organization also provides openings for mission trips abroad.

"We have two building teams, strictly for college students, to go to some place in Central America and spend two weeks working on a building team there," said Donahue.

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NCSL supports Schuman

Teri Smith
Staff Writer

The UNCA delegation to the North Carolina Student Legislature (NCSL) met on Sept. 1 to discuss the recent resignation of Chancellor Samuel Schuman and a reported proposal to increase the student population at UNCA.

Karen Brinson, the western district councilor, presented a resolution to the delegation which says the UNCA delegation of NCSL "supports the efforts of Chancellor Samuel Schuman in maintaining the mission of the University in continuing to remain the small liberal arts institution it currently achieves and is so prestigiously recognized for."

The document that was adopted cites Schuman's resignation and a statement by UNC President C.D. Spangler that "he saw UNCA's enrollment doubling in the next decade" as the reasons for the resolution.

"The whole issue is debatable and amendable," said Joselyn Carreras, NCSL delegation chairperson.

"I don't think this resolution in and of itself is going to change anyone's mind," said Schuman. "It is just one of a number of reactions from students and others." The cumulative effect of similar responses "can't help but have an impact," said Schuman.

According to Thomas Cochran, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, the reaction to Schuman's resignation is an "understandable

panic."

"Our mission statement, which was approved two years ago, is operative," said Cochran. "The enrollment targets have not been modified ... we don't have any directives to change our [academic] criteria."

"Nothing is happening in any quarter that says we are expected to double our enrollment or that we will lower our standards," said Cochran.

"If you look at the practical facts of what it would take to suddenly bring in a class of 600, we don't have the admissions," said Cochran. "If we opened the doors wide and said everybody who applies is admitted, that's not going to happen."

Cochran said he also believes student views can have an impact. "The Board of Governors approves missions," he said. "They are the ones that approved our mission just two years ago."

That mission and projected enrollment goals for UNCA are part of a long range plan adopted by the Board of Governors in November 1992. According to the plan the enrollment projections "will be reviewed annually."

Brinson said she believes students and faculty can have an impact on the decisions that are made about UNCA's future. "The NCSL has done what we can, but there are other steps that can be taken," said Brinson. "I personally wrote to two members of the Board of Governors who are from my area."

The resolution was adopted after a lengthy debate at the largely attended meeting, according to Carreras. One outcome of the discussion was a plan

for NCSL and the Student Government Association (SGA) to sponsor a public forum in Lipinsky Auditorium on Oct. 6.

"The purpose of the forum is to bring this issue up for debate," said Carreras. "We also hope to alert students, share information, and give everyone a chance to express their views."

"We hope that President Spangler will agree to participate in the panel discussion," said Carreras. "A copy of the resolution was mailed to him on Sept. 13." According to Carreras, Schuman, the chairman of the UNCA Board of Trustees, and the UNC Board of Governors chairman also were sent copies.

The NCSL is the oldest student legislature in the country. "Any student can become a member of the UNCA delegation by attending two of the last four meetings," said Carreras. "We encourage students to participate."

"The NCSL originates legislation and debates the legislation at state meetings," said Carreras. "And, about 40 percent of our legislation has become law."

Participating in the NCSL is a great way for students to gain leadership skills, according to Carreras. "Both past governors, Jim Martin and Jim Hunt, are NCSL alumni."

The UNCA delegation will attend a state session at Elon College Sept. 17-19. "We hope to host a state meeting here in January," said Carreras.