

The Blue Banner

"The ignorant classes are the dangerous classes. Ignorance is the womb of monsters." -- Henry Ward Beecher

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Chancellor search committee narrows list of candidates for prospective chancellor Some speculate search committee is under pressure to seek a woman for the administrative position

Teri Smith
Staff Writer

The UNCA Chancellor Search Committee is narrowing its pool of candidates and hopes to have finalists on campus for interviews in late March. As the search continues, speculation escalates, both on and off campus, about whether or not the new chancellor will be a woman.

"We've now narrowed it down to about 14 or 15 candidates," said James Banks, chair of the search committee. "About half of those are women. Of the original 240 applications and

nominations, we first narrowed the group to about 50," said Banks. "Of those 50, about 40 percent were women."

"I believe we will offer a fair representation of the most qualified candidates we can find," said Banks. The Asheville Citizen-Times reported last week that a delegation from the University of North Carolina's board of governors will visit UNCA and three other schools looking for new chancellors to remind them to expand efforts to seek women for those top jobs.

Banks said that no one has contacted him about a visit.

In the same issue, the Citizen-Times

ran an editorial titled, "Needed: Women Chancellors".

"The obvious problem is that university boards of trustees routinely fail to present candidates to the president who are not men," according to the editorial.

"We've got to go to the search committees and say to them, 'You've got to take some affirmative action, regardless of how much you may not like that term,' and go out and find some candidates," said Sam Poole, chairman of the board that oversees the University of North Carolina, according to the Citizen-Times.

"I think every search committee is looking at that as advice," said Banks.

"Within the pool of candidates [for chancellor at UNCA], we have a good representation of women candidates, and the likelihood of us considering women candidates all the way through the process is very good," he said.

"I think people are speculating about the gender of the next chancellor," said Margaret Downes, professor of literature and one of six women on the 15-member search committee. "But I think that faculty and students are most interested in being assured that the person chosen is the best qualified."

Downes said that the women candidates are as qualified as the men, and the men are as qualified as the women.

"We have had a high quality of candidates of both sexes," said Downes.

"We've received more than 240 nominations or applications. We're very pleased with the number and the interest this job has attracted across the country," Banks said.

The criteria for the qualifications for the next chancellor were developed after a series of meetings and discussions with campus and community leaders.

The criteria include: exceptional leadership and interpersonal skills, effective communicator, consensus builder, proven record in effectiveness of shared governance, demonstrated

commitment to public liberal arts values, receptivity to new ideas, and willingness to take measured risks, according to the UNCA public information office.

"Much work still needs to be done before finalists are brought on campus for interviews sometime in late March," Banks said.

Once the finalists are interviewed, the UNCA board of trustees will recommend two or three names to University of North Carolina President C.D. Spangler, Jr., who will recommend a single name to the University of North Carolina board of governors.

Plans are for the new UNCA

Van Slyke: Campus needs more security

Kevin Ellis
Staff Writer

UNCA has fewer officers than any of the other 16 members of the University of North Carolina system, including three schools with fewer students, campus Public Safety Director Jeff Van Slyke told a Feb. 9 meeting of the Student Government Association (SGA). The situation leaves campus security short-handed and raises the potential of delays in delivering protection, he said.

"Certain administrations make campus security more of a priority," Van Slyke said in an interview with *The Blue Banner*. "Looking at those numbers, you can assume they think it more important."

UNCA has eight full-time officers and one security guard for a total enrollment of 3,271 students, based on 1990-1991 statistical information. Elizabeth City State University, with 1,746 students, has nine full-time officers and one security guard; Pembroke State University, with 3,133 students, has 11 full-time officers and three security guards; Winston-Salem State University has 2,517 students and 10 full-time officers and four full-time security guards in the dormitories, based on the same time period.

Another statistic weighs more favorably for UNCA. Out of the 16 campuses, UNCA has the fifth-highest ratio of students housed on campus per security officers. UNCA has one security officer for each 102 persons housed on campus. Western Carolina University has the highest ratio of students housed on campus per security officer at 232-to-1. Of the universities, Pembroke State University has the lowest ratio at 72-to-1.

The higher number of security officers at other universities does not necessarily mean they are overstaffed, Van Slyke said. "You could probably ask every one of the directors, and they'd probably say, 'Yeah, I could use one more officer here or there.'"

Van Slyke said he's not being critical of administration because he knows budgets are tight at all 16 campuses, yet he doesn't like putting just one officer on a shift. It's dangerous for officers and can add to security risks for students and faculty, he said.

"The two go hand-in-hand. It's the whole campus community that I'm concerned about," Van Slyke said. "You don't want to have one person on a

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Great Decisions



Staff Photo By Lat Ray

Jeff Rackham, professor of literature, discussed the political situation in the former Yugoslavia on Feb. 7.

Report on minorities and women raises questions

Teri Smith
Staff Writer

At the request of the faculty senate this month, a special task force has been appointed to review specific issues raised in the Report on the Status of People of Color and Women at UNCA (RSPCW). The report was completed by the Minorities Affairs Commission nearly a year ago.

A large portion of the report deals with the diversity and equity of pay and promotion among members of the faculty and staff, but portions of the report also raise questions about the student population.

"The most salient fact about the status of people of color at UNCA is their absence," according to the RSPCW.

"There is no comprehensive strategic plan for racial diversity on this campus," said Dwight Mullen, associate professor of political science who will chair the task force.

"The closest the campus has come to establishing a plan was with the Consent Decree that came out of the federal courts in 1980, ordering desegregation at universities in North Carolina," he said.

The Consent Decree was a settlement out of court, but it was sanctioned by the federal courts, according to Mullen.

One provision of this agreement was that predominantly white institutions were to enroll certain minimum percentages of black students.

"For predominantly white institutions, I think it ranged between 10 and 15 percent," said Mullen. "And I'm not talking any minority, I'm talking about 10-15 percent African-American students."

UNCA has just under four percent African-American enrollment at this time, according to Mullen.

At the beginning of this academic year, copies of the RSPCW were distributed to three committees within the faculty senate, the Institutional Development/University Planning Committee, Faculty Welfare and Development, and the

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Weather Report courtesy of the National Weather Service

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

UNCA to become part of NC Information Highway

Alex Eastwood
Staff Writer

In the fall of 1994, UNCA will be part of the world's fastest multi-media communications network. Traveling at the speed of light over fiber optics, the North Carolina Information Highway (NCIH) will transmit data, graphics, television-quality video, and voice communications simultaneously to and from specialized equipment at UNCA.

The NCIH is a high-tech communications infrastructure that initially will connect the N.C. departments of community colleges, public instruction, correction, and justice.

The University of North Carolina system, many medical centers, four medical schools, area health education centers (AHECs), and the Microelectronics Center of North Carolina will be online, as well.

How will the NCIH differ from existing communications systems? First, it will be faster. Much faster.

In 1980, it took 84 hours to transmit the 33-volume Encyclopedia Britannica. Today, it takes only 13 hours. Phase I of the NCIH will transmit the same information in just 4.7 seconds.

Second, it will have advanced video capabilities. Presently, UNCA uses microwave technology to conduct video-conference classes that link other institutions.

The tower that looms over the UNCA track is such a device. Without one of these towers, video-conferencing is impossible.

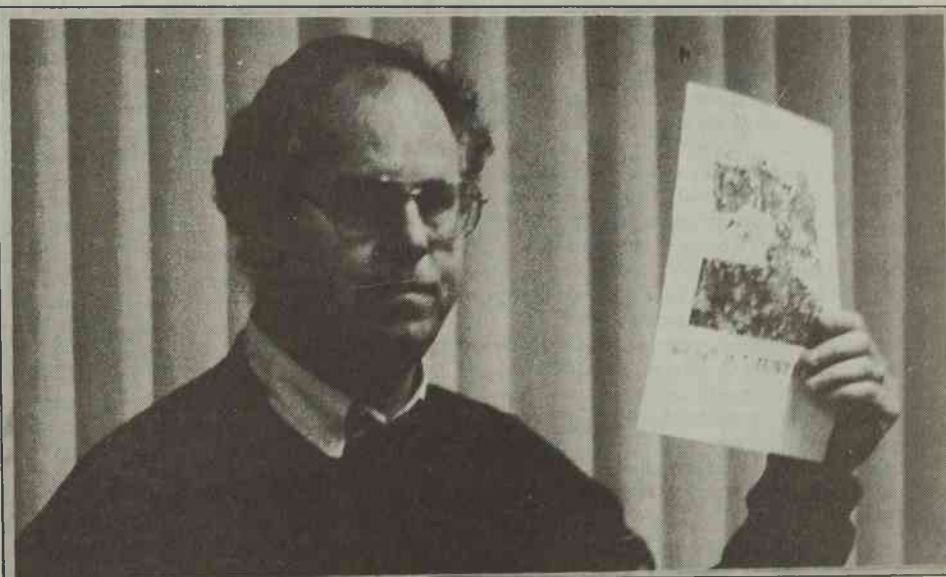
With the NCIH, any state agency may have immediate point-to-point contact with any other state agency. A group of biology students can schedule an on-line interview with an expert at a Triangle Research Park medical center. A pre-engineering student can sit in on an engineering class at the school of their choice.

The NCIH will use technologies like fiber optics, asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switches, and synchronous optical network (SONET) transmission systems.

"The NCIH will be the first in the world to employ these advanced technologies," said Jane Patterson, technology advisor to N.C. Governor Jim Hunt.

Fiber optics has the capability to handle the transmission of massive amounts of digitized information in a very short time.

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Staff Photo By Russ Reed

Rabbi Robert Ratner discussed the treatment of the Jewish community in American society at the Crossing Bridges lecture, "The Politics of Hate Groups," on Feb. 16.

Speakers discuss politics of hate groups

Rebekah Stivers
Staff Writer

The second session in a three-part seminar discussing African-American and Jewish-American relations was held Feb. 16 in the Owen Hall Conference Center.

Rabbi Robert Ratner, from Temple Beth Ha-Tephila, and Robert Smith, from the Asheville-Buncomb County Community Relations Council, spoke on the politics of hate groups throughout

history as well as within their own communities at large.

"The Klan is alive and well," said Ratner. He began the session discussing how two different views of "hate" can exist within haters' minds, and how haters can find any reason they choose to hold a prejudice against a group of people.

Ratner discussed specifically some common stereotypes held against Jews. Jews are often seen as being wealthy capitalists who control the economy and the entertainment industry, he said.

Many stereotypes blame Jews for causing World War II and for killing "God" (Jesus Christ), he said.

Ratner then talked about the mind-sets of both the haters and those who are targeted. He said that often the hating begins when an individual or group who is experiencing oppression tries to find an explanation for their oppression. Often they target other minority groups because they are the

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