

Perspectives

Student Government Association

By Wiley Cash

Here it is, the end of the year already, but so much has changed. I know that some of you know me, at least those who read *The Banner* last semester, as a snide and facetious columnist. Surprise, I now speak to you as SGA president. Anything is possible in this land of opportunity we know as UNCA.

I am writing it to tell you about what you can expect next semester, from me, from SGA and from the new chancellor. I was able to meet with Jim Mullen, UNCA's new chancellor, on the morning of April 14, and it was a nice chance to really sit down and talk with him about his plans and how he feels he can affect the university.

First of all, he asked to meet

New SGA: A breath of fresh air

with me, which already shows his interest in the students. I was a little nervous about the meeting, mostly because I have very little SGA experience, and I am still learning my way and meeting different people. Sometimes I don't know which questions to ask and what is expected from me. Mullen, however, was a different experience altogether.

The first thing he said when he sat down was, "I don't want to wear a tie, but they said they'd be taking pictures." I was surprised to learn that we both shared the same concerns, ideas and solutions.

Of course, the issue most talked about was diversity, the most important issue facing UNCA.

He explained how many

predominately white universities long to improve their minority enrollment and, once the numbers are up, don't possess the programs and opportunities that benefit the minority students. Therefore, the enrollment decreases and the university starts over again. I believe that this is the case with UNCA.

We pride ourselves on diversity and our acceptance of it. However, it is difficult for us to constructively take advantage of the power and amazing leadership that lies in our minority groups.

Mullen said he would like to have an extremely active role in increasing the minority enrollment. He said that he would love to go to high schools and tell minority students, "You should come to UNCA and here's what we

can offer you..." Mullen also expressed a desire to have close interaction with students. He said that his job was not to work for the state or the administration, but for the people enrolled.

He said he realizes that the only way he can do that is to establish a personal relationship with the students and listen. He told me that he would like to keep students more informed of what's going on since it is first and foremost "their school."

I look forward to Mullen being part of UNCA. I can almost guarantee that you will see him at student organization meetings, basketball games and other student-oriented events, not because he's supposed to be there, but simply because he wants

to be there. SGA this year is a little different, as well. Everyone involved is extremely anxious about the opportunities they have to make a real difference. I am so excited to have a vastly different group this year, with two international students, mingled with novices and seasoned veterans. I know that they all will work hard to help out and do everything possible to address student concern.

I haven't forgotten about the issues on which I ran. Chris Green, SGA's vice president, and I are already planning things for next semester that benefit different groups of students.

Right now, we are greatly concerned with commuter privileges.

I want to push for one all-night computer lab and

longer library hours, both things that could greatly benefit commuters who often have a difficult time getting to campus during the day.

We are also working on ways to increase minority enrollment, and I am excited about speaking personally with high school students across the state.

If any of you ever want to voice your concerns over anything, please feel free to attend SGA meetings, Wednesdays at 9 p.m. in Highsmith 37.

Or, you could call me at 251-6587. I promise to return all calls and suggestions made to myself or anyone in SGA. I am ready for the new year and the possibilities that it brings.

Wiley Cash is the president of the SGA.

Letters to the Editor

It's all Greek to me

Dear Editor,

As a member of one of UNCA's Greek organizations it is my belief that the road to Founders Hall should be reserved for our letters. This would keep with the tradition that was started in the early 1990s when we were told to remove our letters from University Heights. This is not to say that other school organizations should not have a place to display their letters. As a matter of fact, I agree with Anthony Wilson when he said that other organizations should be allowed to display their letters, too.

The first logical place to come to mind would be, like he said, in the bulldog prints in front of the cafeteria. Other organizations like SGA and Underdog have their names in the bulldog prints, so why can't organizations like ISA and BUA have their letters out there too? Greek organizations are a different kind of group than the others; although we do service as well as the other student organizations, Greeks are mainly social organizations. Because of this difference it is my belief that as members of the Greek community, we should have a separate place to show off our letters.

Michelle Lefler
freshman, history

Winters' facts unfounded

Dear Editor,

The Parking Appeals Committee, mentioned in Eric Winter's *Banner* column of April 8 ("Hold public safety accountable"), wishes

to publicly correct inaccuracies published in his article.

Eric's statement that committee meetings were scheduled without informing him are incorrect. When the committee met for the first time in the fall of 1998, Eric and another student were specifically asked what day and time would be best for them to meet monthly.

The time they indicated was used, and the schedule set accordingly for the duration of the semester at that stated time. Everyone on the committee—students and staff—are reminded of meetings by e-mail. It is the responsibility of each individual to check their own e-mail on a timely basis.

Further, if Eric did experience difficulty attending the meetings at his preferred time, he did not contact any committee members—even once—to relay his scheduling conflicts.

He chose instead to complain to Al Donaldson, SGA president at the time, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Eric Iovacchini, and most recently, *The Banner*.

It would be helpful at this time to keep in mind that the "adults" on the parking committee that Eric refers to in his article, are staff members who are donating their time to this service. We are overburdened with work, spread as thin as we possibly can be. Our schedules, too, are full and very demanding. And, for further clarification, there are no members of the public safety office who are members of the Parking Appeals Committee, as Eric also stated.

To insinuate that you were excluded from committee meetings, or from receiving timely notification of meetings, for any reason, is totally false.

You, alone, are responsible for your

lack of attendance and contribution to this committee. Previous student members of this group have not only attended regularly, they have taken their charge seriously and with a mature, responsible attitude that reinforced and strengthened the abilities of the committee as a whole.

As with other areas at UNCA, student participation has always been valued, respected, and very much appreciated by the members of the Parking Appeals Committee.

The UNCA Parking Appeals Committee
Anita White-Carter
Sherry Cealligh
Terry Bailey
Megan Wolfe
Sandra Glass

The Declaration on Civil Behavior

Dear Editor,

At their April 8 meeting, the faculty senate approved the following Declaration on Civil Behavior:

The University of North Carolina at Asheville is a liberal arts community of scholars dedicated to personal and academic growth and excellence. In order to succeed in its mission, all community members are responsible for building an intellectual and social climate which is conducive to the free exchange of ideas essential to attaining knowledge and wisdom.

Membership in the community demands that people act honorably, responsibly, and humanely, respecting each other's dignity. Any disrespectful, intimidating, or hostile behavior based on gen-

der, sexual orientation, disability, social class, race, ethnicity, or religion is an affront to the community and all of its members. These actions demonstrate disregard for the goals of the UNCA community and cannot be tolerated.

In adding my strong endorsement, I must note that the recent acts of unthinkable violence underscore the paramount importance of civility to the free interchange of ideas. For all involved, we at UNCA must actively seek a non-hostile, non-threatening environment if we are to achieve a respectful standard of freedom of expression that should typify a liberal arts university—whether our topics be race, sexual orientation, athletics, or some other facet of campus life or society.

Patsy Reed
Chancellor

We're looking for a few good columnists. If that person is you, pick up an application at 208A Carmichael Hall, or call Managing Editor Amelia Morrison at 251-6586. All applications due by May 8.

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Letters to the editor may be submitted to *The Banner* at One University Heights, 208A Carmichael Hall, Asheville, NC 28804, e-mailed to banner@unca.edu, or submitted via The Banner Online. Letters should be typed, single-spaced, and limited to 300 words or less. Submissions may be edited for space and content. Letters to the editor must be signed and include the author's classification and major or other relationship to UNCA.

The Banner is the student newspaper of the University of North Carolina at Asheville. We publish each Thursday except during summer sessions, final exam weeks and holiday breaks. Our offices are located in Carmichael Hall, Room 208-A.

Our telephone number is (828) 251-6586. Our campus e-mail address is banner@unca.edu. An on-line version of *The Banner* is also available at <http://www.unca.edu/banner>

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Unsigned editorials reflect the opinion of a majority of *The Banner* editorial board. Letters, columns, cartoons and reviews represent only the opinions of their respective authors.

The Banner welcomes submissions of letters and articles for publication. All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, content and length and are considered on the basis of interest, space, taste, and timeliness.

Letters should be typed, single-spaced, and should not exceed 300 words. Letters for publication should also contain the author's signature, classification, major or other relationship with UNCA. The deadline for letters is noon on Tuesday. If you have a submission, you can send it to *The Banner*, 208A Carmichael Hall, One University Heights, Asheville NC 28804.

The deadline for display ads and the FYI calendar is Monday at 2 p.m. The deadline for classified ads is at noon on Tuesday.