

How does your office relate to the Black Student Movement and the Black Cultural Center?

I am the faculty advisor to the BSM. I hope that the BSM maintains its vigor and visibility as a campus advocate for African-American student interests. As so far as the BCC, we have an important relationship. The BCC furthers discussions on race, ethnicity and culture, particularly of the diaspora. That makes us a natural ally of the BCC.

Could you please give a brief explanation of the Minority Student Recruitment Program?

It is built up entirely of students, as they are the best ambassadors. We could not develop a marketing approach that would make students understand the Carolina experience any better than to have actual students involved. There are more than 200 names of student volunteers who work with our programs year-long. Some of our programs include High School Honors Day, Tarheel Target, North Carolina Renaissance, Project Uplift and Pre-Orientation.

Do you have any final remarks?

Ideally, we should be an environment that welcomes difference and supports it through the intellectual, the personal and the social diversity of students, faculty, and staff. We can't be separated from the world.

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“MOMMY, WHAT’S A PROVOST?”

by Aprill Bethea

A provost is the chief academic officer for the University; he/she oversees all academic operations. The job of the provost is to ensure that the educational and research goals of the University are met.

Following an extensive two-month search, a 16-member committee named Dr. Robert Shelton as the final candidate for the next provost for UNC-CH. On Oct. 13 the Board of Governors approved Shelton's nomination for Provost.

The provost position became vacant in July with the retirement of Richard Richardson. He had served in the post since April 1996.

A professor of physics, Shelton currently is the Vice-Provost for Research at the University of California. He previously served as Vice Chancellor for Research at UC-Davis.

Shelton said that UNC-CH's reputation as a top-notch university attracted him to the position. "Carolina is well known throughout the country for its students and staff," he said. In addition, Shelton added that he looked forward to returning to a campus environment. "I like the energy and excitement of the campus environment," he said. Shelton said that one of the greatest challenges facing universities today is the need for improved facilities. "The key to ensuring and building upon UNC's current reputation and ranking is people," Shelton said. "Specifically, we need to provide the atmosphere, facilities, opportunities and challenges that attract the best students, staff and faculty."

From his experiences in California, Shelton said he is familiar with the need for improved facilities on university campuses. He said he is excited about the Higher Education Improvement Bond on this month's election ballot. He believes new buildings, particularly science buildings, are critical to the future success of UNC-CH. Today, he said, universities must operate as businesses. Shelton hopes to work closely with the Executive Vice-Chancellor, who ensures that faculty meet the necessary state requirements. He hopes cooperation between both offices will ensure that the needs for both the students and staff are met.

Shelton said he talked to student leaders during his visits to the campus in order to gain a sense of student concerns. Using this knowledge he said he would work alongside other university officials to implement programs beneficial to students. He said he plans to remain in contact with students once he arrives on the campus in February. "People need to see that the Provost office is open and welcoming to faculty, students and staff," he said.

Shelton said that he looks forward to working with Chancellor James Moeser. He believes they share many of the same beliefs on the future of the University. "He is so open and welcoming," he said, adding, "Our disciplines compliment each other." One of the beliefs shared by Chancellor Moeser and Shelton is that Carolina will continue to be one of the top universities in the nation. "I think Chapel Hill has the opportunity to not only maintain its quality, but get better," he said. However, Shelton said the future of the University will depend on the dedication and cooperation of everyone involved on the campus. "It's not going to happen quickly. It will be because you have a lot of talented people who are willing to come together to make the institution great."

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