

Campus News

Edwards visits campus, talks to students about Floyd and politics

Melde Rutledge
Reporter

Winston-Salem State witnessed a historic moment. For the first time, a United States' senator visited the school.

Senator John Edwards, D-N.C., recently came to WSSU to tell students that he is working for them.

Edwards' main topic was Hurricane Floyd, which devastated eastern North Carolina. He also spoke about lobbying to receive monetary aid for the state's hurricane victims.

"Sometimes the people in Washington just don't live in the real world," said Edwards, referring to how the leaders in Washington, D.C., were willing to put off aid for the hurricane victims.

Edwards supports the betterment of public schools. He claims to have received more money to get more teachers, but admits that

the state's school systems need more help. "We don't have a level playing field. Some of our kids go to school in trailers. We can do better than that."



Edwards

Edwards says that more after-school programs are needed and he is against the reoccurrence of segregated schools.

"I grew up in a nonsegregated school and I feel that it's very important to be in a nonsegregated school system."

He recognized the underfunding of historically black universities.

"HBCU's have historically been underfunded. It needs to be improved. People have to advocate for it."

Edwards says he enjoys representing North

Carolina, but admits that he does not have the answer for everything.

"I've learned a lot. I'm still learning," he said.

Edwards, 47, was sworn into office on Jan. 6, 1999, becoming the 51st North Carolinian in history to serve in the U.S. Senate.

He was the first person in his family to go to college, graduating from North Carolina State University with honors in 1974. He earned a law degree with honors in 1977 from the University of North Carolina.

Edwards was called a "rising star" by the Winston-Salem Journal and was in a front-page article in the Wall Street Journal as a senator who "impresses colleagues in behind-doors deliberations."

He and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Raleigh, N.C., with their two daughters, Katie, 17, and Emma Claire, one. The family recently bought a house in Washington.

The News Argus Staff

Cortney L. Hill
Editor in Chief
Quemella Holland
News Editor
Jason Smith
Arts Editor
Semaj Robinson
Sports Editor
Jersey Wilson
Layout Editor

* **The News Argus** is a monthly eight page campus newspaper for the students, faculty, and staff of Winston-Salem State University

* Opinions expressed in **The News Argus** are not necessarily those of the faculty or staff at WSSU.

* Articles submitted for publication consideration become the property of the newspaper

* For advertising information please call (336) 750-2327

* Send letters to the editor to **The News Argus**, Department of Mass Communications, WSSU, 601 MLK Dr., Winston-Salem, NC 27110.

Institutional SACS Self-Study Report

Subcommittees of the SACS Self-Study Steering Committee reviewed the six chapter reports of the Institutional Self-Study October 15-November 3, 1999. The review was designed to determine (1) the extent to which the principal committees had addressed the 400 plus SACS criteria; (2) areas of compliance and non-compliance; and (3) actions needed to comply with criteria. Revisions made by the Steering Committee were incorporated into chapter reports. Completed chapters (I, II, VI) were given to the editorial Committee for further refinement.

Two issues required further data collection and analysis. One issue involved the adequacy of faculty salaries compared with our peer institutions (Elizabeth City State University and the University of North Carolina at Asheville) and other liberal arts universities in North Carolina. The other issue involved the maintenance of the physical environment. Individuals and sub-committees are completing the analysis; the results will be reported in the next draft of the self-study report.

The SACS Criteria provide standards by which the institution can measure its effectiveness in achieving its mission. The primary mission is to offer quality educational baccalaureate programs to diverse and motivated students. To be reaffirmed, we must present evidence that the university has adequate resources to accomplish its mission. In analyzing the available data, the Steering Committee found that 23 percent of our programs are accredited by professional accredited bodies, 92.7 percent of our 1995-96 graduates say they have jobs directly or somewhat related to their major compared with the UNC average of 82.3 percent, and 97 percent of our graduate school enrollees said they were well or adequately prepared for graduate school, compared with the UNC system's average of 93 percent. Based on input from the faculty and the review of available data, the Steering Committees has noted that the institution could be greatly improved with additional resources in the areas of technology, laboratories, and building maintenance, and facilities. The Steering Committee concluded that students are getting a good, low-cost education, which has been recognized in such reports as the 1999 *US News and World Report*. Faculty are providing educational programs that meet the standards set by national accrediting bodies. Funding has been identified for improving technology and renovating and repairing facilities. The Steering Committee's conclusion is that current funding is adequate to achieve WSSU's mission.

The co-directors, Merdis McCarter andCarolynn Berry, presented a report at the September 22 meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. Four chapters of the report were to be discussed with Board of Trustees at the Dec. 17th meeting. A forum for faculty and staff to provide additional comments about the self-study process was to be provided Monday, Jan. 10, 2000 during Spring Opening Assembly. The third draft of the institutional self-study report will be distributed prior to the end of the fall semester. In addition, sections of the report will be sent to units referred to in the report for their input. A forum for students will be held Feb. 25 at 10 a.m. One-page summary sheets will be distributed in class prior to the forum, McCarter said. The meeting location had not yet been set.

Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to volunteer to assist with final preparations for the SACS Visit scheduled April 3-6, 2000. Individuals may volunteer to serve on the following committees: Hospitality, Transportation, and Computers & Telecommunication Equipment. Contact McCarter at 750-2204 or Berry in the SACS Office, O'Kelly Library, Room 202; 750-3045.