

## Methodist College...A University?

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Opinion Editor

Since President Elton Hendricks arrived at Methodist College in 1983, many changes have been made. In the past 20 years there have been several new classroom buildings, scores of new programs, and enrollment has steadily increased. Friday afternoon, Hendricks announced, in a very candid manner, his vision for the future of Methodist College.

With a warm southern draw, Hendricks opened his speech in Clark Hall announcing his pride in the liberal arts core that Methodist College is so well known for. As an educator and history major, Hendricks is most concerned for the future of the liberal arts curriculum, and general growth of the college. In past years the trend for students majoring in traditional liberal arts fields such as English, History, and Philosophy is constantly declining. However, career oriented programs such as Professional Golf Management, Hospital Administration, and Education flourishes. The popularity of ca-

reer-oriented programs has led to a new growth at Methodist, one that includes new graduate programs.

With this said, Hendricks imposed the question of the future. With the growing amount of students enrolled in career-oriented programs, what steps does the college need to take in order to keep the liberal arts tradition while also catering to the more popular programs? This question imposes another; how does Methodist increase en-

rollment when other colleges and universities offer the same programs? Hendricks cited the Professional Golf Management as example. When Methodist began its Professional Golf Management program, they were only second in the nation to do so; now there are over 13 Professional Golf Management programs in the country; three of which are in North Carolina. While Hendricks bragged

that Methodist still has the number one Professional Golf Management program in the

country, there are now several more options for students seeking this program, and in the near future this may cause Methodist to lose its niche. The solutions to these questions are currently unanswered, however Hendricks did offer several different options.

There is the obvious solution of changing Methodist College to a university. This has been talked about for years. In many ways the college can already be considered a small university due to the postgraduate and nontraditional career oriented programs. This option will surely one day be a reality, but until that time comes there have to be new programs created to fill the gap and increase enrollment. The act to change Methodist College to a university would not happen overnight, it would take years of careful planning in order to make that dream a reality. Hendricks again stated that the push to change the college to a university would take away from the prestige title of "Liberal Arts College." Growth is necessary for survival and Hendricks offered the option of increasing the number of hours students would take in the liberal arts field when pursuing a career oriented program if the college was to switch to a university setting.

Another option the President wants to explore is adding new programs to the Methodist College curriculum. This was the most exciting, yet controversial option dis-

cussed. While adding new programs in the career-oriented fields does have the possibility to bring in new students, it also has several down sides. The most obvious is that new programs could change the way Methodist sees itself as a Liberal Arts college. Many professors were quick to point out that with an already shrinking budget there is a fear that if new programs are created there will be money cut from already existing fields of study in order to start new programs. The president admitted that while this *may* be true at first, once a program takes off, such as Professional Golf Management did, the benefits will far out way the sacrifices.

It is important to note that all these options are just that, options. There has been no resolutions set, thus far, to change or add anything. All of the possibilities mentioned will not effect the current student body, as said before nothing presented will be an overnight process. It is also important to note that Hendricks is exploring many options and is very open minded in the opinions and suggestions of faculty, staff, and students concerning the growth and development of Methodist College. Hendricks did make one thing clear, "This is the time for new program development," with this said, Methodist College is ready to except any challenges that lay



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## Community Crime Alert

The person pictured to the right is a suspect in two recent crimes of rape that occurred in the vicinity of Methodist College. One crime occurred in Andrew Commons located off Ramsey Street, just North of campus. A second crime occurred off Treetop Drive, just South of campus.

No weapons were involved. One similarity in both crimes was that the door to the living space was left unlocked. Should you see anyone in this area meeting this description, please contact Police and Public Safety Immediately at 630-1212.

**Description of Suspect:** White male, approx. 30 years of age, approx. 65 inches tall, black hair, brown eyes.

**Safety tips:** Do not block resident hall entry doors. Always lock you room dorr when you depart. Report suspicious persons to Campus Police. Never walk alone. Use the sampus escortif you do not feel safe walking alone. Walk in well lit areas.

