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The Walker Appointment Friday defends interim choice

Edwin Horsley, contributing editor of *The Campus Echo*, talked with William Friday, president of the University of North Carolina School System, about the appointment of Dr. Leroy T. Walker as interim chancellor of North Carolina Central University on March 11, 1983.

The idea of an interim chancellor was a recommendation by Friday to the Board of Governors of the UNC system. The board voted unanimously to accept Friday's recommendation of Walker as interim chancellor. The appointment was made even though the NCCU Board of Trustees had sent to Friday the names of two final candidates for the chancellor's position. Those finalists were two out of many others who had been reviewed as chancellor candidates by a special search committee.

Since Walker's appointment, Friday has been criticized publicly by Dr. Hillary Holloway, chairman of the NCCU Board of Trustees and chairman of the chancellor search committee. Holloway, like others, feels there is no reason for an interim chancellor and that Friday has slighted the NCCU board by his action.

The following article is an interview held in Friday's office on March 21. The questions were selected to give Friday a chance to respond to his critics and to further elaborate on the Walker appointment of March 11.

Echo: Dr. Friday, I've talked to some members of the search committee on Central's campus. They are upset with you because they feel that you should have consulted Central's Board of Trustees about your decision before you recommended Dr. Walker to the Board of Governors.

Friday: Well in the first place, on the day before, I called chairman Holloway and indicated to him what I planned to do. I went over it in detail. I told him that in four (previous) instances that I could recall I had appointed acting chancellors for a multitude of reasons; that it was not a new procedure within the university at all; and that it was a matter exclusively within the office of the president. It had nothing to do with the Board of Governors. They commissioned you to do this on a purely temporary basis until you're ready to make a permanent appointment. So Mr. Holloway was fully advised as to what I was going to do 24 hours ahead of time, before I told the board. I did not tell him who the choice would be, because I did not have it locked up at the time, but he did know that there would be that action and that there would be a choice, and I did that as a matter of courtesy to him. He disagreed with the appointment of an acting chancellor, but at no time did he make statements to me then as he has in the press about (the appointment) being bad for the institution. But there is not a thing new about it at all. There have been acting chancellors at N.C. State and at UNC-Asheville and so on. The Board of Trustees (at NCCU) has no jurisdiction over this question, simply because this is an acting appointment. It can be terminated on a day's notice. But what I did was not in any way a judgment on what the board of trustees had done and I made that very clear in my statements to the board of governors.

E: Why did you appoint an interim chancellor at NCCU?

F: When you have a procedure in which a third of the faculty at an institution is willing to say publicly how strenuously they disagree with the search process, then you've got a problem. The faculty of NCCU, at the request of the search committee, voted against these two nominees. When you are faced with a situation like that, then you know that there is a problem in the faculty.

E: Were there any other reasons for the interim appointment?



Leroy Walker

F: Yes. I started listening to people. And I listened at great length. I did not solicit any advice. They would call me and ask if they could come talk with me. I've always been willing to listen to people, particularly on a issue like this. This included townspeople, at least three ministers, the editors of publications, reporters, and alumni of the institution. When you get all that evidence in front of you, then you have no choice but to do what I did.

E: Would you give me the names of the people you talked with?

F: No, I don't think that would be fair. But in every case I said to them that they should write to the Board of Trustees and express their views. The board needed know what these people were saying to me. Some people talked to members of the Board of Governors. I know this because it was brought to my attention by board members. Keep in mind, however, that it is the board of governors that designates chancellors and no one else. All I or the Board of Trustees can do is recommend at least two names. But this is a jurisdictional decision that is exclusively the Board of Governors of the university. They are not going to act until they are satisfied from questioning me and from questioning Mr. Holloway when his time comes.

E: Why did you select Walker over others on the NCCU campus who may be just as qualified?

F: In the first place, he is not a candidate for the position. In the second place, he is the one person who everybody voluntarily said ought to be asked to serve. I did not raise the question. But many people suggested Dr. Walker to me. And since his appointment, I've received more affirmation than in any other case like this before. Townspeople, campus people, the press in Durham—everybody has been warm in their approval of Dr. Walker.

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Reactions vary on Walker pick

By Edwin Horsley

William C. Friday's appointment of Dr. Leroy T. Walker as the new interim chancellor of N.C. Central University has brought about mixed reactions within the university community. The Campus Echo went to members of the chancellor's search committee, various administrators, and faculty to get their views.

Dr. Arthrell Sanders and Dr. John Myers served as the faculty representatives on the search committee.

Sanders: "I don't know how to react. I have nothing against Dr. Walker and I will work with him in any way for the good of Central. It's just the idea of an interim. If one of the finalists is going to be appointed, then he should be appointed for July 1 of 1983. The number of people who objected to the candidates was small. The wait won't change their minds. It was obviously hypocritical to have had opposition with procedure, but that was a convenient and acceptable way of making another statement. There was hostility because certain candidates were eliminated from the search."

Myers: "I really don't know the reasons (for the appointment) but I assume that (Friday) had some particular reasons for selecting an interim over the finalists."

"I don't know if the appointment was good or bad. We need a chancellor who can effectively run the university. If Dr. Walker can do that, then it's good for the university."

Dr. Mary Townes, the NCCU graduate dean, served as executive secretary for the search committee.

Townes: "I'm surprised because I had no idea what (Friday) was going to do. I'm uncomfortable with the fact that he did not let the Board of Trustees know what he was going to do."

"The statement of some people that the search committee did most of its work during the summer had no validity. We did not meet in July or August, so to say that most of our work was done when the faculty was out is not true."

Dr. Albert N. Whiting, chancellor of NCCU

Whiting: "I was surprised that an interim was selected and I was surprised that it was Dr. Walker. He is a fine person and easy to work with."

"I don't know if the interim will help or hinder. When an interim is in office for too long, then it can become a problem. The interim chancellor is not free to make long-range plans like a permanent person could."

Walter Pattillo, undergraduate dean, was one of two NCCU administrators who spoke out openly against the search process.

Pattillo: "My initial was surprise because I had not considered his (Walker's) name. But as I thought about it and the reasons given that is, giving some of the uproar a chance to die down, the possibilities are good that the interim period will accomplish that purpose. My opinion of Dr. Walker has always been positive since my earlier interactions with him."

"I would see this as a means of taking a re-look at the situation to be sure that when we do appoint a permanent chancellor, most of the faculty will be in consensus that we have a good man."

Tyrone R. Richmond, NCCU business school dean, is another administrator who publicly opposed the chancellor search process.

Richmond: "I was somewhat surprised because I had not considered (Walker) as a candidate. But in retrospect I think that he was a sound choice. I'm very optimistic."

"My feelings are still the same concerning the search committee and the search process."

David Bishop, a professor of history, is one of several faculty members

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Hunger walk draws 1,000, earns \$25,000

By James Dockery

Over 1,000 people participated in Crop Walk, a 10-mile walk to raise money for global hunger this past Sunday, March 20, at 2 p.m. According to Crop recruiter and NCCU English professor Ray Roberts, over \$25,000 was donated by sponsors and the turnout far surpassed the expectations of the organizers.

Crop Walk, a division of the Church World Service, is more than three decades old, but this was the first year that a group from NCCU participated in the walk.

Lucille Cole, an member of NCCU University Relations and a participant in the walk, felt the event was "an important cause and participating in it was like being part of a big team working for a common goal."

The Crop Walk is similar to a walkathon. Walkers asked people to sponsor them and donate various amounts of money. The amounts, given to the walkers after they com-



MERIDEN, CONN.: Anti-Klan demonstrator assumes pistol firing stance as he faces a line riot-equipped police protecting group of Ku Klux Klan holding "White Christian Solidarity Day" gathering on the steps of City Hall March 20. The Klan rally, the third in this small central Connecticut city within a year, was without serious incident.

Two cheers from Daye 81.8% beat boards; pass rate improves

By Marion McKinney

Though pleased that 81.8 percent of the NCCU law school graduates who took the February bar exam for the first time passed, Law School Dean Charles Daye expressed reserved optimism over the results.

"It's the consensus of legal educators that the bar examination is a significant, but small, measure of an institution's program, Daye told the Durham Morning Herald.

Daye said that too much attention has been given to NCCU's bar exam results in the past, and though pleased with the results this time, he said that "too much was made out of them."

Last summer, 31 NCCU law graduates took the exam for the first time. Only 42 percent (13 graduates) passed.

NCCU's 81.8 percent passing rate (9 out of 11 students) is slightly higher than the 79 percent passing rate for all North Carolina law students taking the bar exam for the first time. The passing rate for all law students who took the February exam, including out-of-state law schools, was 67 percent.

Daye said that the true success of the law self-improvement program should be seen in five years, by which time recently initiated reforms would be fully affecting the performance of Law School graduates.

Some of the areas in which Daye still sees room for improvement are financial aid for students and staffing of faculty for the evening programs.

One major problem, according to Daye, is the loss of senior faculty members because of a state freeze on state employees' salaries.

Daye said that the nine students who passed the exam were highly motivated, but he said he wouldn't be satisfied until all students passed the exams.

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