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Walker receives vote of confidence

Taken from the Durham Morning Herald

Dr. LeRoy T. Walker apparently will remain chancellor of N.C. Central University for several years.

Central's board of trustees announced Wednesday April 18 that it had no immediate plans to renew its search for a permanent chancellor. And Walker, who is 65, told the board that he would continue as chancellor for as long as it takes to put the university in a strong position.

The chairman of the board, Dr. Charles V. Holland, said the board was announcing "a strong vote of confidence in the direction Dr. Walker is leading this university."

Holland said Walker, who became acting chancellor last July after the retirement of Dr. Albert N. Whiting, has given the university stability and confidence.

The board discussed the possibility of reopening a search for a permanent chancellor during a private session.

Members of the board argued that Walker's work at NCCU has drawn high praise from many quarters. One board member said he heard no negative comments about NCCU since Walker became chancellor.

Walker was named interim chancellor by William Friday, president of the University of North Carolina system. Friday, who chose Walker after declining to pick one of two candidates recommended by the NCCU search committee, said the selection of an interim chancellor would give NCCU time to heal the divisions he said had been created by the search.

Walker told reporters after the meeting that it could take several years to bring the university to the point at which it will attract a top-notch chancellor.

He said top people who interview for the chancellor's job would have many questions about the university.

"You need to be sure you've got the right answers if you want to get the good person," he said.

In his report to the trustees, Walker said he thought the university would reach its goal of having 25 percent of its next freshman class composed of students in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating classes.

Of the first group of 540 students offered admission, Walker said, 150 have total scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) of between 800 and 1200. A perfect score on the SAT, which includes a verbal section and mathematics section, is 1,600.

He told the board that better coordination between the admissions and financial aid offices had resulted in the university's being able to inform many students of their financial aid awards by April 15.

He also said NCCU would have to work to increase its scholarship funds so it could attract more top students.



Hancock mixes intelligence with a unique sense of humor

By Mike Peoples

Bright, humorous and ambitious best describe Lynn Hancock, the 1983-84 senior class valedictorian.

While maintaining a 3.86 grade point average, the senior English major from Roanoke, Va. is also president of Sigma Tau Delta (English Honor Society), historian of the English club, a member of Honorees-In-Action, charter member of C'est Ci Bon Women's Service Organization, and a member of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society.

Miss Hancock also works part-time at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Chapel Hill, and is a work study student in the English department.

So when does Miss Hancock (who graduated twelfth in her high school class, out of 490 students) find time to study and excel in the classroom?

"I balance my time," she claims. "You cannot party 24 hours a day nor can you study 24 hours a day, but you have to balance your time wisely if you expect to do well in school."

Hancock feels that some students tend to stereotype their class valedictorians. "Many of my friends could not believe I received the honor, because of my sense of humor," Hancock said. "They were glad to see I was still the same old Lynn, even though I carried my plaque around all day," she said laughing.

Her goals in life are to attend graduate school and write

See AWARD, p. 5.

News Analysis

By Mark Anthony Andrew Adams

Chancellor LeRoy T. Walker will be here "as long as it takes to put the university in a strong position. And the intensity will not be reduced simply because I may be here a little longer."

Walker's words were in response to the university's Board of Trustees announcement on Wednesday, April 18, that it had no immediate plans to renew its search for a permanent chancellor and his consent to remain at the university's helm.

Board chairman Charles V. Holland referred to the announcement as "a strong vote of confidence in the direction Dr. Walker is leading the university."

But what does this mean to the students, those affected most by the decision?

For the serious, those who want to achieve, learn and grow, it means opportunity, opportunity to surpass the goals and dreams that were set for a good university.

In Dr. Walker exists a renewing of faith in a university that not long ago was considered an educational utopia.

For too long Central has been hoping to achieve its past glory only to be heading in a direction of complacency, instead of actively pursuing higher and higher levels of achievement.

"Doc," as Walker is referred to by friends, will be the first to admit that the students are the most important people at the university. He constantly reminds the faculty that they are here for the students.

In a recent conference with Walker, he expressed a desire to know and share what was on the minds and hearts of the students. "The 'Shared Responsibility' is just as important as the first part of our theme Excellence Without Excuse," said Walker.

His goals for the university include expansion with everybody involved. But those who don't care to grow educationally, socially and personally will fall by the wayside?

The plan is not to forget or discriminate against anyone because of educational shortcomings, but to raise everyone's level of achievement.

Walker is a man dedicated to the betterment of the quality of life for all. For Walker, NCCU is home and you always take care of home.

To the Board of Trustees - Excellent decision.

To Dr. Walker - thanks for staying and believing in us.

To the students - we know you may get weary, but there are many more miles to go before we may rest.