

PEMBROKE STATE UNIVERSITY

By
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Public Information



GOOD AND BAD NEWS IS NOTED BY PSU CHANCELLOR IN REMARKS AT FACULTY MEETING

Chancellor Joseph Oxendine welcomed the Pembroke State University faculty back to the campus Monday in the first general faculty meeting of the 1991-92 academic year and then them of "good and bad news."

The good news is that PSU will receive \$80,000 a year for the next four years in incentive scholarships in a program approved by the UNC Board of Governors and N.C. General Assembly. This amounts to a \$320,000 total.

To qualify for the scholarships, Oxendine explained that students must be in the top 50 percent of their high school graduating class, be admissible to PSU, and agree to 6-8 hours weekly of public service. "This program is free of color or financial requirements," Oxendine said. "There is no need to show financial need. I am, of course, interested in ethnic diversity at PSU. And to qualify for the scholarships, the students must be North Carolinians."

Oxendine also said PSU is in the second phase of planning a major capital fund-raising campaign. "We are interviewing important people around the state concerning this," he said. "We hope to be able to announce this campaign along with our target figure before the end of this academic year."

Questioned by the faculty about the enrollment outlook, the PSU chancellor responded: "We're hopeful about that. Our application figures are a little bit down, but last year they were down from the previous year—but we still had an increase in students last year. Our retention of students was better last year." (PSU's enrollment last year was 3,121.)

Speaking of "bad news," the chancellor noted the 6 percent decrease in state funding, translating into three faculty positions, 2.3 EPA (exempt from the personnel act), and more than five SPA (subject to the personnel act) positions. "There were no funds made available for capital improvements within the UNC system," Oxendine said, "and we need to build a new Administration Building and an Economic Forum Conference Center. We did receive a little money for improvements and renovations."

Turning to faculty salaries, the chancellor said there were no salary increases. "I have never in my professional career gone from one year to the next without an increase in pay until now," Oxendine said. "However, this is a new year and a new time. The state budget is in such a terrible situation. The University has not been treated all that well, but it has been treated quite fairly when one looks at the amount of money to be spent. We have our jobs and have each other. I feel badly for all of you concerning no salary increases. But that is the way it is. I ask for your good will and best efforts."

Good news that has helped balance some of the bad, said Oxendine, is the fact that PSU gained a half million dollars because of an increase last year in enrollment. "Because of this, we have reclaimed some of the faculty positions. In fact, we have slightly more faculty than last year. The total faculty did not diminish (190). The enrollment increase helped us a lot," he said.

Speaking of the start of a new academic year, the

chancellor said: "It is still an exciting day each time I return for the start of a new year. It will be a sign to retire when I don't feel this excitement. Our opportunities are new this year—and I'm glad to see you back."

Dr. Charles Jenkins, PSU vice chancellor for academic affairs, introduced 11 new faculty members in his remarks. He also announced that Frank Trapp, a member of the Political Science Department, will be interim director of faculty grants in place of Dr. Susan Prugh, who is no longer with PSU.

Jenkins said that on Nov. 17-20, an accreditation committee from NCATE (the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education) would be visiting PSU.

Concerning PSU's Master of Arts School Counseling and Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs, Jenkins said they have been held up because of "budget cutbacks," but added, "We hope to start the counseling program by January or next summer or no later than next fall. We are moving along on the nursing program and hope to start it by next summer or next fall."

Before the faculty meeting got underway, the entire faculty was asked to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of Dr. Robert F. Britti, who died July 15 after teaching at Pembroke State University for 31 years.

BILL MASON RETIREMENT COMES AS A SURPRISE

The biggest surprise at the opening of this academic year at PSU was the announcement that William S. Mason, Jr., would retire Oct. 31 as vice chancellor for business affairs.

Mason, 63, has been in charge of business affairs at Pembroke State University since February of 1963, serving under three chancellors and keeping an efficient eye on the rapid construction of buildings and other financial development of the institution in that time.

Early to work and diligent, William S. Mason, Jr. as a steward of every financial aspect of the University, Mason has kept PSU's financial books above reproach.

One of his sons, Bill, graduates from PSU in '80 and is now employed by Duke Power Co., serving at the McGuire Nuclear Plant at Lake Norman. The other son, Jim, graduates from UNC-Chapel Hill in '83 and is a CPA with the Arthur Andersen Accounting Firm of Charlotte.

The shoes of William S. Mason, Jr., will be huge ones to fill. He has loved PSU and has made a great contribution to it. Now he will have a chance, while still in good health, to do some of the things he has always wanted to do. We wish Bill the very best.



Brian Stockhouse, plant manager of Sava-Lee Knit Products of Lumberton, makes a corporate gift to Susan Edge, assistant director of PSU's Performing Arts Center in support of the PAC programs.

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