



NCCU News

Trustee Committee On Nursing Education Appointed At NCCU

As he promised a Subcommittee of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors Thursday, Bernard Allen, chairman of the North Carolina Central University Board of Trustees, has appointed an ad hoc committee to monitor NCCU's nursing program.

Members of the ad hoc committee are Trustees Walter S. Tucker of Winston-Salem, Evelyn O. Shaw of Fayetteville, and William A. Shore of Durham, joined by Ms. Carol Johnson of Durham, an alumna of the NCCU nursing department who heads efforts to organize a nursing alumni association.

Allen participated in a meeting Thursday afternoon at NCCU of the Subcommittee on Nursing Education of the Educational Planning, Policies and Programs Committee of the UNC Board of Governors.

After presentations by Chancellor T. R. Richmond and by Dr. Marion Gooding, chair of the NCCU Department of Nursing, opposing a recommendation by UNC President C. D. Spangler, Jr., that the NCCU nursing program be closed, Allen pledged to the subcommittee that his ad hoc committee would "report to our

board and to your committee on a regular basis."

President Spangler's proposal was made in an April 17 report to the Educational Planning, Policies and Programs Committee. In contrast to other recommendations which he made directly, he proposed that a subcommittee study the possibility of moving the NCCU program to Fayetteville, to become a program for Registered Nurses seeking the baccalaureate degree.

President Spangler's other recommendations were incorporated in a report from the Educational Planning, Policies and Programs Committee to the Board of Governors and were accepted by the Board of Governors on April 18. They included stricter standards of performance for UNC nursing programs and a change of mission for the nursing program at Winston-Salem State University, which would phase out enrollment of non-nurses and admit only Registered Nurses seeking the bachelor's degree.

NCCU has responded to the proposal with four arguments against it, all of which Chancellor Richmond mentioned in Thursday's presentation to the

Board of Governors. First, NCCU argues, there is no provision for moving a program from one university to another within the UNC system. President Spangler's proposal would mean closing one program and opening another, and such a proposal entails a review process, adopted in 1977 by the Board of Governors. None of the procedures thus far have been a part of the review process adopted by the Board, which calls for formal notice to the chancellor and a hearing before the entire Educational Planning, Policies and Programs Committee.

NCCU's second argument is that the recommendation would have the effect of blocking doors to nursing careers for North Carolina students, particularly black students. Neither the new Fayetteville program nor the revised Winston-Salem program would bring new nurses into the profession, since they would enroll as students Registered Nurses who had already been licensed as nurses.

NCCU has raised the question of the university's commitment to increasing the population of minority nurses in North Carolina. Since 1981, NCCU has enrolled a total of 694 black nursing students, or just over 77 a year, 28% of the system's total black nursing student enrollment. The six predominantly white nursing programs in the system have enrolled an average of 19 black students per school per year, while North Carolina A&T State University has averaged 29 black nursing students a year and Winston-Salem State has averaged 54 black nursing students a year.

Chancellor Richmond warned the subcommittee Thursday that closing the NCCU nursing program could reopen the civil rights controversy which led to the recently-completed consent decree between the UNC system and the U. S. Department of Education.

NCCU's third argument is that its program is strong and growing. Since 1982, 72% of NCCU's nursing graduates taking the

licensure examination have passed the test the first time they took it. Although NCCU's 1989 nursing enrollment was at a low for the decade of 36, the department anticipates an 80-student enrollment for the fall of 1990, and expects to reach a 200-student enrollment in 1994.

The fourth NCCU argument is that its enrollment was reduced over the past four years because those were the UNC system's expectations. Chancellor Richmond read to the subcommittee Thursday

a statement from a 1989 report to the Board of Governors from the UNC General Administration, acknowledging that the Board's mandate for improved quality in nursing programs at NCCU, North Carolina A&T, and Winston-Salem State anticipated reduced enrollment, and stating that the intent of the Board had been met "to a significant degree."

At the Thursday meeting, Dr. Gooding told the subcommittee that the cost per student of the NCCU nursing department can be reduced

to less than \$5,000. She reported agreements with six area community colleges and technical institutes to admit their nursing graduates to NCCU with full credit for the work done in the community colleges, described efforts to reach high school students to encourage them to do the academic work required to enter a baccalaureate program in nursing, and explained counseling and advising programs in the department.

NCCU Defends Nursing Program With UNC System's Statistics

Hammering in his points with projected transparencies illustrating statistics from the University of North Carolina's own data banks, North Carolina Central University Chancellor T. R. Richmond defended NCCU's baccalaureate nursing program before a subcommittee of the UNC Board of Governors Thursday, August 9.

Chancellor Richmond's argument against closing the NCCU program could be summarized as follows:

First, the UNC General Administration is denying its own conclusions and recommendations in making the proposal.

Second, the NCCU nursing department's record is far from the worst in the system in any measurable category. It hasn't cost the most, it hasn't been the smallest program, and it hasn't produced the fewest graduates or the fewest nurses.

Third, during the past nine years the NCCU nursing program has produced more than a quarter of the state's black candidates for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, and has outperformed the state's other two historically black nursing programs in white students as well.

Fourth, since the appointment of Dr. Marion Gooding as chairman in the second semester of 1987-88, NCCU has demonstrated its ability to match the state's other nursing programs in quality and to bring its enrollment to the capacity of its facilities.

Chancellor Richmond displayed for the members of the subcommittee of the Educational Planning, Policies and Programs Committee of the Board of Governors the text of a section of a 1989 UNC report on nursing programs.

That report reminded the Board of Governors that the Board had asked that the three historically black nursing programs improve their quality, even though it was understood that efforts to achieve higher passing rates on licensing examinations would cut enrollments.

The section concluded, "In fact, the Board intent has been met to a significant degree."

Dr. Richmond called the subcommittee's attention to statistics which had been reproduced in the 1989 report, showing that NCCU had outperformed the other two historically black nursing programs in a seven-year period by producing 114 graduates who passed the nursing licensing examination on their first try. One of the other two schools had seen 69 of its graduates pass the examination, and the other 65. NCCU's percentage of graduates passing the exam was 72% for the seven years, above the standards of the North Carolina Board of Nursing and the state system, and second to Winston-Salem State among the three historically black programs.

The Chancellor then displayed statistics showing the number of black students enrolled in the state system's nine baccalaureate nursing programs. Between 1981 and 1989, the six white institutions had enrolled a total of 1,037 black nursing students (an average of 19 students per school.) North Carolina A&T had enrolled 262 black student nurses in the same period, an average of 29 students per year, and Winston-Salem State had enrolled 490 black nursing students, an average of 54 students per year. NCCU's average enrollment per year was just over 77, for a total of 694 black nursing students.

Chancellor Richmond reminded the subcommittee that closing NCCU would also have an impact on white students. During the same nine years, NCCU enrolled a total of 225 white nursing students, more than A&T or Winston-Salem State and an average of 25 white nursing students a year.

Dr. Richmond then presented data showing improvements in the performance of NCCU nursing students on the licensing examination since Dr. Gooding became chair of the department in the middle of the second semester of 1987-88.

Dr. Gooding and her faculty quickly revised the department's curriculum that semester. Because students had been enrolled under the previous curriculum, they were given the option to remain under its standards. A total of 25 students were exposed, by their own choice, to the new curriculum in 1988 and 1989. Of those 25, 23 passed the licensing examination when they took it for the first time.

Dr. Richmond said Dr. Gooding's experience as Dean of Nursing at both Tennessee State University and the Pennsylvania State University was evidence of her ability to turn nursing programs around. He expressed confidence in Dr. Gooding's plan to expand NCCU's nursing enrollment to 200 students by 1994.

Dr. Richmond then displayed materials showing that NCCU's average nursing enrollment in the past five years was 92 students, higher than the average enrollment of three other schools. He showed cost figures for the 1987 and 1988 years, and noted that costs were even higher for 1989-90, but noted that at no time had NCCU's costs been the highest in the system.

Richmond said increased funding of nursing scholarships by the state legislature, increased philanthropic funding, and the enhanced earning

potential of nurses in the face of the current shortage were additional reasons to expect NCCU's enrollment to continue to rise.

Dr. Gooding also presented her position to the subcommittee. She described the key revisions in the curriculum and programs of the department, noting that the program now uses a student development model and a learning-style model which are designed especially to benefit minority nursing students black or Hispanic.

Dr. Gooding showed the subcommittee a projection which would lower NCCU's cost per nursing student to less than \$5,000 a student by 1994, and expressed confidence that she could achieve that goal.

Joining Dr. Richmond and Dr. Gooding for the presentation were a number of community representatives, including senior officials of Duke University Medical Center, Durham County General Hospital, Lincoln Community Health Center, and the "City of Medicine" program. Each expressed support for the continuation and enhancement of NCCU's nursing program, and expressed the belief that their institutions and the community are dependent on the NCCU program for well-trained nurses.

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EAGLES' CALENDAR

AUGUST 15-19 (Wednesday-Sunday), First National African-American Leadership Training Conference and Civil Rights Reunion, Health Sciences Building. Speakers and panelists include James Farmer, Jamil Al-Amin, Julian Bond, Floyd McKissick, John Edwards. (Students welcome. Call 919 690-1525 for information.)

AUGUST 15 (Wednesday), 7:30 p. m., James Farmer speaks at first session of First National African-American Leadership Training Conference and Civil Rights Reunion. Admission is free, and the public is invited to this session. Health Sciences Building Auditorium. For information 919 560-6433 or 560-6367.

AUGUST 15 (Wednesday), Freshman Orientation begins.

AUGUST 17-21 (Friday-Tuesday), Registration. (No registration Sunday.)

AUGUST 22 (Wednesday), Classes Begin.

SEPTEMBER 3 (Monday), Labor Day Holiday. No classes.

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RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS DUE BY AUGUST 15
Saturday, September 1, 1990 Departure Time: 12 Noon K-Mart Parking Lot, Avondale Drive
Departure time 6:30 p.m. for the game.
Sunday, September 2, 1990 Departure time 12 Noon, return to Durham.

Game Tickets \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for students may be purchased at time of reservation or from the NCCU Athletic Department or other NCCU ticket outlets.

361-2151



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