

OPINION

THE CHRONICLE

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Our Mission

The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community.

Let us hope UNC Board changes tune

The votes are in. The results are out. The General Assembly has named the 16 members of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors who will replace the 16 whose terms are expiring. Eight were chosen by the Senate and eight by the House. They start their terms on July 1.

Current Chairman John Fennebresque and Vice Chairman Louis Bissette were chosen by the Senate to return. Board member Harry Smith Jr.'s term won't be up until 2017.

Smith will have Fennebresque to help lead the charge to "right-size" the 17-campus UNC system. Will any of the new members have the courage to vote against such a move?

The Senate chose four incumbents and four newcomers. The House chose three incumbents and five newcomers. Among the 16 people are a few former law enforcement officers, some present and former lawmakers, attorneys, an accountant and a former business executive.

The current Board is top-heavy with people in occupations related to business as an owner, a retired owner or top official of a business.

The next occupations that people on the Board have are attorneys and people in the financial arena. There are only two people connected to government and two connected to community volunteer work. There is one doctor. There are no educators or former educators.

Fennebresque and Bissette are attorneys. Smith is a businessman.

These are the people who govern the 17-campus UNC system, an education system. How can a policy-making body make decisions about education when there are no educators or former educators on the Board?

While the Board of Governors entertains talk of closing schools, maybe they should get educated in finance.

According to a February report on the collective economic value of the UNC System, during the fiscal year 2012-13 analysis year, shows that payroll and operations spending of UNC universities and the UNC Medical Center, together with the spending of their students, visitors, alumni and start-up companies, created \$27.9 billion in added state income to the North Carolina economy.

So, who wants to cut any of that money out of the state economy? And who wants to close schools that are educating students and giving them education that helps them find jobs and make good money?

That's what Winston-Salem State University Chancellor Elwood Robinson calls "nonsense." WSSU has statistics to show that officials, faculty and staff are doing what colleges and universities are supposed to do: educate students to achieve success.

Let's hope the new members on the UNC Board of Governors will bring common sense to the board and no more "nonsense."

New UNC Board members

Chosen by the Senate

- *Sen. Thom Goolsby of Wilmington
- *O. Temple Sloan III, the previous chief executive of the Raleigh-based Carquest auto parts chain now owned by Advance Auto Parts
- *Former U.S. Magistrate Judge William Webb
- *Fayetteville lawyer Michael Williford
- *Current Chairman John Fennebresque
- *Current Vice Chairman Louis Bissette
- *Incumbent Frank Grainger
- *Incumbent Anna Spangler Nelson

Chosen by the House

- Rep. Pearl Burris-Floyd
- Former Rutherford County Sheriff Philip Byers
- Accountant Walter Davenport
- Attorney Joe Knott III
- Land developer Alex Mitchell
- Incumbent James Holmes Jr.
- Incumbent Mary Ann Maxwell
- Incumbent David Powers

Go to <http://www.northcarolina.edu/apps/bog/members.htm> for the list of current UNC Board of Governors.

Go to <http://www.northcarolina.edu/?q=content/unc-economic-value-full-report> to see the economic report.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We need disclosure from Roy Cooper

To the Editor:

Attorney General Roy Cooper is again not fully disclosing to the North Carolina public his role in supporting and defending what many have termed as one of the most restrictive voter suppression laws in America.

On this important issue, it is extremely unfortunate that Attorney General Roy Cooper would mislead the recipients of his most recent email and video regarding his own actions as Attorney General and the voter suppression laws in North Carolina. Roy Cooper's video criticizes the Republican governor and legislature about their recently enacted voter suppression laws, while at the same time leaving out the fact that he and his Office are defending and supporting these same voter suppression laws in court.



Spaulding



Cooper

What is even more insulting to minorities, non-minorities, independents, unaffiliated voters, Democrats and others in this state is that Roy Cooper is seeking to raise campaign contributions from the very people who are being misled and not told the full story about his role in defending these voter suppression laws in court. This is wrong and these are the types of actions that have soured so many people against politics and politicians. In North Carolina, we can do better.

As governor, I would encourage our citizens to vote and be a constructive part of electing our public officials into office. Restricting the pool of voters for political gain would not be a part of our strong and fair North Carolina democracy. It is unfortunate that Attorney General Roy Cooper and his Office have been a part of the problem and not a part of the solution.

Ken Spaulding,
Democratic candidate for governor of North Carolina

We can stop pollution by pigs with our meals

To the Editor,

North Carolina's pork industry is facing a federal lawsuit for mucking up the state's lakes and rivers and polluting the air. While pig farmers should be held accountable for degrading the environment, we must all share in the responsibility for

cleaning up our planet. Everyone can help do this simply by eating more vegan foods.

News reports indicate that the 10 million hogs in North Carolina produce as much fecal waste in a day as 100 million humans. This manure is stored in giant lagoons as large as three football fields.

The treated waste — which contains nitrates, phosphorus, and bacteria — is then sprayed on fields, and it often seeps into waterways. The Environmental Protection Agency has said that factory farms pollute our waterways more than all other industrial sources combined.

If this wasn't bad enough, the meat industry also contributes to climate change, deforestation, and other serious problems. If you like the taste of pork, but don't want to contribute to environmental degradation or animal suffering, choose great-tasting vegan meats, including soy sausage and veggie bacon.

See www.PETA.org for more information and product suggestions.



Heather Moore
The PETA Foundation
Norfolk, VA

would take note and join in any resistance if our city is potentially to be one of the next political casualties. We must be vigilant!

Anne G. Wilson



Thank you for Lifetime Achievement Award

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the Chronicle for giving me one of its Lifetime Achievement Awards at its 30th Annual Community Service Awards. I have received awards and honors from all over the United States. This awards means more to me than any because it was given to me by my peers, colleagues, community and hometown.

Last year I received the Carl H. Russell Sr. Community Center Black History Role Model Award. Benjamin H. Piggott is the center director.

The Modicum within me causes me to be flattered to receive such an award because it is a symbol of The Chronicle's acknowledgement of my contributions to the community.

Conversely, sometimes people are honored after they are dead. I am glad to be honored while I am still alive.

Lenwood G. Davis
Retired WSSU professor
and author

