

Critics Say Chambers Is On Target With Getting Alumni More Involved

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ing up, as well as the university's physical plant.

"We've got to raise private funds because the state doesn't have the funds to make repairs. The facilities have been neglected over a number of years. We simply didn't receive the funding that other schools received historically. With a 16-campus university system, a community college system and a public high school system there are only so many dollars available. We have the major problem in catching up. We have additional demands made by increasing student population."

To help solve these problems, the university is launching a yet-unnamed \$50 million campaign this fall. "Fund raising will be a major part of what we'll be about for the next two or three years," Chambers said.

Chambers said by improving the scholarship fund, the school will compete in attracting higher-caliber students. "A lack of scholarship money is one of the major areas that deter African Americans from getting an education." By cutting some programs, the school increased the fund to \$132,000 for 1993-94. "But that's not enough. We need to increase it to at least \$1 million," he said.

Chambers said the school also has to ensure the students get the proper education by attracting - and keeping - top faculty. He plans to do this by establishing endowed chairs.

There are 24 departments and three additional schools. The (university) has never had one. The goal is to have an endowed chair in at least every school and department that we have. The

first phase is to establish at least 10."

What the school teaches will have the greatest impact on attracting students, faculty and ensuring its survival, Chambers said.

"The goal we have is to be one of the top institutions in the country in terms of liberal arts education - one that focuses on relevance in today's market. In our education programs our concern should be how do you teach poor kids? How do you teach law in a way that will enable those trained at this institution to represent poor people. . . If the institution can develop programs that are relevant to our people today, and those programs are quality programs, it will satisfy the objectives we have in developing a top-notch institution recognized across the country."

Chambers is also concerned with getting alumni more involved. He asked for and got input from alums in selecting applicants to fill vacancies in vice chancellorships.

"We must ensure they provide the major support for the school as they should. We must do what we need to do to increase alumni support," Chambers said.

Ronald H. Gantt, Central's national alumni president, appreciates Chambers' efforts.

"We have been working closely with him. He wants alumni on various committees, especially search committees for vice chancellors," Gantt said in a phone interview from Louisville, Ky. "He wants alumni input. I think he's been the first chancellor to involve the alumni as much as he has."

"I'm very happy with him," Gantt said. "He's trying to get

more funds for the university. He's gone out to corporations and has gotten them to give money to our scholarship fund. He's gotten groups

to set up the endowed chairs. Everyone seems to be pleased I've not heard a lot of dissension."

Chambers, a native North

Carolinian, started his academic career in 1954 when he enrolled at NCCU (then called North Carolina College). Even then, people

knew he was destined for greatness.

"He came there getting right

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