

The Carolina Journal

The Student Newspaper of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Volume XI, Number 20

Charlotte, North Carolina

February 3, 1976

Urban Administration masters

By Brad Rich

UNCC may soon be able to offer a Master's Degree in Urban Administration according to Dr. Schley R. Lyons, Chairman of the Political Science Department. Lyons said the degree, first proposed about a year and a half ago, has been approved by the graduate deans of the state university system and the graduate faculty, and now needs only "the approval of University President Bill Friday and the Board of Governors."

The proposed Masters of Urban Administration (MUR) is one of only three graduate programs examined by the university system in the last few years due to a lack of money. Before approval, it must be checked for integrity, overlapping with other programs and duplication of resources.

The Political Science Department has put together a booklet which describes the degree its goals and its needs. According to the booklet, "The basic objective of the Master of Urban Administration degree program is to provide curriculum which will offer professional training in public administration with a special emphasis on the management of urban systems and local governance." The program will admit, for the most part, candidates who are in-service employees of urban governmental units in this region of North Carolina.

Three curriculum options will be offered by the program. As stated in the booklet they are: "(1) a general component of core areas of competence in urban administration, (2) a narrower focus in areas of functional specialization, and (3) directed study in applied urban administration." This format was modeled on the curriculum guidelines set by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration in April of 1974.

Though there are similar programs already existing in North Carolina at Duke, Chapel Hill, and N.C. State, the program at UNCC will contrast in at least three main ways with these. (1) It is designed primarily for a clientele that is mid-career rather than pre-entry, (2) Most of the metropolitan area mid-career clientele cannot become students at the already-existing programs because of the long distance-driving required and (3) the proposed program has a more distinctly urban focus than the others. "In summary," the report says, "there is little conflict and overlap with existing masters programs within the state."

The program is definitely justified. UNCC is an urban institution adjacent to the largest city in North Carolina, and the area has problems like all other urban areas. Again quoting the report, "A graduate program in urban administration can provide educational and training opportunities for those persons who will participate directly in governmental efforts to provide services and resolve problems in the Piedmont region of North Carolina and elsewhere."

The need for the program is obvious. A 1972 estimate indicated job opportunities in city and state government will increase 40 percent by 1980. If this is true, many of these people, both pre-entry and mid-career will require continuing or additional education in able to keep up with the rapidly changing urban centers.

If approved, the degree requirements for a Masters in Urban Administration will be: 18 hours in the basic "core areas of competence" on "oral examination on degree progress," 12 hours in a "functional area of specialization" and six hours in a "directed study in applied urban administration." Admission will be through the Director of Graduate

Studies. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an approved institution, a 2.5 grade average as an undergraduate and satisfactory completion of the Miller Analogies Test. The Graduate Record Committee in the Political Science Department will review

all applications.

Dr. Lyons said there is a budget attached to the proposed program, but it has not, nor necessarily will be approved. "It is possible," he stated, "for the program to be accepted and the budget

rejected."

In general, there seems to be a genuine need in the area for the program. Many area politicians, including city councilmen and county administrators have written in support of the proposal and soon it may be a reality.

Sheikh Rustum Ali discusses Bangladesh and the oil crisis

By Susan Sluss

January 27th, UNCC had an opportunity to find out some very interesting facts about both the world oil crisis and the small country of Bangladesh, which stirred American hearts in 1972.

The Honorable Sheikh Rustum Ali, the second secretary of the Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, spoke on the topic of "Politics of Oil and the Fourth World." He came on the invitation of the Committee for Asian and African Studies and the Program for International Studies at UNCC.

Dr. Ali feels that in 1970 through 1972, the oil price increase was a natural increase due to financial problems and the devaluation of the United States dollar, but in 1973, the increase was due to political reasons of the Middle East countries. His theory is, though, instead of hitting the industrial countries such as the United States, it hit the small, unindustrial countries such as Bangladesh.

Dr. Ali said, "In part, due to political and economic pressure from the United States, the energy crisis started as early as the 1950's."

Dr. Ali has had a book published recently by Praeger in their "Special Studies Series" in which he analyzes Saudi Arabia's use of petrodollars in the settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict.

"Oil is the number one industry in the world, and financially speaking, the most important," is the way Dr. Ali began his discussion.

He went into the history of the oil industry, saying that in 1930, the United States was the chief exporter of oil. After World War I, oil was discovered in Texas and sold for five cents a barrel. In 1974, oil was selling for \$15.00 a barrel. The Middle East countries are now the chief exporters of oil.

Dr. Daniel White of the Religious Department felt, "It was an excellent idea on our campus. We brought a man from the fourth world who is also a research scholar and could address intelligently the relationship between the petroleum crisis and the fourth world economic crisis. It's a current topic, and a topic that involves fragile tension between countries in the Middle East and between each other."

Dr. Ali brought in an interesting comparison when describing the United States and Bangladesh and the oil crisis. He said, "The U.S. can reduce the amount of oil she uses, Bangladesh cannot. The U.S. uses 70 million barrels of oil a day whereas Bangladesh uses 51 barrels a year. For example, there are 17 lights burning in the room we are in (Board of Trustees conference room) where in Bangladesh, we burn one light. We cannot turn off the one light."

In conclusion, he said, "The poor countries are looking to the new oil producing countries for relief, like a dying person in the hospital who can't do anything but silently looks for medical relief."

Carolina Journal photo by Susan Cole



Sheikh Rustum Ali, second secretary of the Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, spoke on campus this past week.

News Analysis

UNCC hurt by isolation

By Les Bowen

(Editor's Note: This article is the first of a two-part series dealing with UNCC's relationship with the Charlotte community. This week's article will outline some of the problems involved in the relationship. Next week we will look at what the university is doing to combat the problem.)

If you were to stop an average Charlottean on the street and ask him to tell you everything he knows about UNCC, he could probably do so in 20 seconds or less. He would tell you UNCC is somewhere to the north of Charlotte and he might know UNCC has a good basketball team. Chances are he would tell you he has never actually been to the school and he has no idea what is taught there.

UNCC's isolation from the Charlotte community has been a major problem since the school's inception. One reason for UNCC's identity crisis is the location of the campus. When the present site was chosen and the school was moved from downtown 15 years ago, the rationale was the school needed plenty of room to grow and Charlotte's growth would soon fill the void between the city limits and the campus. UNCC has grown phenomenally since then, as has Charlotte, but UNCC still remains a veritable outpost of civilization amongst the wilderness. Charlotte will eventually catch up with the university. In the

meantime, the school will just have to continue laboring in obscurity.

One facet of the problem is the school's newness. Many more Charlotte residents are alumni of UNC-Chapel Hill or N.C. State than are graduates of UNCC. As UNCC students graduate and become adult members of the Charlotte community, UNCC will gain the strong alumni base it needs to form a better relationship with the community.

Another reason for UNCC's less-than-idyllic relationship with Charlotte is the school's academic image. Most Charlotteans think of UNCC as a third-rate institution - a place where people go when they cannot get in UNC-Chapel Hill, N.C. State, Duke, Wake Forest or Davidson. This is simply not true. Incoming UNCC freshmen in 1974-75 had an average SAT score of 958. The scores declined slightly this year both nationally and at UNCC, but the school ranks fourth in SAT scores among the 16 institutions in the University of North Carolina system.

The image of UNCC as an inferior institution stems from its days as Charlotte College. The school has updated its academics considerably in the ten and one half years since it attained university status, but public opinion changes slowly and the community's impressions of UNCC's academics remain rooted in the past.