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No more student fees commission; Administration creates new body

By Brad Rich

The UNCC Administration, acting under the authority of Section 5020-3 of the Board of Governor's Code, has abolished the Student Fees Commission and replaced it with a structure designed to 'tighten accountability' of student activity money.

The old Student Fees Commission, composed of six representatives from the Student Association (two each from the Media Board, the University Program Board and the Student Body Government) and three duly-elected at-large representatives has been supplanted by an organization composed of one representative from each of the three divisions, four at-large representatives appointed by the Chancellor and two non-voting faculty/staff advisors, also to be appointed by the Chancellor.

In an emergency meeting of the old Student Fees Commission Wednesday night, April 20th at 9:00 pm, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Doug Orr and Dean of Students Dennis Rash answered questions from Fees Commission members as well as members of the general Student Association, and explained the reasoning for the sudden policy shift.

According to both Rash and Orr, the new Board of Governors' Code gives the Chancellor the responsibility for seeing that activity fees are spent honestly and efficiently; a responsibility not delegated to him in the past.

Because of evidence turned up by this year's University audit that fees were not being spent as prudently as possible, Chancellor Colvard created the Student Activity Review Committee. This semester, the Committee conducted open hearings and studied fee allocation systems at other Southeastern universities, to devise a more efficient system at UNCC.

According to Rash and Orr, the Chancellor's new system utilizes the Review Committee's recommendations with two alterations: one; the Chancellor will appoint the Chairperson rather than the Commission itself, and two; the Chancellor will appoint the two faculty/staff advisors, rather than the Commission itself. Also the Chancellor refused to go along with the Committee suggestion to put the changes to a student referendum.

But it isn't that simple, according to Michael Evans, Chairperson of the Review Committee's Subcommittee that was devised to recommend a new structure. Evans, and ex-Student Body President Rickey Pharr, say the Sub-Committee had not indeed adopted any recommendations, rather they had passed them in order to 'expedite matters'. Evans says he and other committee members had only passed the recommendations in the subcommittee under the assumption that they could vote against incorporating them as the report from the full Committee to the Chancellor.

The Administration claims the Subcommittee has finished its work and has given its recommendations in a memo from the Review Committee Chairperson John Fraley to Dr. Orr. Evans and the Subcommittee feel the memo clearly stated that the Committee's final report was forth coming, and that the recommendations in Fraley's memo were not final. The controversial passage in the memo reads: "I am submitting the recommendations as the Committee

approves each portion; however, I will submit an additional report in its entirety when the Committee finishes all proposals."

Evans and the Committee, as well as various members of the Student Association, feel that a breakdown in communications has occurred, and that the issue is certainly not dead. The Administration feels that Chairperson Fraley's memo gave them the authority

to act, as Dean Rash said, "In order to expedite matters."

At the emergency meeting, the Student Association voted 6-0-1 in favor of a motion to initiate a general letter-writing campaign against the change and to investigate the possibility of taking the issue to state court.

Student Fees Commission Chairperson Doug Lerner chaired the meeting, attended by Student Body

President Chase Idol as well as representatives from the Media Board, the Program Board, Student Court and Student Body Government.

Lerner read from a list of 18 suggested actions for the students to consider in regards to the change. Many were met with disapproval, but after a long debate, the previously mentioned motion was passed.

Pharr looks back on "good year"

By Nancy Davis

With the installation of Chase Idol as president of the Student Body, UNCC Student Government begins a new year.

In Idol's first official speech as president to the Student Legislature, he promised to commit himself and stated that he would work hard to create a cohesive bond in the working fields of the University.

Before all the attention is focused on the new president, it should be remembered that another man is leaving the same office after serving for a year as Student Body President. Rickey Pharr has had a very busy year, but according to Pharr it was a "good year".

Pharr sees the work with the student fees as both the Student Government's biggest accomplishment and failure of last year. In the past, the Media Board and the University Program Board got first hand in the student fees. Student Government was left with the remaining amount. For the first time this year, Student Government got a larger percentage of the student fees. Pharr said that it was a big goal

that they be "co-equal with the UPB and the Media Board".

At the same time, Pharr said he found it disappointing in trying to "sell the question of control of student fees". Pharr has worked with the Student Fees Commission in trying to enable the students to be in charge of their fees. He feels that the announcement by Vice Chancellor Orr to change the structure of the Fees Commission was done without any negotiation with other members of the commission. Graduating this semester, Pharr is waiting to hear from UNCC and UNC, where he plans to attend graduate school in Public Administration.

The new president is in office now, and calling for the strengthening as individuals and as a University to form a "strong, unifying relationship". The old president is out of office now and sees Idol's year as one that will be very hectic for him. However, the old and the new both see the job as very rewarding.

Pharr said that the decision to change the committee from six

Carolina Journal photo by Lisa Laney



Rickey Pharr, Student Body President for the 76-77 year

division members (two from each division) and three students appointed at-large by the commission to three division members and four appointed by the Chancellor was done arbitrarily.

The biggest personal satisfaction Pharr said he has received this year has been "working with people in the office." He added that they were friends and more than just political acquaintances.

Chancellor Colvard Has never read UNCC's Student Constitution

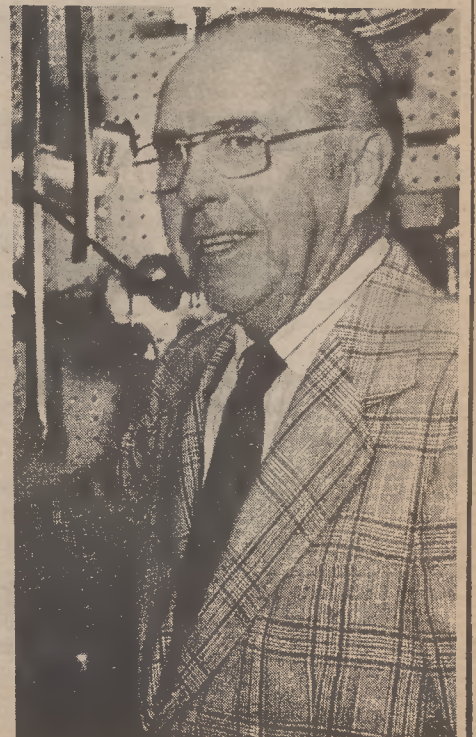
By Doug Lerner

Chancellor Dean Colvard revealed Thursday, in a meeting with Student Fees Commission Chairman Doug Lerner and former Carolina Journal Editor, Michael Evans, that in spite of the fact that he maintains there are certain "inadequacies" in the Student Body Constitution, he has never, in fact, read the document.

The surprise admission was made in the middle of a private discussion in which Colvard was defending the abolition of the Student Fees

Commission (see related story). Colvard explained he could "not read the 'proposed' Constitution until Student Affairs submitted it to him." Colvard did not explain how he knew the document, ratified by the Student Body last March, was faulty without reading it.

The Chancellor further maintained that it was "unnecessary to hold a referendum on every little matter that comes up." This was said in reference to his directive abolishing the Student Fees Commission and altering the Student Body Constitution.



UNCC Chancellor D.W. Colvard