

The Carolina Journal

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Monday, March 30, 1981

For
Student Body President

Run-Off Elections Wednesday & Thursday

Cone Center
9am-3pm and 6pm-8pm
Dorm Cafeteria
11:30-1:30 and 4:30-7pm

For UPB Chair



Gatling



Simms



Purgason



O'Neil

Harris has Plans as New Vice-Chair

By Debbie Miller
Carolina Journal Photo Editor

"I didn't expect to win, but since I did, I'm ready to work," said Mike Harris, newly elected Vice-Chair of UPB.

Harris, who soundly defeated incumbent Mary Sue Macke 650-521, is currently Holshouser Hall Representative to the student legislature, and has many ideas on promotion and student involvement in UPB next year.

"I want to act as a sounding board for the students. I want to be visible, so the students will come to me with complaints, compliments, and suggestions and know that UPB will hear them," Harris added.

Programming doesn't come new to Harris who helped work to establish RHA and served within the organization for two years.

Harris has specific ideas that he feels will better inform the students on UPB activities. He sees a need for having centralized locations for UPB bulletin boards with a calendar of events for the week or month.

On the issue of UPB/RHA relations, Harris feels the two organizations could and should work closer together on programming for the students. "I hope that my relationship with RHA and its leaders will make me a linking pin in future relations between the two groups.

College Student Aid Offices Paralyzed

College Press Service

The Reagan Administration's 45-day freeze on processing applications for federal financial aid has virtually paralyzed most college student aid offices, but promises to cause even more problems for students during the summer, according to various aid officers.

They predict students, when they are informed of how much aid they'll be getting for the 1981-82 academic year, will probably be getting much less than they had anticipated. Because of the delay caused by the freeze, however, students may not hear until the summer, when they may not have enough time before the start of fall term to scrape together money from other sources.

As a result, some administrators expect there may be an exodus next fall of students from private colleges to less expensive public colleges.

The uncertainty prevalent in most financial aid offices since Reagan proposed massive cuts in student aid programs—including Pell Grants (formerly Basic Educational Opportunity Grants), Guaranteed Student Loans, and National Direct Student Loans—was replaced by a more urgent, frustrated atmosphere last week when Secretary of Education Terrel Bell announced the freeze.

Bell said the government would process no more Pell Grant applications until Congress acted on his proposals to change the eligibility requirements for the grants.

But because Pell Grants help determine what other kinds of financial aid students can get, the freeze has effectively stopped the awarding of all federal aid during this, the busiest time for assembling aid "packages," says Dallas Martin of the National

Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

Colleges are adopting two different strategies to cope with the emergency. One is to wait until it's settled. The other is to, as one administrator put it, "go through the motions." Both, aid administrators say, do little more than delay the effects of the freeze until the summer.

"Going through the motions" allows aid offices to continue to construct aid packages for students even though the packages will probably fall apart during the summer, says Joanne Eberle, aid officer at Lehigh University. Until the summer, all anyone can do is wait, she says.

"We can't do much now in the way of estimating awards or projecting effects on enrollment," agrees Norman Beck, director of Ball State's University's aid office. "But we'll be pushed into high gear over the summer, between processing awards and talking on the phone to students and parents who are worried they won't get enough money to go to school in the fall."

Beck says the time between a student applying for aid and getting the aid can normally stretch to three or four months.

A school screens aid applications in late winter, forwards the survivors to the federal government for review, and finally hears of the fate of each application in March, April and May, Beck explains. Then his office scrambles to complete the aid package with money from other sources. The student usually hears about the final package in late May or early June.

But this year, most students won't learn their fates until just a few weeks before the beginning of fall term. For those students who receive less from

the government than they requested—and many students will get less if the president's budget cuts are approved—those last few weeks will be nothing less than "havoc" as they try to find the rest of the money they need in time, Eberle says.

Nevertheless some schools prefer "going through the regular motions" to "sitting in a holding pattern," notes University of Virginia associate aid director James Ramsey. Thus his school is forging ahead assembling aid packages just as it did in March of last year. The difference is that this year the packages are temporary, he says.

He expects he'll "have to go back to the drawing board" when the government belatedly announces its aid awards in the summer.

"Right now we're sending letters on the assumption students will receive the full amount requested from the government," Ramsey notes. "But we're adding a warning that these projections are only temporary."

Moreover, Ramsey adds that for the first time he can remember UVA is offering students "two or three hundred dollars less than they need."

He worries that bills for tuition may arrive before aid packages can be revamped in the summer, and that "this is going to cause a lot of hassles for students who panic that they can't pay the bills."

Other administrators don't see much reason to go through the motions. At the University of Washington, aid officer Catherine Dyson avers, "We can't decide how to deal with it until summer. We can't recruit actively because we can't offer potential students money."

Adds the University of Wyoming's Delbert Smith, "We're in a holding pattern. We can't even judge next fall's enrollment."

To ease students' worries, many schools are devising temporary loan plans specifically tailored to help meet the first tuition bill of the fall. Virginia's Ramsey notes his school has a good reputation for "covering such immediate needs," and is sure he can uphold the reputation as long as students repay the loans within a few months.

Beck says Ball State has already begun a plan to provide temporary financing to students, which means "there'll be a problem in cash flow, obviously at a cost to the institution. But we have to do it," he concludes.

None of the aid officers contacted for this article by College Press Service, however, had much hope of making up all the money lost if the Reagan cutbacks are approved.

"There simply aren't enough university funds to make up the difference," Eberle says, voicing a common lament. She adds that most schools' top priority will be to provide for currently-enrolled students, usually with temporary loans.

If a two-month loan isn't sufficient, "students are going to have to make fast decisions about staying here or withdrawing," she mourns.

While that may sound harsh, Ball State's Beck predicts a large number of students at private schools like Lehigh are going to have to contemplate transferring to less expensive public colleges. Considering the squeeze on students from rising tuitions and shrinking aid, Washington's Dyson calls the migration to state schools "inevitable."