

Charles Knapp



Former Director, Aspen Institute Think Tank

By KATIE ABEL
University Editor

As a seasoned administrator who took a two-year break from the university scene, Charles Knapp left his post at a Washington, D.C., think tank this summer to return to higher education.

His freedom from current institutional ties could signal perfect timing for him to take UNC's helm.

A top candidate in the 1994 chancellor search, Knapp, then-president of the University of Georgia, withdrew his name following widespread media leaks.

Former search committee members said Knapp was the committee's second choice for the chancellorship four years ago.

A UGa. colleague who worked closely with Knapp during his presidency said he was a natural choice for the post.

"I would be surprised if he wasn't interested," said Tom Rogers, interim associate vice president for public service.

"I still respect him a lot," he said. "He has lots of style, and it is not just show."

A native of Ames, Iowa, Knapp received a bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in 1968.

He also earned master's and doctoral degrees in economics from the

University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1972.

Knapp served in the administration of President Jimmy Carter as special assistant to the U.S. secretary of labor and as deputy assistant secretary of labor for employment and training.

He also held top posts at Tulane University in New Orleans as senior vice president from 1982 to 1985 and executive vice president from 1985 to 1987.

Knapp, who became the president of UGa. in 1987, was very effective in building ties with the Georgia legislature, Rogers said.

Nearly \$400 million in capital construction projects had been completed or were in progress when Knapp left Georgia in 1997.

"He was very good at external affairs," Rogers said.

Maintaining legislative clout is critical for UNC's next chancellor, especially with the system's dire need for significant state funding in the next several years.

While at UGa., Knapp also spurred a significant enrollment increase and boosted faculty and student diversity numbers, some of the most important issues for UNC's next chancellor as well.

In 1997, Knapp resigned from his UGa. post to become director of the Aspen Institute, which provides seminars for corporate and political leaders.

He remained at his think tank post for only two years before he announced plans to return to academia.

After serving in several interim positions since June, Knapp last week took a job with the Atlanta office of Heidrick and Struggles - the search firm conducting the current UNC chancellor search.

With a combination of significant administrative and political experience, the current search committee could be again looking to Knapp as a top chancellor candidate.

Knapp could not be reached for comment after repeated attempts.

Richard McCormick



President, University of Washington

By ASTA YTRE
Staff Writer

Friends of Richard McCormick say a lack of financial support for higher education has frustrated McCormick in his current position as president at the University of Washington, making him more likely to accept a post for the UNC chancellorship.

The former UNC provost, who was one of the two finalist candidates during the University's last chancellor search, has held his post at University of Washington since September 1995.

"He is willing to think big and that has run him into a lot of frustration in Seattle," said Jackson Lears, a history professor at Rutgers University who was recruited by McCormick. "The consensus has been in a mood of retrenchment with respect to the support for higher education, and that must be frustrating for Dick."

And former colleagues say McCormick's communication skills, administrative prowess and vision for the future would make him a good fit at UNC. "I think he would be good at UNC-Chapel Hill," said David Oshinsky, history professor at Rutgers University and a long-time personal friend of McCormick.

"He was, and still is, a top-flight academic, and he understands what it takes to succeed academically. He has respect

for faculty and students, and he is very easy to talk to and always able to understand where other people come from."

McCormick received a bachelor's degree from Amherst College in 1969 and a Ph.D. in history from Yale University in 1976.

He held several positions at Rutgers University, where he started his academic career as a professor in 1985, including dean of arts and sciences (1989-92) and chairman of the Department of History (1987-89).

He was named UNC provost in 1992 and served until 1995 when he accepted the post at the University of Washington.

Oshinsky said McCormick's previous experience would make him an effective chancellor. "Dick is one of those people that move up the ladder for all the right reasons," Oshinsky said. "He has been at Rutgers, UNC and University of Washington - all major state universities with million dollar budgets, and he has been incredibly successful. He would be just as successful as chancellor."

McCormick was also one of the two final candidates considered in the last chancellor search in 1994. His name was submitted by the search committee to the Board of Trustees and then to the UNC-system president's office, but the late Michael Hooker was preferred for the position, said John Sanders, Board of Governors member and a member of the last search committee.

Oshinsky said McCormick's people skills made him a good administrator. "He is able to make people work together toward common goals and great with recruitment, fund raising and creating new programs."

Barry Qualls, dean of arts and sciences at Rutgers, also said McCormick's communication skills made him a great candidate. "He knows how to relate to legislators, faculty and students," Qualls said. "He is someone who manages to speak to all constituents. He does not always agree, but he always listens."

After repeated attempts, McCormick could not be reached for comment.

Hunter Rawlings



President, Cornell University

By KATIE ABEL
University Editor

After four years at the helm of an Ivy League institution, Hunter Rawlings, the top candidate in the last UNC chancellor search, is likely to be high on the committee's list again this year.

Current search committee members could jump at the chance of snagging the popular Cornell University president.

But it is questionable whether Rawlings would abandon a Cornell administration still in its infant stages.

In 1995, Rawlings, then-president of the University of Iowa, withdrew from the 1995 UNC chancellor search after his name was leaked to the media.

That same year he took the president's post at Cornell.

A former Iowa colleague said Rawlings would be a strong candidate for UNC's open leadership position, but that he seemed content with his work at Cornell.

Ann Rhodes, vice president for university relations at Iowa, said Rawlings was an excellent administrator and a very approachable leader when she worked with him at Iowa.

"He is very capable and very smart," she said.

Rhodes pointed to Rawlings' classics knowledge and love for the Latin language as indications of his strong academic background.

Rhodes said Rawlings remained busy at Cornell, traveling frequently and dividing his time between Cornell's main campus in Ithaca, N.Y., and the university's medical school in New York City.

Committee members have stressed that UNC's next chancellor should have some experience with academic health institutions.

Rawlings' work with one of the country's most prestigious medical schools coupled with his time as a graduate school dean are some of Rawlings' biggest selling points in the arena of research.

UNC's next chancellor must continue to build the University's research facets at a time when bringing in increased research funding is becoming more critical.

Rhodes also said Rawlings had constant contact with the students during his time at Iowa, one of the most important roles of a chancellor at any top undergraduate institution.

The late Chancellor Michael Hooker attempted to build a strong relationship with UNC students during his short tenure but struggled to remain popular among students and faculty.

Rhodes said Rawlings was comfortable among Iowa students and remained very visible on campus throughout his administration.

"He even taught one of the freshman seminar classes," she said.

Rawlings graduated from Haverford College in 1966. He later received a graduate degree from Princeton University in 1970.

He began teaching at the University of Colorado-Boulder in 1970.

Rawlings rose quickly in the administrative ranks.

He eventually became vice president of academic affairs and dean of the graduate school before taking the helm at Iowa in 1988.


Rawlings was out of the country and could not be reached for comment after repeated attempts.

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