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Welcome Aboard

James Moeser seems a good choice, but he should re-examine his stance on tuition hikes and brush up on managing a major hospital.

It's great that the Chancellor Search Committee took only 10 months to find James Moeser, UNC's next chancellor, beating the 18 months it took the committee to find the late Chancellor Michael Hooker.

And while Moeser will bring some much-needed qualities to the position of chancellor, he has his work cut out for him.

But his personality promises to shake up things at UNC for the better. Unlike most chancellors of major research universities, Moeser has a fine-arts background.

Fortunately, he's not just another businessman. He's a world-famous organist who was an active player until 1993.

Before becoming chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, he was the dean of fine arts at Pennsylvania State University. UNC's search committee did a good job of thinking outside the box in choosing Moeser as UNC's next chancellor.

"He's passionate about his job as I imagine he would be about playing in a concert," said Josh Funk, editor of The Daily Nebraskan, UNL's campus newspaper.



James Moeser

It's All About the Benjamins

Moeser also has shown he knows how to raise money. As chancellor of UNL, he was successful in getting \$20 million in additional funds from the state legislature in a special funding bill to raise faculty salaries. The cash brought UNL's salaries to about the average salaries at its peer institutions.

Unfortunately for UNC students, though, Moeser has also shown a willingness to raise tuition. He already has increased tuition for next semester at UNL. "I think there will have to be some increase in tuition (at UNC)," Moeser said Friday. "I don't think you can keep it rock bottom."

Like UNC, Nebraska has a long tradition of providing an affordable education for all students. But it seems unlikely that Moeser will be a strong advocate for students next time the Board of Trustees wants to hand them a tuition increase.

Moeser might understand all the technical details of the pros and cons of tuition hikes, but he doesn't yet seem to appreciate all the nuances and emotion that the mere thought of one evokes in North Carolina.

When the BOT in October proposed raising tuition by thousands of dollars across the board, hundreds of students protested. The plan also sparked dozens of professors to form the Progressive Faculty Network against the increase. It would be wise, then, for Moeser to consider this year's tuition debate

before he opens up another can of worms.

On the plus side, Moeser wants to bolster the University's endowment. Currently, the endowment generates less of a return than most of its peer institutions' endowments, so dealing better with the endowment definitely something Moeser should work on.

Besides, a stronger endowment might reduce the need for future tuition increases.

Taking On UNC Health Care

While Moeser has shown the fortitude to take on the University's endowment, he would do well to focus his attention south — where UNC Hospitals spends and earns hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

The money rush doesn't show any signs of slowing, as UNC Health Care recently finalized its purchase of Rex Hospital in Raleigh.

When the search committee began looking for a chancellor, members said they wanted someone with experience running a hospital. The chancellor, after all, is responsible for UNC Health Care's increasingly independent and profit-driven management.

UNL, on the other hand, doesn't even have a medical school or a hospital.

Because of his lack of experience, it doesn't seem like Moeser is qualified to run such a huge hospital. He needs a quick initiation, given UNC Health Care's increasingly independent and profit-driven management.

Last fall, he did have to deal with a medical controversy of sorts, though, when there was a huge backlash from Nebraska residents concerning UNL research on aborted fetal tissue. The controversy went to the state legislature, where it's up for debate. Let's hope he learned a lot on how to manage medical issues and state lawmakers.

Political Schmoozing 101

But here, Moeser has no ties with state lawmakers. While his nomination brings new ideas and experiences to North Carolina, his lack of personal connections with the General Assembly could prove detrimental.

After all, the chancellor has to play the role of lobbyist, so those ties are important.

Take UNC-system President Molly Broad. Many observers point to her not being a member of the good 'ol boy network as why she couldn't get last summer's bond passed.

On the whole, Moeser has had a lot of success at UNL. He's improved academic standards, increased campus diversity and reached out to students from other states.

"I think he's been rather effective on campus," Funk said. "I think he does a pretty good job as a leader."

But "pretty good" isn't good enough. Moeser's qualifications might not be a perfect fit for UNC, so let's hope his passion and ideas make him a fast learner.



Sweetening the Intellectual Climate

Having left my trusty candy thermometer at home, I was in a pickle ... or maybe it was a jam. Either way, the recipe called for a precise temperature. But when "Be Prepared" fails, a good Eagle Scout always has a backup plan.

"Hey Neal," I yelled to my roommate, thinking quickly. "Come in here and tell me if this tastes like 238 degrees." He has a keen sense of taste.

Actually, there's an old Scout trick for just this predicament. Besides knowing how to treat third-degree burns of the tongue, most scouts know to hold their hand over the heat, counting the seconds until they're burned. A chart converts seconds to degrees for you.

I had the half-baked idea to prepare pecan pralines (pronounced "praw-leens," not "pray-leens."), a N'Awlins candy-like desert for my "food" class. The ingredients boil down to sugar, sugar, sugar and a pinch of pecans. The sugar part was causing some trouble.

Forsooth, the Old West Residence Hall kitchen has never seen a finer culinary moment, not to mention comic. I was cooking with no measuring cups, a tiny plastic spoon substituting for a wooden one and a rinky-dink pot my roommate uses to make instant couscous.

Though I did have a chef's hat, this was nevertheless the quintessential recipe for disaster. The fire trucks were circling the block like sharks, just waiting for the joint to go up in flames.

A few hours and several narrow escapes later, I had a finished product to bring to the class dinner last week. My professor, Jim Ferguson, told me, "You know, you probably couldn't make them this well again if you tried." He was complimenting me; but I considered this might be a backhanded insult, as in "You just got lucky once, punk."

And my mother's message was clear when she sent me a batch of her own superior pralines: "Don't get any melon-headed ideas, boy. You're still just a dishwasher in the Briscoe household."



BRANDON BRISCOE
VOICE OF REASON

In fact, I'm finishing up my "domestic" semester, which included classes like "Honors Cooking" and "Honors Shopping." No joke. I figured this was preparation in case I were lucky enough to marry a financially successful woman of the '00s someday.

"Shopping" is actually "History of Business in America," and "cooking" is really "A Multi-Disciplinary Study of Food and Culture." Jim Ferguson's food class is a one-of-a-kind, life-altering class.

Just as he warned us from day one, I'll never look at food the same way again. An exceptionally generous and devoted professor, Ferguson has led the class through a series of guest lectures given by the University's finest faculty. We've covered everything from manners to food in religion to food in the South.

This week sociology Professor John Shelton Reed spoke to us about Southern food, prompting the argument about the legality of putting butter on hush puppies. Said Reed, "The last thing something that's been deep-fried needs is butter."

It's a bit off the wall at times, but it's been one of the most valuable classes I've taken and memorable experiences I've had at Carolina.

But you won't find this sort of course in most departments. The food class is in the honors program and exists only through Ferguson's innovation. Students are at the mercy of professors when it comes to course selection.

Enter senior Kristen Miller. An alumna of the food class, Miller and pal Marie-Lucienne Lambert have cooked up a program to create student-initiated classes.

As Miller explained to the intellectual climate discussion lunchers a few weeks ago, the idea would allow students to create classes. If a student wanted to learn about the history of hip-hop, she said, they would simply have to garner enough interest to fill the class. The students would then need only find a faculty adviser.

It's surprising this doesn't exist already. Although students can design their own majors, they must take existing classes. There's no room for sampling fascinating, unusual, yet important topics — like food.

Miller is not asking for much. Her recipe calls for only an hour of credit. And it won't be a piece of cake for students to outline an entire course and prepare readings and assignments either. Professors should certainly understand that.

No, students wouldn't be using the program to fill up on easy hours. Nor would they be able to milk the system for GPA points — the classes would be taken pass/fail.

But the program might prevent folks from wasting time in classes they care nothing about. And it might open a few students' and teachers' eyes to savoring new ideas and subject matter.

The proposal has been served up to the provost's office now, which goes to show you that motivated students can get things done around here. Let's just hope it moves beyond the administration to the students.

Personally, I'd ask for an entire class on desserts. We'd call it "Just Desserts," and we'd start with pralines. Just remember your candy thermometer — or find a pal like Neal who has a tongue to spare.

Brandon Briscoe is a junior journalism and mass communication major from New Orleans, La. Send your recipes and tips to brandon_briscoe@unc.edu.

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes submissions from its readers for its Viewpoints page every Monday. Guest columns should be about 800 words, written by no more than two people and discuss an issue relevant to DTH readers. Submissions should be e-mailed to editdesk@unc.edu and are due by 6 p.m. the Wednesday before the column will appear. Publication is not guaranteed. For more information, contact Editorial Page Editor Scott Hicks at 962-0245.

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READERS' FORUM

Posh 'Lab on Wheels' Shows UNC's Failure To Understand State

TO THE EDITOR:

I had to laugh when I read the article in Tuesday's issue of The Daily Tar Heel about the "Lab on Wheels to Tour Schools."

The notion that driving this fancy bus around to schools will "improve science education in the state" is a glaring example of how far removed the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is from the realities of the educational needs of many parts of our state.

As a science educator, I can say that a brief visit by a "luxurious" lab/bus will indeed provide an interesting diversion from students' regular school-day routines, while throwing into sharp relief the contrast with many schools' inadequate science facilities.

Real improvement in science education comes from supporting trained, qualified science teachers

and providing adequately equipped school facilities.

No demonstration of gleaming labware and high-tech equipment that will drive away in a day or so can replace the daily exposure of students to science wonders, guided by good teachers.

Rather than buying a traveling trophy for UNC and Glaxo Wellcome, this enormous amount of money could do wonders to endow science chairs or provide grant money for facilities improvement.

A \$10,000 facilities investment in 160 high schools would make a more lasting impression on the students (and teachers) this program claims to be reaching.

Meanwhile, the University consortium's members will pat themselves on their backs and remain blissfully ignorant of the missed opportunity to make a realistic contribution to science education in our state.

Victoria W. Raymond
Pittsboro

Doctor's Comment On AIDS, Diseases Slanders Women

TO THE EDITOR:

In reading "Flirting With Fire," (April 13) I was disheartened to see a doctor perpetuating the double standard regarding sexual activity and gender in our society. According to this article, 38 percent of girls and 45 percent of boys aged 15 had engaged in sexual intercourse. Knowing that sex requires two participants and that boys are capable of spreading as well as contracting HIV, why would Dr. Charles van der Horst address only half of the problem in his question, "How do you empower girls not to have sex?" Are we going to continue to act like boys having sex at this age is OK? The question should instead be "How do you empower both boys and girls to not have sex?"

Kristen Kerr
Sophomore
Biology



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