

Pruitt to 'Follow Up' on Seats

Members of the CAA Cabinet will meet with Dick Baddour today to discuss student seating in the Smith Center.

By Mike Ogles Assistant Sports Editor

Carolina Athletic Association President Tee Pruitt and members of his cabinet will meet with Director of Athletics Dick Baddour today to take another small step in investigating alternate seating possibilities in the Smith Center.

"It's a follow-up to (our meeting in March)," Pruitt said. "We discussed some possibilities then, and some logistical things needed to be worked out to answer some questions."

The investigation began after the Jan. 27 men's home basketball game against Maryland at which students were allowed to invade the lower level of the arena. Any student showing a UNC ONE Card was admitted, and the students filled the lower-level seats left vacant by alumni who did not make the trip due to the 16-inch snowstorm.

In the lower level, the students created a raucous atmosphere during the come-from-behind victory, and their vocal support was noted by both players

and coaches. Since the game, Pruitt has made it his mission to permanently relocate students at basketball games.

Several possibilities have been discussed, but in light of the alumni who financed the Smith Center's construction and own the rights to the bulk of the seats, only one scenario seems plausible.

"We talked about the construction of stand-only seating behind the basket and corner, as well," Pruitt said. "Hopefully, that would have a contagious effect and spread the atmosphere."

Pruitt hopes to replace the front temporary seats in the current student section of the lower level with bleachers, fitting more students closer to the court without disrupting the alumni.

In addition, he is looking into the possibility of swapping some of the student seats behind those bleachers with alumni who sit in the corner of the visitors' bench. Pruitt said he hoped that by spreading the students around, their intensity can spread and perhaps



CAA President Tee Pruitt has a plan to replace some student seats in the lower level with bleachers.

become contagious. "Having 5,000 of us crammed up in a single corner - we can only help the entire building's atmosphere so much," he said.

But negotiations are still in the early stages. The bleacher scenario was discussed at the previous meeting between Pruitt and Baddour, who was out of town Wednesday and could not be reached for comment.

Today the two expect to talk about the feasibility of the plan. Fire regulations, lines of sight and whether bleachers could even be put into the corner of the arena have to be considered. Despite the preliminary nature of the meeting, Pruitt feels confident that the project can be completed before the opening of the 2000-01 basketball season. Pruitt will be in Chapel Hill this summer working further with the athletics department, which experiences some down time between semesters.

"That's definitely my goal," he said. "I think that gives us enough time to take care of things."

The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.

AGENDA From Page 3

only increased faculty salaries will pave the road to better rankings, Heinke said Moeser must draw forth new students and faculty. "We cannot rest on the laurels of being a good university," Heinke said. "We need to beat the bushes to find the best faculty and students."

Officials were concerned with seeking outside funding, namely from UNC-CH

UNIVERSITY From Page 3

year when the financial mission of the University was taken to task, giving some students a reason to showcase UNC's activist reputation.

And as budgetary requests hang in limbo, as key administrative posts remain to be filled and as a new chancellor prepares to take the helm, UNC will again find itself in period of transition.

In his inauguration speech in 1995, Hooker said, "Today is a day to envision our future, to point for the best and to begin the journey there."

The journey this year has been turbulent, and another year of change and challenge awaits.

alumni pockets. Richardson said sketches of a plan were now being drawn and would need Moeser's approval.

Heinke stressed that attracting new students and expanding UNC-CH under the Master Plan needed to be balanced with University tradition. The Master Plan was the brainchild of the late Chancellor Michael Hooker, whose vision for the University included an extensive growth plan.

Moeser, who has been likened to Hooker in his goal of helping UNC-CH climb in public university rankings, will

likely be sized up to Hooker - his accomplishments and his failures.

"I think he is well within the Hooker vision as far as how he sees the University, and I'm happy to see that," Richardson said.

Juggling all these responsibilities, Moeser, like Hooker, still touts ambitious goals for the University's future.

"We'll be the best public university in America," he told The Daily Tar Heel, "in any measurable way that you can measure a university's reputation."

COMPROMISE From Page 3

Because the bond issue is expected to garner support in the General Assembly, a proposal will probably depend largely upon N.C. voters.

University advocates differ on how they think people will react to the \$3 billion package.

Philip Richman, vice president of business affairs at UNC-Greensboro,

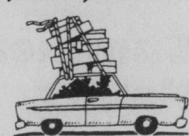
said he doubted people's willingness to fund the university. "All they see is the raise in their taxes," he said.

But others place more faith in the voters. "If you look at the Research Triangle Park, the greatest part of the industry generated there is from the universities," Rand said. "I believe most people in North Carolina have tremendous affection for UNC."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

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