

Moerer Set to Tackle Tough Issues

By ELIZABETH BREYER
Assistant University Editor

After a summer of reflection and mounting excitement for the year ahead, Chancellor James Moerer said his first priorities are to campaign for the bond package, to fill administrative vacancies and to familiarize himself with the campus, community and state.

The bond package will be allocated to capital improvements on UNC's campus if it passes when it goes to state voters in November's general election.

UNC-Chapel Hill will receive \$500 million, while the rest of the \$3.1 billion package will be allocated to other UNC-system schools and N.C. community colleges.

Moerer toured UNC on his first official day as chancellor, witnessing firsthand the deteriorating conditions in many of the buildings.

After that experience, he pledged to spend his first weeks in office stressing the package's importance to as many people as possible. "I'll take every opportunity to talk in front of North Carolinians to talk about the bond and how important it is to us," he said.

Moerer said he has scheduled meetings with editorial boards of many major newspapers in North Carolina in an attempt to increase awareness and visibility of the referendum and its potential impacts on the UNC system.

He also plans to travel to Rocky Mount to address the Chamber of Commerce and to meet with alumni and citizens statewide to garner support.

But his efforts will not be targeted solely at outside contributors. Moerer said he wants to make a massive push to



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Sharon Milgram (left) shows the conditions of her lab in the Medical Sciences Building to Chancellor James Moerer on his first day in office.

get students into the voting booths. "I want to energize students and get them to register and vote. I think students can have a profound effect if we can just get them in the polling booths," he said. "Students can really help carry this."

Moerer also said it is important to inspire alumni to make contributions to match the bond package, and that he will make extensive efforts at fund raising from private donors.

After a turbulent past few years that left many empty spots in UNC's administration, Moerer also said he will prioritize finding individuals to fill the vacancies.

The offices of provost, vice chancellor for research and vice chancellor for finance and administration are all open, and searches are under way for each.

Having come far since his first days at

UNC, when he had to be introduced to such campus icons as the Old Well and the Davie Poplar, Moerer now plans to learn the ins and outs of campus life and the surrounding areas.

He also wants to focus on getting to know the personalities of the students, faculty and staff.

He plans to meet individually with each of the 14 deans, taking a 2 1/2 tour of each school, and to hold meetings with as many student groups as possible.

After the long process that brought Moerer to UNC, he says he is ready to tackle his immediate list of priorities as soon as possible and will do his best to hit the ground running.

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

MOESER

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But he won't be locked up in the scarcely known or understood South Building.

"I don't miss an opportunity when I'm on campus to speak to students," he said. "I try to interact individually."

And if Moerer ever felt the shyness of being the new guy here at UNC, it didn't take him long to recover.

Within days of his arrival at UNC from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Moerer was taking tours of the campus and meeting students. He toured some of UNC's most historical and antiquated buildings to familiarize himself with the tradition - and the trouble - he has inherited.

He set up meetings with faculty and staff and set aside a specific time to meet with new members of the faculty - because being an outsider is not a foreign feeling to him.

The Chancellor Search Committee and Moerer himself caught wind of whispered concerns that someone with no N.C. ties was chosen to head one of the state's most prized gems.

But Moerer said he will fight any opposition he might one day face by fulfilling his duties to the best of his abilities.

He said bringing in "outsiders" will only perpetuate the Carolina spirit he says he loves so much.

"In my opinion, the University is enhanced by people who come from the outside," he said.

"They bring fresh ideas and re-energize this campus. I'm just one of them

this fall."

And some of Moerer's new goals for UNC are almost revised versions of past preaching. Moerer's goals for UNC's expansion have been likened to those of the late Chancellor Michael Hooker, especially his commitment to the academic life on campus that mirrors Hooker's devotion to improving UNC's intellectual climate.

Coinciding with this ideal, Moerer says he wants to find a provost who will push the boundaries of scholastic excellence here at UNC.

The provost will be the University's chief academic officer, and Moerer said he wants to find a candidate who will also place a high value upon academics at UNC.

"I hope to have someone I can work with in absolute tandem."

Moerer has previously said he hopes to find a provost with an extensive scientific background to balance the humanitarian perspective he brings to the table.

His degrees are in the musical arts and he is a trained concert organist - but at UNC he doesn't want to be center stage.

Instead he wants to be a leader that listens, a figurehead that follows, a role model that represents.

For him, the University and the intellectual climate it is shrouded in go one step further than the books.

"I have the strong feeling that a university education is more than just information," he said. "It is about character development and the building of personal values."

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Divvyin' the Dough

The \$500,000,000 earmarked for UNC has already been allocated for campus projects.

Science Complex - Phase 1	\$55,012,500
Phase 2	\$33,437,500
Murphey Hall - Comprehensive Renovation	\$6,723,500
School of Medicine - Medical Research Building	\$12,895,000
Health Sciences Library - Comprehensive Renovation	\$11,000,000
Braver Hall - Comprehensive Renovation of Dental Clinic	\$13,415,400
Burnett Womack Building - Research Laboratory Comprehensive Renovation	\$24,848,000
Berryhill Hall Laboratory Building - Comprehensive Renovation	\$10,700,000
Medical Biomolecular Research Building	\$26,718,000
Student Services Building - Consolidation of Advising, Financial Aid, Registration and Housing	\$27,000,000
Infrastructure Improvements - Main Campus	\$32,298,000
Total	\$499,286,100

SOURCE: UNC OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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JAMES MOESER
Chancellor

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<http://careers.unc.edu/>
Division of Student Affairs

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- WORKSHOPS:**
NOTE: Seniors must attend a UCS 101 Workshop to participate in on-campus recruiting even if registered with us last year.
UCS 101 (Grad Student Orientation) Thurs. Aug. 24 2:00 pm B929 Kenan Labs (MS/PhD in Chemistry only)
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