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The Daily Tar Heel

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Midterm Examinations

Matthews Starts Off Strongly as SBP



Six months have come and gone since Brad Matthews was inaugurated as UNC's student body president. Today's editorial pages look at what Matthews has accomplished in the first half of his term in office – and look forward to the issues he must continue to invest more time in. With the issues he has addressed thus far, Matthews proves he's no slouch in Suite C. But the work is only beginning.

REPORT CARD

Platform	Progress	Teacher's Comments
Reform C-TOPS to make it more coordinated and informative for incoming students	A C-TOPS review committee has been formed and is currently looking at ways to improve the program. Some changes will be in place summer 2001, the rest in 2002.	Matthews saw a problem with the program and is taking steps to correct it. He has met with UNC officials, who seem willing to make changes, and gathered feedback from students. It looks as though change could be just around the corner for C-TOPS.
Work with the University, Chapel Hill and Carrboro to get fare-free transit	A transit task force made up of students, UNC administrators and officials from Chapel Hill and Carrboro has been formed and is working on the issue.	Though still in the planning stages, Matthews feels confident that a fare-free system can be place in less than three years. Considering the importance, he needs to make sure there are tangible results.
Fight for landlord accountability and off-campus housing options	An advocacy group has been formed for off-campus students, and Matthews promises to "monitor legislation in community boards to ensure that students are not adversely affected."	As residents begin to push harder for ordinances restricting where students can live off-campus, Matthews must be a strong voice protecting their interests and rights.
Work to reduce Student Health after-hours fee	Matthews found that the only way to reduce the fee would be to increase costs at other times. He continues to look for alternative ways to defray the costs.	Matthews has looked into the matter and found a roadblock. But he shouldn't stop looking for alternatives – and it appears as though he plans to continue working on it.
Review and revise the current Undergraduate Curriculum	The three-year process of revising the curriculum is under way, and the new curriculum is expected to be implemented by fall of 2002.	This is a massive undertaking involving administrators, faculty and students. While Matthews cannot take credit for the changes, he must keep students involved in the process.
Ensure that CCI isn't a flop	Matthews plans on working the CCI issue into the curriculum review and looking into ways of providing wireless Ethernet coverage to the campus.	CCI will play a defining role in academics at UNC for years to come. Seeing that it is looked at within the curriculum review is a wise move, but again, he shouldn't take full credit for changes.
Offer every student organization access to a voicemail box and a campus mailbox at the Student Union	There are 156 temporary mailboxes in Suite C – and 500 permanent boxes included in the Union renovation plans. But voicemail has run into logistical problems.	Although only a temporary solution, Matthews did the best with what he had to work with. Now he should look into ways of overcoming the logistical problems of creating 500 voicemail boxes.
Recommend student fee changes to eliminate inefficient spending	Student Body Treasurer Patrick Frye is looking into areas where spending can be tightened by student groups – including Student Legal Services.	Matthews plans on improving oversight and accountability over expenditures, which is good. But he must be careful not to fiscally hurt important student services like SLS in the process.
Institute a Life Skills Seminar	Working with groups like Career Services and SLS, 10 seminars are planned to take place during the course of the next semester.	Dealing with issues like taxes, job searches and money management, the seminars will be a valuable tool for students as they prepare to leave college and enter the "real world."
Hire more housekeepers	Little action has been taken. Matthews says that student government supports better housekeeper pay and is working with other groups to "advocate our position."	It was an ambitious platform goal to run on. And there has been little success in raising housekeeper pay or hiring more housekeepers thus far. More effort is needed here.
Allow students to make Student Health appointments via the Internet	Matthews brought this to Student Health's attention – and officials agreed that it was a good idea. They now are looking into software to make this happen by next year.	It will be an added convenience for students – and will not be impossible for Student Health to put into place. A good deal all around.
Offer a rape aggression defense class for physical education credit	Project leader Tiffanie Walters is looking into making this a reality. She has contacted the P.E. department and other universities with similar programs.	Matthews says the goal is for the rape aggression defense class to be in place by Fall 2001. Some groundwork has been laid already, so the goal seems within reach.
Put a clock in every classroom	Of the 180 general-purpose classrooms, only half have clocks in them. Matthews contacted the registrar's office, and each classroom will get one in the coming months.	It might not change the life of every UNC student, but it will be nice to see how much more of the professor's lecture is left once you finish the crossword.
Overall Average	B+	