

YEAR IN REVIEW

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Moeser Tapped as New Chancellor

By KATIE ABEL
University Editor

APRIL 17 – It only took one brief announcement Friday to erase months of speculation about UNC's future.

As UNC-system President Molly Broad introduced the University's next leader, the secrecy and mystery surrounding the chancellor search came to a ceremonial and celebratory close.

It was a new beginning.

The Board of Governors unanimously elected University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor James Moeser (pronounced MEE-zer) as UNC's new chancellor, marking the official end of the eight-month hunt for the late Chancellor Michael Hooker's successor. "I accept this election to the greatest University in America," Moeser said, as a throng of BOG members and handful of students escorted him to the podium.

The heightened anticipation of the morning announcement translated into a flurry of activity at the Carolina Inn as television crews and reporters from across the state converged in the ballroom of the inn.

Clad in a Carolina-blue pin-striped tie, the 61-year-old Moeser articulated his vision for UNC to become the nation's top public institution, a priority reminiscent of his predecessor.

"The principle attraction to this University is its academic excellence and tradition," he said. "But more than its tradition, is its potential."

Moeser will officially take the job Aug. 15 – at a time when his permanent leadership at UNC will be crucial.

This summer, he must tackle a University bond package, tuition plan and financial aid program, all of which are headed toward the unpredictable hands of the state legislature.

Moeser said Friday the University must periodically enact tuition increases to recruit and maintain top faculty as well. "I don't think you can keep it at rock bottom and be the kind of university you want it to be."

But Moeser said the key to building UNC's coffers was garnering more private support, calling for increased reliance on UNC's alumni.

An ambitious fund-raiser at UNL, he said one of his top priorities as UNC's chancellor was to boost UNC's \$1 billion endowment. He also called for increased reliance on UNC's alumni.

"The endowment is not the stature it ought to be," he said. "The margin of excellence will clearly be private support."

During his four-year tenure at UNL, Moeser ushered in more than \$350 million in private donations and reallocated state funds to boost information technology and distance learning programs.

"There is incredible potential for the University to take a huge step forward (in fund raising)," he said. "Maybe it's the No. 1 priority for the next administration."

But before he can set sights on boosting UNC's bank account, Moeser must shape his Cabinet. He said he would immediately launch an intensive search for his second-in-command – a provost to succeed Dick Richardson, who will retire in June. "I will pledge my full energy to starting immediately," he said. "We will start tomorrow."

But before Moeser became entangled in his priority list, he received plaudits from both UNC and system officials, who called him a seasoned administrator and remarkable fund-raiser.

James Moeser brings to the University a passionate commitment to academic excellence and diversity, proven strategic planning skills and a deep understanding of the ties that bind

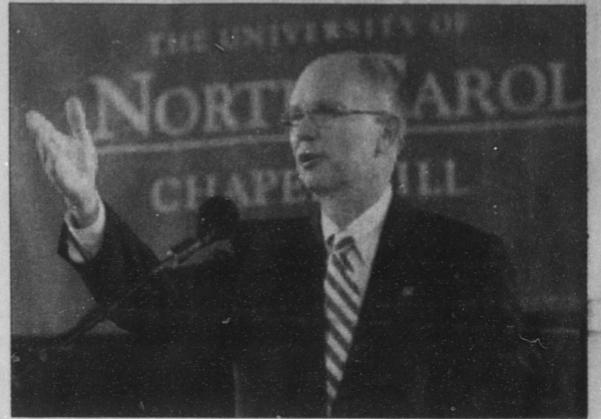


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNC NEWS SERVICES

Chancellor James Moeser accepts UNC's highest office after the Board of Governors approved his nomination.

all great universities to the citizens that support them," said UNC-system President Molly Broad.

Heinke, the sole student on the search committee, said that firm commitment

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Election Night Fails to Reveal New President

George W. Bush led Al Gore by about 200 votes in Florida, requiring state officials to recount ballots to determine the winner.

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON, NOV. 8 – Vice President Al Gore conceded the presidential race in a telephone call to George W. Bush on Wednesday morning – then took it back.

"He called an hour ago to concede. He just called us back to retract that concession," said Karen Hughes, communications director for Bush. "It's unbelievable."

That was an apt description of the seesawing election night. At one point, the key state of Florida was teetering toward Bush and the TV networks called the race in Bush's favor. Gore picked up the telephone and called Bush.

As of 4:40 a.m., Gore led Bush in the general election by about 60,000 votes with 96 percent of the precincts reporting. Gore has 249 electoral votes and Bush has 246, with Florida, Wisconsin and Oregon still listed as toss-ups, putting both candidates just shy of the 270 needed to claim victory. A Florida win for either candidate would grant him the presidency.

But the extremely tight race in Florida, now showing a Bush lead of only about 200 votes with all precincts reporting, requires state officials there to recount.

Several counties' votes have not been counted, meaning that the next president literally could be decided by a handful of votes. As the election stretched into the early morning hours, old-pro commentators repeatedly commented that this election is unlike anything anyone has ever seen.

"We gave them a cliffhanger," the vice president told Bush, according to Hughes.

Bush replied to Gore during his first call, "You're a formidable opponent and a good man. I know it's hard. I know it's hard for your family. Give my best to Tipper and your children."

A senior adviser with the Gore campaign confirmed that the vice president made two calls, one to concede and one to retract.

Thousands of supporters stood in the streets of Nashville, Tenn., where Gore was headquartered, and Austin, Texas, Bush's home – awaiting word from their favorite sons. Bush, however, wasn't sure what to say just before 4 a.m. EST.

"We're trying to decide," Hughes sighed. "We're going to watch what the vice president says. We're going to wait and see what he says, I guess."

Bush's wins, estimated by CNN, included his home state of

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Snow Blankets Chapel Hill; Classes Canceled



DTH FILE PHOTO

A giant snowman is drenched in the sunshine that will soon melt it away. January's unusually severe snowstorm covered Chapel Hill with 16 inches and closed UNC for 3 days.

By GAVIN OFF
Staff Writer

JAN. 28 – North Carolina is still shivering from its fourth wintry bout this month, which left work crews toiling around the clock and the Triangle struggling to dig itself out from the worst winter storm in its history.

Monday night's storm, which buried Chapel Hill under 16 inches of snow, closed interstate highways, grounded planes and left hundreds of thousands across the state without power.

The severe weather prompted Gov. Jim Hunt to declare a state of emergency early Tuesday morning that was still in place Thursday.

Eleven UNC-system schools closed because of the storm, which rendered UNC-Chapel Hill students without class for a record-setting three days in a row.

But the sun finally came out in full force Thursday and, despite below-freezing temperatures and record lows, aided in the statewide meltdown.

The storm blew into the region Monday night after smacking Charlotte and portions of South Carolina with snow and ice.

The storm hit the Triangle hardest, with Orange County receiving the largest accumulations of snow and ice in the state.

When it left the Carolinas early Tuesday, the storm continued northward into Virginia and Washington, D.C., dropping a foot of snow on the capital and prompting the federal government to shut down Tuesday and Wednesday.

The storm left in its wake record low temperatures for Raleigh and the area, said National Weather Service spokesman Bob Chartuk.

Chartuk said Raleigh marked mercury falling to 12 degrees Wednesday, breaking the record of 13 degrees set in 1986.

The storm also broke Raleigh's 1893 record of 20 inches of snow accumulated in a single month, as 25.8 inches of snow have fallen on the city so far in January.

While the Triangle saw the worst of the storm, other areas of the state felt its icy wrath as well.

Greensboro acquired 14 inches of snow and sustained winds of 35 to 45 miles per hour, while gusts of 55 mph rocked Elizabeth City.

Kirsten Weeks, Hunt's press secretary, said Wednesday the state was taking several preventative measures to ensure the safety of its residents.

"(The state of emergency) enables that state to put all of its available resources to taking care of the problems associated with the storm," Weeks said.

At the height of the storm early Tuesday, Carolina Power & Light Co. reported 173,000 power outages in North and South Carolina.

Weeks said 11 emergency shelters were set up across the state to care for the homeless and sick.

Tom Hegele, spokesman for N.C. Emergency Management Services in Raleigh, said Thursday that 566 National Guardsmen were on 24-hour duty across the state and thousands of homes still lacked power.

Weeks also said the state enacted a temporary hotline for those in need of help. She said Hunt might request federal aid within days, in hopes of speeding up the recovery effort.

"We have not decided yet (to ask for federal aid)," she said. "We have not been able to access the damages throughout the state."

Weeks said it was still unclear what federal aid would be specifically used to fund.

But Kim Gazella, spokeswoman for Wake County EMS, said the storm still held an icy grip on the Triangle's roadways Thursday.

"The roads are bad again today," Gazella said. "We've been trying to give priority to extreme emergencies, like people who need dialysis."

"We have 50 or 60 people who called in and offered to use their four-wheel-drive vehicles."

The storm not only left the back

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BOG Approves Tuition Hike for 5 Schools



DTH FILE PHOTO

Members of the Board of Governors listen to tuition increase proposals as students silently protest the increase by holding signs.

By KATHLEEN HUNTER
Assistant State & National Editor

FEB 14 – A student proposal to limit tuition increases to two UNC-system schools caused an uncommon division among Board of Governors members, who eventually voted Friday in favor of tuition increases at five system schools.

The BOG released its final verdict on the controversial tuition issue during its meeting at the Carolina Inn, where the board passed a committee proposal that will boost tuition \$600 at UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University.

The plan, which now rests with the state, marked the crescendo of five months of student debate as various proposals wound their way through the UNC-system bureaucracy.

The board also voted in favor of tuition increases at East Carolina

University, UNC-Charlotte and UNC-Wilmington. ECU and UNC-C were granted a \$300 tuition increase over the next two years.

At UNC-W tuition will go up \$120 the first year, \$115 the second. The board also passed a 2.1 percent system-wide increase.

This ends months of debate among campus administrators and UNC-system officials on the controversial tuition issue, which will now go to the N.C. General Assembly for approval.

The BOG's decision flew in the face of significant opposition from students, who have continually spoken out against boosting tuition.

More than 50 students packed the meeting, many touting signs opposing increased tuition.

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Higher Education Bond Passes by Large Margin

By KATHLEEN HUNTER
State & National Editor

RALEIGH, NOV. 8 – They said "yes."

Unofficial results indicate that N.C. voters overwhelmingly passed the \$3.1 billion higher education bond referendum Tuesday – news that was greeted with thunderous applause from a gathering of more than 100 higher education advocates at The Brownstone Hotel in Raleigh on Tuesday night.

With 53 percent of the precincts reporting, 74 percent of voters approved the bond proposal, and 26 percent voted against it.

The bond – the largest in state history – will fund capital improvements on

the state's university and community college campuses.

Those who worked on the bond campaign, which began this summer shortly after the N.C. General Assembly voted unanimously to send the proposal to the people, were all smiles Tuesday night as election results began to flash across two big-screen television sets in the Brownstone's grand ballroom.

"Sometimes goals that are really big and really important take a lot of time, a lot of persistence and a deep commitment," said UNC-system President Molly Broad, shortly after 10 p.m. when campaigners deemed the referendum a success. "And I think what we have seen

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Perhaps even these things, one day, will be pleasing to remember.

Virgil