

FORUM
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Baker, Young and Peirce agreed that more representation and communication with students was the most important issue. Baker would institute her Fostering Open Communication while Uniting Students council, a committee that would provide checks and balances for student government. Peirce plans to add two new student representatives to her Cabinet.

Young plans to support students by redirecting the student body president's stipend to the student body. Ritter said an online calendar, a feature that would post upcoming events and provide space for student input, is the most important issue on his platform. Candidates Charlie Trakas, Matthew Wilhite and Larry Harper did not attend the forum.

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

Tenured Teachers Oppose Rubric Ratings

By Carolyn Pearce
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education officials are investigating a new system for evaluating teachers' performances, despite opposition from tenured teachers who are satisfied with the existing standards. School board members must implement a new system by August to comply with new state Board of Education criteria for teacher evaluations, set in 1997. The new policy, called SERVE, would require all teachers to be observed by a principal or assistant principal, evaluated by a rubric system and rated. Tenured teachers argue that they should not have to be evaluated by such a rigorous system that is similar to what

they faced as new teachers. Dianne Jackson, media specialist at Glenwood Elementary School, said teachers think peer evaluations should be incorporated into the policy so evaluations are less subjective. "You need someone who is in your position to give you the best kind of advice," she said. "Feedback should come from not only the administration but from teachers as well." SERVE was selected by a local committee from six potential options. The program was chosen as the best because of its reputation and system of evaluation. The school board will not vote to approve the SERVE program before the next meeting on March 1. But local teachers say they don't want a change. Teachers in all 13 district schools have circulated petitions to be signed by all

tenured teachers, demanding more information about the new system and the possibility of exploring other options. At Carrboro Elementary School, the petition already has been signed by 20 teachers. "The teachers have some concerns," board member Teresa Williams said. "But the principals have heartily endorsed it. We would like to have buy-in from everyone who is involved." The present system, which includes teacher-principal meetings to discuss goals and then evaluation and improvement of those goals, will not be eliminated. But it is mandated by the new state requirements that teacher ratings must be implemented. "The board saw the petition and the names of the people who signed it," Jackson said. "These are outstanding educators. (Those who signed)

aren't threatened by the new evaluation." Teachers who are opposed to the system have suggested that they develop a system for evaluation that would be more appropriate for their community. Still, the evaluation system that is implemented must be acceptable to the state, making the system fairly inflexible. Chapel Hill High School Principal Mary Ann Hardebeck said the proposal has only been presented to the staff for informational purposes. But Williams said the district is under pressure from the state to find a quick solution to the problem. "The villain is the clock. The instrument must be in place by August, and it's already February."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

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Thur., Mar. 1, 5:00pm*

(*Note time change. If you have a lab, feel free to come late or leave early.)

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ELECTIONS
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year, said two parties existed when he ran for student government. "I ran for student body president in the spring of 1964," Spearman said. "At that time, there were two parties, the University party and the Students party." A member of the University party, Spearman said students had the option of running as independent candidates, but did not remember any student doing so. "Back at the time I was running, I don't have any recollections of anyone running as an independent," he said. Taking their cues from national parties, campus political groups held conventions to rally student support, Spearman said. "In a terribly rough way, it was like the Democrats and the Republicans," he said. "Each of those two political parties had a convention which many students attended." Spearman said he believed the competition between the campus parties meant that each one had to work hard to nominate quality candidates who would discuss a wide variety of issues. "Having the rivalry between the two (parties) was probably helpful in getting many issues on the table."

Some of the issues debated during the 1960s included a campaign for reversing a ban on speakers who were labeled Communists and the promotion of diversity on campus. Spearman said the late Kellis Parker, one of the first black students to integrate UNC in 1961, added to the diversity of student leaders when Parker ran on the University ticket and was elected as a member to the National Student Association - currently known as the United States Students Association. While political parties at UNC began to fade in the 1970s, the practice is still popular on other campuses. George Kramer, the University of Florida's student body president, said he favors political parties because he believes students tend to form groups. Kramer said political parties help students run more successful campaigns because the candidates are united by similar interests and their collective opinions are passed along to voters. "When we run, we run with 40 senators, so it's the president, the vice president, treasurer and the senators," Kramer said. "By creating parties, you may not be able to meet every individual who is running, but you get a sense of the ideas they have." Kramer added that he believes the presence of political parties helps to put focus on issues that are important to the student body. "I think what the party system does is show what are the priorities."

But student leaders at other colleges say that while political parties might be effective at larger universities, they are not needed on all campuses. Amanda Carlson, Wake Forest University's student body president, said she believes political parties are divisive and make it difficult to discuss important issues without leaders splitting along party lines. "Students need to band together and be one," she said. "If we were divided among ourselves, I don't think we would be as effective." Carlson also said she believes the size of Wake Forest's student population is another reason she is opposed to political parties on campus. Carlson said she thinks political parties might be useful at larger universities where students can associate the ideas of a particular candidate with their party. "If we were a bigger campus, I think that it, the party system, would be a valuable tool." But Carlson said, in the end, voters should work hard to know the individual ideas of each candidate. "Ultimately, I think it's better if you know the person and what they stand for." She also said that political parties might lead some candidates to depend too much on their party to support their campaign. "You're supposed to run on your own manpower, your own ticket."

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SAFETY
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one is located at every P2P stop. She also said security guards are needed on every floor of Davis between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. "There are so many long halls and nooks and crannies where you could get caught off guard if someone was lurking around there." Candidate Matthew Wilhite said he feels campus safety is the key issue of this election. "I think the student voice needs to be heard through an open line of communication between the Department of Public Safety and Board of Governors to really make any progress." He also said campus safety is horribly underdeveloped. "Resident assistants are not trained well enough in the area of sexual assault. It would not be very hard to change." Candidate Eric Johnson proposed free 911 cellular phones to students who feel unsafe. "So if a student feels genuinely unsafe, they have the equivalent of an emergency call box in their hands." He added that campus safety is not only a job for the campus police. "It is not that the DPS aren't doing a great job, it is because we as students need to step up and help them," Johnson said. Poarch agreed that student involvement is key to improving campus safety. "I think the biggest improvement needed is the willingness of the campus community and particularly student body to interact with police," he said. "Being active would make a tremendous difference in our ability to serve the campus community."

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MASTER PLAN
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it, and my lungs can't take it either." Coleman said the community and the University would be better served if housing were developed on the Horace Williams site. "Let's get started building some housing out there and getting University students out of our rental properties," he said. Others were concerned about the impact additional residents would have on the town's infrastructure. Council member Flicka Bateman spoke at length about the burden these additional residents and their children could place on the already overtaxed Chapel Hill public schools. "I hope schools will get factored in to what happens," she said. Throughout the meeting, planners stressed that all development was still in its working stages. "I will ask you to bear with us as we move through the planning process," said Jonathan Howes, UNC's director of the Master Plan. Howes also said the meeting was a great opportunity to present development materials and plans to a wider audience. "It was a good meeting."

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DIVERSITY
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owes blacks as a result of slavery. Moore said she was pleased with the exchange of ideas. "I wish we could stay in here all night and talk about it," she said. "To ignore history or say it's not important is going to affect our future." Wilson said she was pleased with the discussion fostered by the forum. He felt that it was an excellent way for people to learn about the many different problems affecting American minorities. "I thought (the forum) was very good. It educated me on some things I wasn't sure of," he said. "It surprised me so many people were willing to speak out." Young Democrats President Chris Brook echoed Wilson's sentiments and felt that the forum served a very important function. "The goal of the forum was to get information," he said. "I felt it was different because the focus was not on how you feel but on the solutions."

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