Ruling Challenges UGa. Policy UNC to Receive Grant from IBM

By Monica Chen

A federal court ruled Monday that the University of Georgia's affirmative action policy was unconstitutional, raising questions about the use of affirmative action in college admissions nationwide.

11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld two previous courts' rulings on the case, which was filed by three white students who were denied admission to the university in the fall of 1999.

Citing that the policy violates the Equal Protection Clause in the U.S. Constitution, the court's opinion stated that it is incomplete, rigid and arbitrary.

"A policy that mechanically awards an arbitrary 'diversity' point to each and every non-white applicant ... and severely limits the range of other factors relevant to diversity ... violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment," the opinion stated.

In a written statement to the press, University of Georgia President Michael Adams stated the university is "clearly

disappointed in the court's decision."

"We certainly respect the court, but may have a differing opinion about whether the university's admissions program is 'narrowly tailored,'" it stated. UGa., the flagship of Georgia's uni-

versity system, was integrated in 1961.

Since 1996, the admissions policy has calculated a Total Student Index for students who are placed in the pool for fur-ther consideration. TSI is based on a com-bination of weighted academic, extracurricular, demographic as well as race points and effectively grants students of non-white skin color bonus admission points.

TSI only affects about 10 percent of students admitted to the campus every year.
UGa. Law School Professor Milner

Ball said that even with an affirmative action admissions policy, minorities still constitute a very small portion of the student population.

"(The people who integrated this university) would have never dreamed that

40 years later, there would be so few black students here," Ball said. "We have only 6 percent.

"The university can't continue doing what it was doing," he said. "The question is whether they'll be able to implement a program that will conform to the

UGa.'s administration declined to

comment on the ruling.
Russ Willard, spokesman for the
Georgia Attorney General's Office, said

UGa. officials had not yet determined a course of action. "We are still in discussion with the university regarding whether or not to continue appealing." Federal courts throughout the coun-

try have been striking down affirmative action policies, questioning the rele-vance and definition of diversity in cases from the University of Texas School of Law in 1996 to the University of Michigan Law School this year.

"The question is whether

(UGa. will) be able to

conform to the guidelines."

Herb Davis associate director of undergraduate UNC, said the implement a program that will University's is in no need of

MILNER BALL "Every student UGa. Law School Professor is evaluated as an individual based

on their individual experience," Davis said. "We have a qualitative evaluation. Not every African-American or Asian

same way."
Ball said affirmative action, a controversial part of admissions policies, should be decided upon soon.

"There's a lot of these cases in the cir-cuit courts right now," he said. "It's time for the Supreme Court to make a deci-

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

By MICHAEL DAVIS

IBM announced Wednesday that UNC-Chapel Hill will be one of seven

N.C. universities receiving part of a \$6.3 million grant from the corporation.

UNC-CH will be awarded \$1.3 million from the grant for hardware, software and research grants.

ware and research grants.

Other universities receiving grants include N.C. State University, UNC-Charlotte, N.C. Agricultural & Technical University, Wake Forest University, East Carolina University, Duke University and Meredith College. IBM spokesman John Lucy said the recent growth of the Internet prompted the grants.

"We realize that within the next 10 years there is going to be a growth of

years there is going to be a growth of information like no one has ever seen before," he said.

Lucy said UNC-CH's portion of the grant was indirectly related to the Carolina Computing Initiative because of the ongoing partnership between UNC-CH and IBM.

He said IBM wishes to work with UNC-CH to pursue e-business, a term coined by the company to describe the relationship between the Internet and

A portion of the money will be used for course development that will influence e-

business, Lucy said.

Andy Lindos, program director of the IBM Research Triangle Park Center for Advanced Studies, said two-thirds of the

\$500,000 allotted to UNC-CH for hardware will be used by Internet Technology Services for multi-media support.

Lindos added that the remainder of the money set aside for hardware will go to the UNC-CH Department of

UNC-CH computer science Professor Don Smith has received much of the money geared toward the department to

fund his research and classes in e-business.

He said the grant for his program was dispersed over time, starting in October 2000. Smith said his amount was a credit for \$165,000 in hardware from IBM. The money is being used to build labo-

ratories for project development.

Computer Science 190, a course which

studies enterprise computing, began this fall using the hardware given to Smth.

"It's going to give students dedicated access to high-performance computing systems in this course," Smith said.

He said the lab will serve several united the said t

poses because it will be available during

the summer months for research. Lucy said the technology available from this grant ultimately will better both the state's universities and econmy. "(UNC-CH) and other universities are seeing that in order to compete in global economy, being computer literate is absolutely essential."

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

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