

Phase I Complete; Student Union Addition Open for Use

Renovation of the old Union building to begin in December

By MEREDITH NICHOLSON
Assistant University Editor

With the snip of a pair of giant scissors over a Carolina blue ribbon, officials declared the new addition to the Frank Porter Graham Student Union formally open to the public Monday.

Union Director Don Luse, Chancellor James Moeser, Carolina Union Activities Board President Charles Phaneuf and Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Dean Bresciani addressed a crowd of nearly 100 students, faculty members and staff members.

The addition originally was scheduled to open June 13, 2001, but it was delayed eight times due to problems with the contractors.

Phaneuf said that students were disappointed with the delays but that they did their best with the resources that were available to them. He said the addition will allow CUAB to serve the students better and that the Union was designed with the help of student focus groups to make it as student-oriented as possible.

Luse called the building a symbol of the Union's rich history and promising future.

Moeser said the ribbon cutting was the culmination of an exciting day at UNC, including the opening of the Undergraduate Library and the contested summer reading discussion sections.

"I've never been more proud than I am today," he said.

Moeser quoted a speech given by Frank Porter Graham at the opening of the Student Union in 1968 in which Graham encouraged students to use the meeting space to play but also to fight problems such as war, poverty, discrimination and personal and moral degradation.

Bresciani said the culture of student life at UNC is unique among higher education.

"And what could be a more fitting symbol of student life?" he asked, indicating the new Union addition.

The addition — which includes a computer lab and copy center — will be open 24 hours a day.

After the plagued Phase I delays, officials evaluated the performance of the contractors and decided it would be best to repackage the remaining work and bid it out to new contractors, said Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for planning and construction.

Runberg said Phases II and III — the renovation of the old Union — will be packaged as one 10-month project rather than two six-month stages.

Preliminary work on the phases is expected to begin after the semester ends in December, and actual construction will begin in January. Luse said that the new Union addition passed all state inspections and that people began moving in last month. There is still some final touches to be done, including hanging some signs, he said.

Though parts of the Union are still being finished, most of the building is fully functional.

Union officials are still working to wire a meeting room in

Moving Right Along

Previously, construction on the Union was divided into three phases. With Phase I finished, officials decided to combine Phase II and Phase III — each slated to take six months — into one 10-month phase.

- June 2000: groundbreaking
- June 2001: first projected completion date
- November 2001: second projected completion date
- December 2001: third projected completion date
- February 2002: fourth projected completion date
- May 2002: fifth projected completion date
- June 13: sixth projected completion date
- July 2002: the Union opened
- late December 2002: preliminary work for Phase II begins
- January 2003: construction for Phase II begins
- October 2003: the Union opens

SOURCE: BRUCE RUNBERG, ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION



DTH/BRIAN CASSELLA

Dean Bresciani, interim vice chancellor of student affairs, speaks at the new Union ribbon cutting.

the basement to the campus network so Student Congress meetings can be broadcast on Student Television.

Luse said he will be working with student government officials in the upcoming weeks to determine what equipment needs to be purchased.

The orange construction fence that surrounded the building during construction is down, and bus service resumed last Friday. Signs indicating the new bus stops in front of the Union will be installed soon, Luse said.

There is a person staffing the information desk, and meeting space is already reserved. The copy center is up and running as well.

Student Body Vice President Aaron Hiller said student government's transition from Suite C of the old Union into the new offices went smoothly.

Hiller also said he thinks it is beneficial for the University to have a new Union that is functional because it is one of the public faces of the University.

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

Budget Woes Slow University Hiring

By MEREDITH NICHOLSON
Assistant University Editor

UNC is looking to hire two vice chancellors and three deans at a time when budget deliberations are making it difficult for University officials to predict resources available for filling administrative vacancies.

Positions that are empty now or that will be vacated in the next year are the vice chancellors for information technology and student affairs and the deans of the education, pharmacy and social work schools.

UNC Provost Robert Shelton said officials are forming small groups to determine what to look for in the search committees for the vacant vice chancellor positions.

Shelton said officials are not beginning the search right now partly because of state budget concerns.

"We need to know what our budget is going to be before we can start our search," he said. "We have to be able to tell the successful candidate what kind of resources they are going to have."

Shelton said the University is not

going to be in a good position to tell candidates what to expect for some time, so officials made it clear from the beginning that the interims would be in place long term.

He said he is very confident in Dean Bresciani, interim vice chancellor for student affairs, and Steve Jarrell, interim vice chancellor for information technology.

Bresciani said his progression from associate vice chancellor for student services to interim vice chancellor for student affairs was smooth and natural.

"It's not as if there was a lot going on that I wasn't already aware of or involved with," he said.

Bresciani said that Shelton's and Chancellor James Moeser's support has made it clear to him that they trust him and that he doesn't feel overwhelmed because he is only occupying the position temporarily.

But Bresciani said he is hesitant to institute any major policies or to make any decisions that would be difficult to reverse.

Shelton said officials plan to start the search for both vice chancellor positions in January, and they anticipate that the

searches will last six months to one year, Shelton said.

He said the new vice chancellors could be in office as soon as next fall, but officials will not rush for the sake of permanency.

Shelton said it is not uncommon for simultaneous searches to be conducted and added that having five searches for top-level administrators at the same time is "a little high but not unusual."

The University is close to hiring a dean for the School of Social Work. The name of the final candidate will be submitted to the UNC Board of Trustees soon, and if all goes well, the new dean could start as early as October, said Shelton.

The search for the dean of the School of Pharmacy is well under way, and there are 24 active candidates, he said.

Shelton said the search for a dean of the School of Education has just begun. Madeleine Grumet announced this summer that she will vacate the position in June 2003.

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Family Weekend 2002

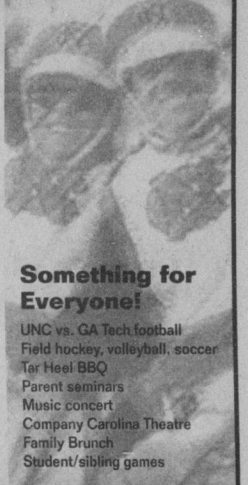
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