

# UNC: No Web Security Changes Needed

Officials say University's site is more secure

By EMMA BURGIN  
Assistant State & National Editor

A Yale University Web site security breach has heightened UNC-Chapel Hill admissions officers' concern over posting admission decisions online, but the practice will continue.

In July, Yale administrators contacted Shirley Tilghman, president of Princeton University, concerning numerous occasions in April when Princeton admissions office computers were used to gain access to applicant information - including admission status - on the Yale Web site.

To gain access to the applicant information part of Yale's Web site, a name, Social Security number and birth date were needed - all information required on the Princeton admissions applications.

In a statement made Aug. 13, Tilghman said Stephen LeMenager, Princeton associate dean and director of admission, had accessed Yale's Web site in order to find the admission status of

students who applied to both universities.

Yale administrators informed the U.S. attorney's office in Connecticut of their findings.

UNC's admissions Web site is similar to that of Yale's, causing admissions officers to question the security of applicants' information.

"It's a wake-up call," said Jerry Lucido, UNC director for undergraduate admissions. "We have to be on our guard at all times."

But he said the admission portion of UNC's Web site is more secure than Yale's was. It requires not only Social Security numbers and personal identification numbers but also requires a password specified by the applicants themselves.

All prospective students have a personalized Web page to inform them of the University's decision.

"You'd have to be an expert hacker to get into our system," Lucido said. "We feel good about it."

Since the investigation into the incident was concluded, LeMenager has been asked to leave the admission office, where he served the university for 20 years.

Princeton University Dean of Admission Fred Hargadon took full responsibility for LeMenager's actions and has "pledged to do everything he can this coming year to restore the integrity of the admissions office and the confidence of applicants that their privacy and confidentiality will be protected," the Tilghman statement read.

Hargadon will retire next June. "Princeton's president has made a strong statement for ethics," Lucido said. "These are two individuals who have been very, very good. I don't know if an error in judgement should cost you your job every time."

But Lucido added that this is not an occurrence to be taken lightly.

"It's clearly not a proud chapter in the history of admissions counseling," he said.

"It's our responsibility to keep that material and our decision confidential." Yale President Richard Levin said in a statement that he was satisfied with the way Tilghman handled the matter.

"I am impressed by the thoroughness of Princeton's internal investigation and confident that all concerned now recognize the importance of protecting the privacy of college applicants," he said. New safety precautions will be in effect when Yale's admissions Web site opens again in April 2003, said Thomas Conroy, deputy director of public affairs for Yale.

Conroy said Yale has not decided what the specific precautions will be.

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TRUSTEE  
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on a casual basis, Burnett said, he is still looking forward to the experience Carson offers and the dynamic he thinks the newest trustee will add.

"What he brings is ... a proven track record of public service," Burnett said. "He's got a great reputation."

Carson, 64, will assume his post with an already established and extensive background in higher education.

Serving on the BOG for 22 years, he was the board's chairman from 1984 to 1988.

During his time as chairman he headed the search committee that selected then-UNC-system President C.D. Spangler.

Within Carson's professional experience also lie academic ties to the

University - he holds a not only a bachelor's degree but also a law degree from UNC-CH.

More than anything, Carson said he wants to give back to UNC-CH and show his commitment to the position through his service.

"I hope I bring to the table an appreciation of how important the University is to North Carolina," he said. "I have a desire to take the issues as they come."

McColl left the board last May, only one year after his term began, Burnett said, and the BOG appointed Carson as his replacement.

"Those are big shoes to fill," Carson said.

BOT members can serve four-year terms.

The University Editor can be reached at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

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A written charge to the task force from July states that in-state undergraduate tuition and fees have increased 63 percent in a three-year period - from \$2,365 a year in the academic year 1999-2000 to \$3,856 in 2002-03.

The 20-member committee consists of administrators, faculty, staff, BOT members and students, including Student Body President Jen Daum's chief of staff, Rebekah Burford. Shelton said Daum has the option of being on the committee as well, although she did not attend Monday's meeting.

Short five members, the group sorted through documents Monday, including reports that analyzed implementations and uses for campus-based tuition.

Task force members also were given various statistics to discuss, including figures on freshman admission, UNC-CH funding and comparisons of state allocations versus enrollments.

Task force members then discussed

whether tuition is the most efficient way to raise revenue, said Shirley Ort, director of scholarships and student aid.

"Nobody, of course, had any easy answers," she said. "There was good representation though. I think it's going to be an even better discussion than what we had last year."

Ort served on both last year's tuition committee and a similar one in 1999.

Shelton said he hopes the task force will meet at least five more times before the end of the semester so it can make initial recommendations to the BOT. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 26.

In the meantime, committee members will be studying the impacts of past tuition increases and any other elements to the equation they feel is necessary in the process, Shelton said. "We want to make sure people are working on as much information as possible," he said. "I think the long-term goal is to have this be an item of discussion each year."

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## AIRPORT

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but even if those are successful, I doubt it will be ready by January 1."

Opponents have said relocation won't solve the entire problem. They contend that doctors won't participate in a program they have to drive long distances to get to. Insko said a University-conducted survey might tell a different story.

"Off the top of my head, about 70 percent of the doctors said they would continue to participate," Insko said.

"While this is a drop, it's still more than half."

Insko also said she doesn't think lessened mobility should affect the program's quality.

"We are increasing our ability to reach the whole state electronically every day," she said.

"Through distance learning and telecommuting, we can reach rural areas that were before very remote."

Insko said she thinks the airport's days are numbered. "My feeling is that the airport will eventually close and AHEC will find a new home," she said.

Moeser had set the deadline for the airport's closure before the end of the year, but if the legislation is approved, Moeser will have little control over the future of the site.

For the legislation to pass into law, it will have to be approved by both chambers.

The City Editor can be reached at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

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