

Board Editorials Empty Measures

University officials erred by neglecting to include diversity and UNC's contributions to the state among a list of criteria used to gauge campus performance.

Several months ago, University officials embarked on an ambitious project to determine what factors matter most to the University's future.

The measures of excellence aim to set a benchmark of standards for judging the University as officials strive to meet Chancellor James Moeser's goal to make UNC the top public university in the nation. This more comprehensive measurement system would provide the University community with concrete proof highlighting our strengths and exposing our weaknesses.

But an analysis of the revamped measures by The Daily Tar Heel pinpoints major shortcomings of the proposal. The draft fails to emphasize adequately two vital areas - diversity and the University's contribution to the state.

Officials designed measures in the first draft that would have weighed the diversity of the student body, faculty and staff. Those ratings all were eliminated in the second draft and reduced to a goal in the preamble.

The kicker is that high-ranking officials don't remember why exactly the diversity measurements got cut. "We seem to have jettisoned quantitative measures on diversity," Provost Robert Shelton said. "I cannot think of why we would do that, but it is certainly not intentional."

But Executive Associate Provost Bernadette Gray-Little told the DTH that the diversity measurements were eliminated intentionally to save space.

That reasoning and lack of communication is inexcusable.

Officials repeatedly have cited the importance of admitting a diverse student body and hiring diverse staff and faculty members. But leaving out quantitative comparisons of diversity from the

measures of excellence sends a message that all the discussion about diversity is nothing more than meaningless talk.

With diversity increasingly under public scrutiny and attack as the U.S. Supreme Court prepares to hear arguments on the constitutionality of the University of Michigan's race-based admissions policies, administrators should make every effort to show their support by adding the diversity standards back in the quantitative measurements section.

There are similar problems regarding the decision to cut back on measurements of UNC's contributions to the state. Shelton told the DTH that some of criteria - such as the percentage of UNC graduates in the state and the number of programs serving the state - were cut because it was difficult to get similar information from other universities.

But Lynn Williford, director of the Office of Institutional Research, told the DTH that UNC would be able to share similar data with other schools after entering an exchange agreement.

UNC's budget is increasingly under fire from legislators looking for savings. As Board of Trustees Vice Chairman Stick Williams pointed out, quantitative measurements would show legislators how vital UNC is to the state's economy and future. "We might want to add back some of those things," he said.

University officials clearly need to review the proposals as soon as possible and re-examine their reasoning behind cutting valuable criteria like diversity and UNC's benefits to the state.

It's outrageous that so many high-ranking officials are grossly uninformed about the process.

The measures of excellence are too important to the University's future for administrators to continue this haphazard and chaotic approach.

A Push for Change

The death of Jessica Santillan should push Duke Hospital officials to examine their procedures on organ transplants to prevent a tragic error from occurring again.

For the past week, the nation has focused its attention on a teenager's struggle to live after a botched organ transplant operation.

Her story had all the elements of a fairy tale. Jessica Santillan was suffering from a failing heart and lungs. Her family moved to the Triangle area from Mexico several years ago because they wanted the best medical care possible for Jessica.

The family and sick child touched the hearts of the residents of Louisiana, a small town about 50 miles from Chapel Hill.

A local man, Mack Mahoney, adopted the Santillan family's cause and spent countless hours raising money for the operation by holding fundraisers and even building and selling a house.

After officials at Duke University Hospital told the Santillan family they had found a heart and lungs, it seemed the story was going to have a happy ending.

But that's when a chain of mistakes and gross errors began that culminated in the tragic death of 17-year-old Santillan.

After performing the transplant operation, Duke officials learned they had given Santillan organs of an incompatible blood type.

Santillan's body rejected the organs, and her health started declining rapidly. A last-minute transplant - with the correct blood type this time - failed to help her, and she died Saturday.

Duke Hospital bears a heavy weight of the responsibility for her death. Santillan's death was a tragic mishap that might have been prevented if hospital officials only had checked out the organs more thoroughly before the first transplant.

Without that first botched operation, Santillan might have been strong enough to survive the

high-risk transplant.

Hospital officials are taking the necessary steps to repair the damage done. They've publicly apologized to the family for committing the error despite the fact that admitting the mistake will come back to haunt them at any future medical malpractice trials.

Hospital officials also have begun examining their transplant operation procedures - determining how the error in Santillan's case occurred and how to prevent it from happening in the future.

Such measures are a vital step in bringing back public trust damaged by the gross failure in Santillan's case.

But that's not enough.

If such a foolish error could happen at the world-renowned Duke Hospital, it easily could happen elsewhere.

Duke officials should use Santillan's death as a reason to push for all medical centers, including UNC Hospitals, to examine their treatment standards and operating procedures.

An in-depth study could prevent a similar mistake from costing another's life.

Duke officials owe it to the Santillan family to ensure stricter standards are put into place.

Santillan's death might have another positive benefit by bringing national attention to organ donation.

If you're interested in organ donation, then visit <http://www.organdonor.gov> for more information.

At the site, you can download a donor card to carry in a wallet and also to give to your family members so they know about your wishes.

With luck, more people will decide to become organ donors to save the life of someone like Jessica Santillan.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Domestic Security Act Threatens U.S. Civil Liberties Unnecessarily

In the 1830s, Alexis de Tocqueville wrote, "There is nothing more annoying in the habits of life than this irritable patriotism of the Americans. A foreigner would indeed consent to praise much in their country; but he would want to be permitted to blame something, and this he is absolutely refused."

Then again, many of you are thinking, he was French. And the French have always hated Americans - after all, look at their recent behavior on the U.N. Security Council.

But Tocqueville was actually amazed by the United States and admired our unique, if tenuous, balance between freedom and equality.

Lately in the United States, the tension has been between freedom and "security." If you don't yet know about the second installment of the USA Patriot Act - formally known as the Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003 - you should.

The bill, a sequel to the act signed into law by President Bush on Oct. 26, 2001, has yet to be officially released by the Justice Department, but rumors about its development have been swirling around Capitol Hill for months. On Feb. 7, the Center for Public Integrity released a previously undisclosed draft of the proposal, written by the staff of Attorney General John Ashcroft. And it's terrifying.

The bill, whose existence had been consistently denied by the Department of Justice and other governmental officials, can be found at the center's Web site, <http://www.publicintegrity.com>. Here are a few highlights.

Section 201 erodes the foundations of the Freedom of Information Act, asserting that the government has no obligation to report the identities of detainees. Sections 301-306 allow for the creation of a DNA database of "suspected terrorists," including anyone who might have had any interaction at all with such groups. The government could collect DNA from anyone falling under the incredibly loosely defined category of "suspected to be affiliated with terrorists."

Section 312 eliminates state law enforcement consent decrees, which limit information-gathering capabilities of these agencies. There's no such thing as "unreasonable search and seizure."

Section 501 would make it possible for the government to revoke the citizenship of anyone suspected of "materially supporting" any organization classified as "suspected terrorist." A Muslim American citizen lawfully and publicly contributing to a Muslim charity could be expatriated if the organization is either labeled as "terrorist" by Ashcroft's cronies or if it is using the funds for terrorism without the

donor's knowledge. Section 511 creates 15 new death penalties for terrorist-related crimes, including ones where the defendant's actions were conducted without known intent to kill.

The bill scoffs at due process and decreases both government and corporate accountability. If you're not infuriated, you're not paying attention. For a section-by-section analysis of Patriot II, check out the ACLU's Web site.

What's frustrating about the Patriot Act, aside from the content, is the name. As if opposition to this measure represented the absence of patriotism instead of a sincere desire to protect the civil liberties guaranteed by the Constitution. Similarly, public opposition to the war on Iraq, even if it represents a disagreement over the approach and not the goal, is automatically "un-American" and millions of protesters around the world are summarily dismissed.

Liberals are accused of hating the United States and its ideals. What conservatives don't get is that we're actually defending the foundations of this nation and not the callous policies of a shortsighted, selfish administration.

Tocqueville concluded the patriotism section: "America is a country of freedom where, in order not to wound anyone, the foreigner must not speak freely of particular persons, the state, or the governed."



RACHEL GURVICH
INFORMED DISSENT

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EDITOR'S NOTE:The above editorials are the opinions of solely The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board, which were reached after open debate. The board consists of eight board members, the assistant editorial page editor, the editorial page editor and the DTH editor. The 2002-03 DTH editor decided not to vote on the board and not to write board editorials.

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Anti-war Protest During Game Meant to Reach New Audience

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board and general criticisms of the people who rushed the court, Andrew Pearson, Liz Mason-Deese and ourselves, we would like to make a statement. We agree with the editorial that laying out arguments in a discussion format is an effective way to support the peace movement.

We make efforts toward these discussions continuously. We organize teach-ins, peace encampments and displays in the Pit and the Franklin Street post office that were and continue to be excellent venues.

What we propose as a possible solution to stop the war, repeated nonviolent civil disobedience, is justified by the gravity of the situation. Bombs dropping here in the United States in the form of reduced health care, inflation and unemployment, as well as those dropping in Iraq from planes and already exploding in the form of sanctions, are ultimately more disruptive than our efforts to stop these bombs.

We have limited access to tactics to stop the war; we feel it necessary to choose what is both nonviolent and effective. Our actions hit a sensitive spot; now there is discussion in settings where before there was none. We do not feel that actions requiring courage and resolve are childish.

On March 5, we will join more than 100,000 students for a nationwide strike to demand that the Bush administration ends its drive toward war with events in the

lower quad. So, when does the football season start?

Scott O'Day
Junior
Music
Kelly White
Junior

Women's Studies

Doherty: DTH Cartoon Unfairly Criticizes Manuel's Dedication

TO THE EDITOR:

I was very disappointed to see the cartoon in which one of our men's basketball players was made fun of in a demeaning manner. The DTH has long set a standard of good journalism. But this cartoon shattered that standard. All it did was ridicule and criticize one of the hardest workers I've ever had the pleasure of being around.

Jackie Manuel leaves everything he has on the floor each time he represents the University. It is appalling for his own student paper to attempt to embarrass him. His teammates and coaches love his effort and performance. He deserves to be considered for National Defensive Player of the Year honors. I'm not asking the DTH to be an extension of our cheerleading squad, but I am asking the paper to be fair and respectful to those it covers.

Matt Doherty
Men's Basketball Coach

Editor's Note: The cartoon expressed the opinion of the cartoonist and not the DTH as a whole.

The editorials are approved by the majority of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor, editorial page editor, assistant editorial page editor and eight editorial writers.

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