

BOARD EDITORIALS

BIDING THEIR TIME

The search for a vice chancellor of student affairs has taken longer than expected, but it's important for leaders to make a well informed choice.

University officials appear to be living by the notion that it's better to take your time to get things right when it comes to searching for the campus' next vice chancellor for student affairs.

Chancellor James Moeser, Provost Robert Shelton and 13 members from the Division of Student Affairs met Monday to evaluate three candidates to fill the position and to discuss the position in general. But they failed to reach a final decision on any candidate.

A search committee presented its recommendations on the candidates last week.

Shelton recently said the committee has three possible choices for proceeding with the search: start all over again, negotiate a contract with one of the candidates or bring two candidates back for an additional round of interviews.

The first option, Shelton said, could add several months to the search. But Shelton and other leaders said they do not want to rush to make a decision.

In a way, the decision makes some sense. The vice chancellor for student affairs oversees a wide array of campus departments and organizations. Among these groups are the Carolina Union, the Department of Housing and Residential Education and University Career Services.

Given the tremendous impact the person selected to fill this position will have on the campus community, it is extremely important that leaders not rush to fill the position.

On the flip side, the fact that the vice chancellor will serve an important role on the campus should give leaders more impetus to hire someone.

Dean Bresciani has served as interim vice chancellor since Sue Kitchens left the University in June 2002 and by all accounts has done an admirable job.

But the term "interim" by its very nature means temporary, so it is important to place a more permanent official in the position.

Making a decision soon also could help to ensure

that many of the committee members are allowed to stay involved in the search.

The delay in forming a search committee and the time taken to reach a decision already have caused one student representative — former Student Body President Jen Daum — to leave the committee. Another student representative graduated during the selection process but remained on the committee.

Matt Tepper, current student body president, is the sole student member of the committee now.

Still, if there is one thing to be gained from the indecision, it is that leaders will have more time to make sure they make the right decision.

It also opens the door for the campus community to offer more of its input. Several forums were held earlier this semester to allow students, faculty and staff to talk directly to the three candidates and offer input into who should fill the vacancy.

These events were a good way to reach out to members of the UNC community but drew some criticism for the lack of publicity and interest from students.

It is important that if campus leaders decide to continue their search, they make an extra effort to seek input from the general public by increasing awareness of potential forums and by offering more information about the role of the vice chancellor.

In addition, students should take a more active role in voicing their opinions about filling a position that has a tremendous impact on campus.

But whatever decision is made, it is important for UNC leaders to be upfront with members of the campus community about how long it could be before a final decision is reached.

The position of vice chancellor for student affairs is one that campus leaders hopefully will not have to fill again for a long time.

So it is best that leaders and the campus community as a whole feel comfortable and confident about whatever decision is made.

A POCKET PLEASER

A push by some campuses to discount tuition for classes offered during nonpeak times is an innovative way to help students save some money.

Most college students hate having 8 a.m. classes, but the prospect of paying less for enrolling in them might make it a little easier for students to set their alarm clocks early.

Several college systems across the nation are flirting with the idea of charging students less money for taking early morning or late-afternoon classes.

The idea to charge less for these notoriously unpopular time slots is a creative way of dealing with low participation in early-morning and late-afternoon classes and could be a boon for students' wallets.

The Oregon University System adopted a policy earlier this year that offers a 15 percent discount on classes scheduled before 9 a.m. or after 3 p.m.

The university system plans to offer almost 25 percent of its undergraduate credit hours at times during which students can get the discounted rate.

Officials said they believe Oregon system students could save almost \$1.5 million this year because of the discount.

Leaders at West Virginia University reportedly are looking into the prospect of discounting the costs of classes in order to help students deal with rising tuition.

Although the UNC system doesn't have plans to initiate a similar arrangement at its campuses, there would be several advantages should system officials decide to do so.

The most obvious benefit would be a relief from tuition increases in recent years.

Students in the UNC system saw a 5 percent tuition increase for the 2003-04 school year, and the possibility of being able to save a few bucks on classes would be a welcome change.

Discounting classes also would benefit students involved with many extracurricular activities or students who hold part-time jobs by creating incentives to work during the day, giving them greater flexibil-

ity when trying to arrange classes around their work schedules.

The plan also could reduce some of the competition for classes taught during popular time slots.

After seeing a mid-morning or early afternoon class fill up, many students tend to put off taking the course until the following semester rather than enrolling in an off-peak time section.

Professors often have complained about this trend because they have empty seats in their 8 a.m. classes, while in their noon classes, they have students sitting in the aisles.

Being able to attract students to classes occurring at all times of the day will help to ensure that professors' time and classroom space is used efficiently.

However, a switch to a plan to discount some classes should not come without careful consideration.

Colleges and universities adopting the plan would have to ensure that they maintain a variety of quality courses at all times during the day. Cutting back on the number of courses during unpopular time slots because students will now pay less for them would be detrimental.

Oregon officials appear to have protected their students' interests in this area by offering a wide array of classes during both normal and off-peak times.

Discounting classes also might compel some students to sign up for off-peak classes in order to save money instead of taking courses of interest to them.

But campus leaders could limit the number of discounted classes students could take in order to ensure that students don't abuse the privileges.

There are many good reasons to support a plan similar to the one in Oregon and other areas of the country, but the idea is anything but perfect.

If UNC-system leaders decide to enact a discounted class plan like those on other campuses, they should proceed carefully.

EDITORS' 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 2003-04 DTH editor decided not to vote on the board and not to write board editorials.

READERS' FORUM

Workers highlight issues of importance for community

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a graduate student in UNC's School of Social Work and was fortunate to step outside of my usual habits yesterday to attend the teach-in that was held in front of South Building concerning workers' rights on campus.

First of all, I would like to express my deep appreciation for those members of UNC's staff who were willing to take the risk of speaking out about the difficulties they are facing.

The amount of courage that takes should not be overlooked. If your goal was to increase awareness and support, you can consider yourselves successful in your mission.

At the evening teach-in which I also attended, Sorien Schmidt of the N.C. Justice and Community Development Center made a salient point that I think bears repeating. She said moments like this remind us that we are all responsible for deciding what sort of world we want to live in.

Like the panelists, I want a world in which all workers make enough to live.

There are many things I can do to help bring about that world and I encourage others to take similar steps: wear T-shirts that support UE Local 150 to send simultaneous messages of support to workers and concern to administration and

getting to know the individuals who work so hard to keep our campus running.

You can also educate other people about the results of the N.C. Justice Center report that clearly show 60 percent of people in North Carolina are working but not getting by. Finally, you can write to legislators asking them to support living wage legislation (such as bills H37, H468, S742), and let Chancellor James Moeser know where you stand.

All of these seemingly small actions make a big difference. If you don't think so, just ask the next "housekeeper" you see.

Marie Dessommes
Graduate student
School of Social Work

Journalists to offer insight on covering war at forum

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to take the opportunity to let the Carolina community know about this fall's James M. Johnston Issues Forum, Headlines from the Front Lines: Covering international news in times of crisis.

This is a free public issues forum presented by the Carolina, Johnston and Pogue Scholars and will feature addresses and a panel discussion between four UNC alumni who have worked as foreign correspondents in such global hot spots as Israel, the Balkans,

India, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Fox News anchor Laurie Dhue will moderate the panel in addition to sharing some of her experiences anchoring the news from various locations in the Middle East. Donna Leinwand of USA Today who recently returned from Iraq, where she covered the war from Baghdad and also from Central Command in Qatar, also will speak.

Colin Soloway worked extensively in the Balkans before traveling to the Middle East where he broke the story on American Taliban John Walker Lindh for Newsweek.

Los Angeles Times correspondent David Zucchino won a Pulitzer Prize for his work covering welfare recipients in the United States and was embedded with a military unit during the war in Iraq.

All four journalists will speak about the risks and rewards of international journalism, the challenges of meeting deadlines across time zones, and the dangers of being an American abroad in some of the most hostile parts of the world.

The forum will be held Sunday, Oct. 5 at 3 p.m. in Carroll 111.

This is an amazing opportunity to learn about one of the most exciting, consequential, and influential fields in the world today. I hope that students and faculty alike will take advantage of it.

Laura Thompson
Sophomore
Undeclared Major

ON THE DAY'S NEWS

"Indecision is often worse than wrong action."

GERALD FORD, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Andrew Johnson, johnso40@email.unc.edu



POP CULTURE

Middle ground needed to quell downloading desires

Remember that scene from the end of "Scarface" when Al Pacino jumps behind his desk and lords over a ridiculous, disgustingly opulent mound of cocaine, plunging in headfirst?

I refer to it whenever I try to describe Napster in all its decadent 2000 glory. It really was like a drug: three years ago, my roommate and I were downloading songs by the hundred. A bad day at class? Have 200 more songs. It wasn't a free-for-all, it was better. And like a drug there was, inevitably, a heavy price to pay.

But I still can't believe the delirious Napster heights. We'd all bought CDs before, right? How'd we fool ourselves into thinking that Napster was OK? We should have known that nothing is free, especially nothing that good.

Don't give me any of that self-righteous crap about how the music industry owes you, about how the musicians and the companies make enough money as is. We were wrong. We still are, and we have to admit it.

People seem to confuse their excuses for file-sharing — overpriced CDs, repetitive drive from the popular blockbuster machines — as actual, plausible justifications for file-sharing, which they're anything but.

It's a petty crime whether or not you paid \$18 for the new Staind (in which case, they probably do owe you some kind of reimbursement.)

I say people, but I mean today's youth — computer-literate, suburban street toughs aged 12 to 25. To my knowledge, it's all just a clash between millions of kids and a gaggle of corporate attorneys (and Metallica's Lars Ulrich). Parents just get the subpoenas; they never get the free music fruits.



BRIAN MILLIKIN
SO HOT RIGHT NOW

But the music industry isn't without its faults in the matter.

Even if the kids fired the first shots, the Recording Industry Association of America's confused responses have featured a unique lack of understanding and foresight. Its recent tactic is a barrage of subpoenas for users sharing large quantities of files (including that Napster was OK? We should have known that nothing is free, especially nothing that good).

The RIAA is playing a dangerous game. It's teetering on the brink of alienating its all-important consumer base, betting that popular demand for their product will survive the scare tactics. I wish that weren't true, but it is. If MTV wills it, it will happen.

The RIAA's offer of amnesty to offenders is a double-edged sword as well, requiring a confession of guilt that could be legally permissible in a lawsuit from, say, Lars Ulrich. Chuck D calls it "Gestapo tactics," and that's not far off.

Downloading will be a menace for many years to come, but I'm not afraid for the music industry. I am afraid that downloading individual songs legally from services such as Apple's iTunes or illegally from any number of convoluted shareware programs is killing the album as an art form.

Rubber Soul introduced an era in 1965 when entire albums could be strong from song to song, a practice in which I still revel. But

"How'd we fool ourselves? ... We should have known that nothing is free ... nothing that good."

recent trends in popular music toward here-today, gone-tomorrow singles, married to a song-by-song digital landscape, might make the album irrelevant.

In a recent interview, Outkast's Andre 3000 said he'd like to see the downloader be forced to accept his entire record, and that comforts me. Maybe if Dre had been there at the start, whispering sweet nothings to Shawn Fanning in the Napster creator's Northeastern dorm room, then this entire crisis could have been averted.

But talk of the future is speculative at best. No one knows how or if file-sharing will transition from the illegal sector to the legal.

Instead, I reflect on the past, on the hedonistic Napster heyday. I suspect that the unreal speed at which we downloaded the files was because we knew deep down that it was wrong and that the door eventually would close.

I've since integrated file-sharing into my routine, downloading the occasional song, a litmus test before buying into a new band. Most of my MP3s now come from my own CDs, a right to which no music mogul can lay claim.

I think moderation is the key: download a few songs, buy a CD. Give us a few and we'll give back. Listen to the music, but don't let the drugs get to your head.

Contact Brian Millikin
at millikin@email.unc.edu.

Students stand to lose in UCS move to South Campus

TO THE EDITOR:

I was shocked and disheartened to recently learn that after two years of renovations, University Career Services has been asked by the University to relocate to South Campus in a few years.

As a senior, I was thrilled to have the facility up-and-running and accessible in Hanes Hall.

The new offices excellently accommodate the extraordinarily helpful staff of UCS as well as have a very professional atmosphere, building confidence in students that use the facility.

While offered and used by all ages, the majority of students that visit UCS are upperclassmen who live off-campus or in North Campus.

If UCS moves to South Campus, it will not be nearly as accessible for students' appointments during busy days between classes.

Moreover, it would be sad to lose the perfectly developed and renovated office space for the UCS staff.

Students who have not been to UCS, I encourage you to go in order to experience the friendly, professional and helpful staff, take advantage of the resources and to see the new facility.

It is my hope that the University can reevaluate its relocation plan so that UCS can stay a central asset

to the University.

Catalina Garretón
Senior
Art and Journalism

ATTENTION

The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Page is soliciting guest columns for its Oct. 6 Viewpoints section.

The page will explore the topic of academic freedom and what steps the University should take to welcome input from all segments of the campus community, regardless of their background.

Columns must be no longer than 600 words and should be emailed to editdesk@unc.edu by Thursday, Oct. 2.

Any column not selected for publication might run on the DTH Web site.

For more information, contact Editorial Page Editor April Bethea at adbethea@email.unc.edu.

TO SUBMIT A LETTER: The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 300 words and must be typed, double-spaced, dated and signed by no more than two people. Students should include their year, major and phone number. Faculty and staff should include their title, department and phone number. The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Publication is not guaranteed. Bring letters to the DTH office at Suite 104, Carolina Union, mail them to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 or e-mail them to editdesk@unc.edu.

Established 1893

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The Daily Tar Heel

www.dailytarheel.com

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