

**COVENANT**

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 behind (UNC), but we'll catch up. This is a good competition — it benefits students."  
 Students qualify for Carolina Covenant if they receive federal student aid and come from a family with an income at or less than 150 percent of the federal poverty level. The program will start next fall with the incoming class of 2004.  
 After Moeser's address, Shirley Ort, UNC's director of scholarships and student aid, said she heard from several universities interested in the Carolina Covenant.  
 She said she had been in contact with officials from Georgia,

Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Washington, Wisconsin and the University of California system.  
 "I don't think (UVA.) will be the only one we'll see," Ort said. "All my friends in the business were calling me because they had their heads down crunching numbers. Their bosses wanted to see if this would work for their universities."  
 Hubbard said she appreciated the fact that UNC started the national dialogue about need-based financial aid. "I think this is the path you'll see a lot of universities go down in the next couple of years."  
*Contact the State & National Editor at stntidesk@unc.edu.*

**LABORERS**

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 workers to organize their labor force and work to combat infringements of their rights.  
 "The director of the center can be a facilitator by giving resources that will empower clients to be self-sufficient," he said.  
 Lyles said the center also would benefit employers. For example, the center could facilitate an agreement among the workers that anyone who arrives intoxicated would not be allowed to work.  
 Hector Perez, director of El Centro Latino, was present at the fact-finding meeting. He said he was surprised by the bold ideas Lyles presented and is looking for a simpler fix.  
 "We're thinking about immediate, thoughtful, education-bound solutions," Perez said. To him, Lyles seemed to present "a big wish list."  
 Perez said Lyles' scheme would take two years and several hundred thousand dollars to complete.  
 Perez also worried about the risks a program as ambitious as

Lyles' would entail.  
 "What happens if someone comes to the center then goes to work ... and machinery is hurt or damaged — who pays?" he asked. "What happens if employer and laborer get into a tussle? Those are high risk issues."  
 Perez said he hopes to see more emphasis on education in the new program. He would like to offer ESL and computer classes to workers who have not been picked up by a given hour, possibly through El Centro Latino.  
 Elias Loza, one of the day laborers who will be most affected by the decision, said his biggest concern is ensuring that employers will know about the new location and that he will be accessible to employers who come later in the day, whether he's in classes or not.  
 Talks will continue next week among members of the fact-finding group when Lyles presents further research specific to Carrboro.  
*Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.*

**CAP**

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 Most of those students were well qualified and almost half had SAT scores of 1400 or higher.  
 Accepted students' top two reasons for not enrolling at UNC-CH: it's too much like their high school, and they didn't get a financial aid package like other schools offered to lure in top students.  
 But overall, students aren't coming because they don't feel UNC-CH is the best school.  
 "Surveys overwhelmingly show that students go to the school that is academically superior," said Steve Farmer, senior associate director in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. "That means we're running in a fast league."  
 The UNC system's governing body is considering a plan that could bring in more highly qualified out-of-state students, which some argue would help entice the brightest in-staters to stay in the state.  
 The plan under review by the Board of Governors would allow a 4 percent increase, from 18 to 22 percent, in the nonresident cap.  
 Essentially, it would allow those with national academic distinction, such as Merit Scholars, Achievement Scholars and Hispanic Scholars, to be admitted under the new cap.

percent of those who left, placing it behind six other universities — all of which are in North Carolina.  
 But the credentials of those leaving the state and those remaining differ greatly, said Jerry Lucido, director of UNC-CH's undergraduate admissions.  
 The average SAT score of in-staters who enrolled as UNC-CH freshmen this year was 1272, while the average score of students lost to other states was 1376, he said.  
 Officials' fear is that these highly qualified students might put down roots in other states after school and never return to North Carolina — a possibility that particularly stings as the state begins to view intellectual capital as the replacement for the state's faltering manufacturing base.  
 Students who leave their home state for college are less likely to move back, according to a Southern Technology Council report often cited by proponents of the change.  
 "Of the North Carolina students admitted to Carolina who decline our offer, between 43 percent and 51 percent of them leave our state," said Moeser, citing the study in his recent State of the University address.  
 This trend shows how states can lose top-notch students who will become the future's work force.  
 "I definitely don't want to have to go back to Charlotte unless I absolutely have to," said Nandi Cohen, a senior at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. "I don't see that many job opportunities in North Carolina."  
 Cohen, who graduated 8th out of a class of about 150 at Northwest School of the Arts High School in Charlotte, accepted admission offers to both UNC-CH and Michigan, only to withdraw from UNC at the last minute.

**FEES**

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 service, which proposes a fee increase of \$3.40 per student, would allow students to receive computer help online.  
 The online chat service also would have the ability for technical support staff to fix directly a student's computer problem through a remote desktop control.  
 Committee members deferred the issue until its next meeting Thursday.  
 The committee also passed a proposal for an online student cal-

endar. The calendar will result in a fee increase of \$7.15 per student.  
 The calendar should be up and running on CCI computers for next year's incoming freshman class.  
 Committee members should pass their recommendations to the chancellor by mid-October for review. With the chancellor's approval, the recommendations will go to the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees and, if passed, on to the UNC-system Board of Governors for approval.  
*Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.*

**MILITARY**

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 Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, an organization that provides legal advice and support to military personnel affected by the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" rule, said the policy resembles previous gay bans.  
 "It is virtually impossible for an openly gay person to serve in the military, and the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy does not make that any easier," Ralls said.  
 He said about 3 to 5 percent of the military population is homosexual, and the Pentagon discharges those who reveal themselves at a rate of three to four people per day. "Countless thousands of others choose to serve in silence," he said.  
 Natalie Harry graduated from UNC in May and was discharged from the ROTC because of her sexual orientation. "I was in a serious relationship, and having to sacrifice my personal life just wasn't worth it," she said.  
 Like Klemens, she also wrote a letter that disclosed her sexuality, and sent an explanatory e-mail to her battalion. "I got some very supportive e-mails back," Harry said.  
 Harry said she also found the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy invasive. "Saying includes doing, too," she said. "That's an admission of sexuality." She said if someone becomes suspicious, the military

may launch an investigation.  
 In January, Giencke, Harry, Klemens and two other girls founded Operation FREEDOM, or the Foundation for Rights and Equality — An End to Discrimination and Oppression in the Military. This organization will provide support and raise money for former military personnel seeking higher education.  
 Operation FREEDOM members represented the group at an N.C. unity conference and a pride demonstration in Durham.  
 The women have been distributing applications for volunteers and gauging donor interest. Giencke said she hopes that people are motivated by their efforts.  
 Despite recent rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court overturning anti-sodomy laws, Klemens said the military is "very, very far behind what happens in society."  
 Ralls said homosexuals soon might have an easier time in the military. "Given the conflict in Afghanistan and the war in Iraq, there is a growing willingness to question the rationale of the ('Don't Ask, Don't Tell') policy," Ralls said.  
 For now, all Klemens, Harry and Giencke can do is keep fighting.  
 "I think it will get better," Giencke said, "but not any time soon."  
*Contact the Features editor at features@unc.edu.*

**N.C. suffers 'brain drain'**

Losing the state's brightest students is of particular concern to UNC-CH and is one of the reasons most often cited by Chancellor James Moeser for loosening the current policy.  
 He argues that letting in more students from the pool of highly competitive out-of-state applicants — often turned away with grade point averages higher than 4.0 and SAT scores higher than 1300 — would make the student body both more geographically diverse and more intelligent.  
 But a majority of North Carolinians who turn down an offer from UNC-CH will enroll in another university in the state.  
 Fifty-four percent attend universities such as N.C. State University, Duke University and Wake Forest University, according to surveys conducted by the UNC-CH undergraduate admissions office.  
 The most popular out-of-state destination for those who were accepted was the University of Georgia, the survey showed.  
 Still UGa. accounted for just 1.8

**'13th year of high school'**  
 Another reason Cohen didn't select UNC-CH was the fact that it was too similar to her high school.  
 One trip to the Ann Arbor campus and she was sold on the diverse makeup of that university's student body.  
 Admission officers said this is a typical argument from in-state students. "They don't want us to be a 13th year of high school with all the kids from their high school," Lucido said.  
 Letting in more out-of-state students, he said, will increase the geographical diversity of the student body and help reduce that concern for in-state students.  
 "It is also about providing North Carolinians with an environment that brings them into contact with folks from other places with a great deal of talent," he said.  
 Admissions officials spend about 80 percent of their recruiting efforts in North Carolina, going to college fairs and high schools to try to retain the best and brightest in-state students.  
 Some high schools that present a particular challenge are Providence High School in Charlotte, Charlotte Country Day School and Broughton High School in Raleigh.  
 "It's the schools where the students have more financial ability and can pay that out-of-state tuition," Lucido said.

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**Money lures in-staters**

While financial ability helps in-state students pay tuition at schools outside the state, financial aid packages offered by those colleges also help alleviate the costs.  
 The lack of financial assistance from the University is the second most cited reason accepted in-state students don't enroll.  
 "I do think (lack of financial aid for in-state students) is a factor in the brain-drain issue," said Shirley Ort, director of the office of scholarships and financial aid. "Especially now because of what's happening with the economy."  
 Money was at the crux of freshman Nedra McLaughlin's decision to enroll at Princeton University. McLaughlin graduated from the N.C. School of Science and Math with a 5.25 grade point average on a 6-point scale.  
 "It wasn't a slap to Carolina," she said. "Princeton and Duke actually offered me more money than Carolina."  
 Private schools and out-of-state public schools create aid packages that make their tuition competitive with in-state rates.  
 Ort said that UNC-CH can't compete with these incentives because of its need-based aid focus.  
 "We don't have as much merit-based money as some of the other institutions," she said.  
 UNC is working on sources to fund more scholarship money through the Carolina First campaign, but Ort said it's harder to solicit merit-based aid.  
 "We favor an increase in both kinds of financial aid," she said. "We need to make sure we are balancing equity and excellence."  
*Staff Writer John Frank contributed to this story. Contact the Projects Team at jbf@unc.edu.*