

# Factions create separate events

BY AMY KINGSLEY  
STAFF WRITER

The Carolina Women's Center kicked off their sixth annual Women's Week on Friday, but this year's events are marred by allegations of ideological exclusion by organizers and competition from an alternative event sponsored by progressive organizations.

Despite events ranging from music and theater to panels on race, sexual violence and activism, a pro-life organization said the week is not inclusive of all women's issues.

Members of Carolina Students for Life said they began corresponding with the Carolina Women's Center in November but were not invited to participate in or co-sponsor any of the events.

Instead, the organization arranged for two pro-life activists

to speak during Women's Week: Olivia Gans from National Right to Life and Sally Winn from Feminists for Life of America.

Students from CSFL met with representatives from the CWC in the provost's office Friday and agreed on terms for participation in next year's Women's Week.

CWC officials also agreed to post a link to the group's homepage on their Web site and to represent both sides in abortion debates.

"Women's Week has some events useful for the student body," said Stephanie Evans, president of CSFL. "But by ignoring the abortion issue, they are ignoring a huge issue for women's health."

In addition, some students have organized a Pro Women's Week to run this week along with Women's Center events. The UNC Gay,

Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender-Straight Alliance and Choice USA organized the week's events.

Some members of GLBT-SA stopped working with CWC on Women's Week when organizers refused to adopt a statement of values affirming a gay-friendly and anti-racist environment.

"We couldn't continue to plan with them in good conscience," said Jessica Albrecht, a GLBT-SA committee chair helping to organize the event.

Albrecht said GLBT-SA members support the work done by CWC. She said Pro Women's Week appeals to more progressive and radical students and offers view-

points in addition to those of CWC.

Panelists involved in Pro Women's Week will discuss topics such as gender identity, violence against women, sexual education and struggles of working women.

Despite the opposition, organizers for this year's Women's Week have high expectations for participation by both University and community members.

"(Participants) can learn from speakers ways that they can make a change in vital areas," said Diane Kjervik, director of the Carolina Women's Center.

The week kicked off Friday with a panel including women who work in local grass-roots organizations.

Organizers hope participants will gain inspiration and strategies to work for social change.

"The goal is to educate people, to move people," said Chimi Boyd, assistant director of the CWC. "We hope that everyone comes out and sees what we're all about."

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# BOG appoints new chancellor to ECU

BY CHRIS COLETTA  
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Steven Ballard, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, was tapped by the UNC-system Board of Governors on Friday to take the reins as chancellor of East Carolina University.

Ballard will begin work at the helm of the system's third-largest school by June 1, taking over for interim Chancellor William Shelton, who has served in the role since September.

At a press conference held after the BOG meeting Friday, Ballard said he will focus on understanding the university's strong points and using them to improve the campus and the state.

"There are great strengths at ECU, and those can be translated into benefits for the state of North Carolina," he said.

Ballard's hiring comes six months after former Chancellor William Muse stepped down after two difficult, scandal-stricken years on the job, including two internal audits that were highly critical of his administration.

Still, he said he is not worried.

"I had no hesitation whatsoever from the very beginning," he said.

UNC-system President Molly Broad said Ballard was chosen from a list of three finalists for his expertise, his energy and his experience.

"East Carolina University is fortunate to gain a leader with this



New ECU Chancellor Steven Ballard last worked at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

wealth of talent, enthusiasm and commitment," Broad said.

Ballard's previous job as chief academic officer at UMKC required him to oversee the 14,000 students who attend the university, which has a medical school similar to the one at ECU.

In his new role, Ballard will look to stabilize a university that has been in a state of flux ever since Muse took over its top spot.

Various administrative positions remain unfilled, the top leader's post has been shaky and the school's public image has been in doubt ever since allegations of wrongdoing first became public.

Officials said they expect Ballard, who will earn \$215,000 annually, to help steady the university.

Jim Talton, chairman of ECU's Board of Trustees, introduced Ballard at the BOG meeting, saying he looks forward to working with him to strengthen ECU's position in the UNC system.

"We will be the flagship of the east."

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

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