

Milliken leaves system to run Neb. universities

BY CHRIS COLETTA
MANAGING EDITOR

May 27 — The UNC system will lose one of its top administrators later this summer when J.B. Milliken, senior vice president for university affairs, leaves his post to take the reins of the University of Nebraska system.

The official announcement of Milliken's hiring came Saturday at a meeting of the UN Board of Regents. It marked a homecoming for the fourth-generation Nebraskan, who attended UN-Lincoln as an undergraduate and spent time working for the system before spending the last six years in North Carolina.

In his speech to the regents, Milliken expressed a desire to return UN to the upper echelon of American universities — a position, he said, Nebraskans deserve. Milliken added that he wants UN to become "the home of excellent teaching, research and scholarship, and outreach, engagement and health care that best serves the state of Nebraska."

In his post at the UNC system, Milliken is responsible for federal and state relations, special projects and economic development on the system's 16 campuses and at its



System official J.B. Milliken took the helm of the University of Nebraska system Aug. 1.

headquarters in Raleigh. His work in that position has helped guide the system through a tumultuous period during which the need for federal and state grants to universities has increased as state appropriations have dropped.

In his new role, Milliken will lead a university system with four campuses and a student population of about 45,000. By contrast, the 16 UNC-system campuses enroll about 180,000 students.

Milliken also is recognized for his shaping of system policies and his work toward voter approval in 2000 of a \$3.1 billion bond for renovation, repairs and construction at UNC-system schools and community colleges.

Brad Wilson, chairman of the UNC-system Board of Governors, said Milliken's leadership in those areas and his understanding of a modern university are among his best assets.

"J.B. understands the role of the 21st-century American university," Wilson said. "He possesses the intellect, the professional skill and the political instincts that are, quite frankly, rare in the position that he's going into."

Milliken will assume the UN presidency Aug. 1 under a three-year contract at an annual salary of \$270,000.

Don Blank, chairman of the UN Board of Regents, said Milliken's personality, his Nebraskan ties and his adroitness in dealing with Washington politics will serve him well in his new role.

"We feel extremely fortunate that we could lure him back, because he was outstanding when he was here," Blank said.

Milliken's contract has not yet been finalized, but Blank said it is expected to include benefits such as a housing allowance, the use of a university vehicle and a deferred compensation plan meant to entice him to remain in Nebraska.

The Daily Tar Heel's efforts to reach Milliken at his home and at his UNC-system office were unsuccessful.

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Jablonski tapped as VCSA

BY JENN KAWKA
STAFF WRITER

June 3 — UNC ended its seven-month search for a new vice chancellor for student affairs May 27 with the appointment of Margaret Jablonski.

"I'm very excited about joining the team at Carolina and very impressed by the faculty, staff and students," Jablonski said.

Jablonski, dean for campus life at Brown University since 2001, will begin her new role with the University Aug. 19.

"I'm absolutely delighted," said Steve Matson, chairman of the VCSA search committee. "She was an outstanding candidate for the position, and I'm thrilled she accepted (it)."

As senior student affairs leader and head of the division of student affairs, Jablonski will oversee programs for student learning and student services.

Programs in the division include the Campus Y, leadership development, Student Union, Greek affairs, new student programs, dean of students and career services, among others.

"She brings a range of different experiences from the world of student affairs to UNC ... experience in public and private schools and schools of stellar reputations," Matson said.

Prior to working at Brown, Jablonski served as associate vice



Vice Chancellor Margaret Jablonski assumed the duties of her new job Thursday.

chancellor for student affairs at the University of Connecticut and associate dean for undergraduate education and student affairs at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

She has also worked in various student leadership development positions at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Boston University and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Jablonski has an excellent record of integrating student affairs with academic affairs and including the role of students and faculty in that integration, Matson said.

"She will be able to mend some rifts between academic affairs and student affairs," he said.

Sue Kitchen vacated the position in the spring of 2002, and Dean Bresciani has been serving as interim vice chancellor since that time. Bresciani will become the vice president for student affairs at Texas A&M University June 28.

"I think they made an excellent recommendation," Bresciani said. "Jablonski has a very impressive record."

"She'll have unusual demands concerning campus development and the master plan ... making sure facilities and grounds are optimal to student's benefits," he said.

Bresciani has been with the University since 1998 and he said that reading, listening and learning about the University's history and culture will help Jablonski with her new post — a tip he said he's already told her.

"(UNC is) a unique and wonderful place, and you have to develop appreciation for it."

A native of Springfield, Mass., Jablonski earned her doctorate from Boston University and her master's and bachelor's degrees from UMass-Amherst.

She taught education policy courses while she was a visiting assistant professor at UMass-Amherst, and is the editor of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Journal.

"I want to take a few months to get to know everyone, what the priorities are and strengthen the ties between student affairs and academic affairs," Jablonski said.

"I'm a product of public higher education myself, and wanted to join a public institution with high academic caliber."

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