

# DEDC to search for leader

Seeks expert in economic issues

BY MEREDITH LEE MILLER  
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

While still in its beginning stages, a local economic development group will be seeing some changes in the coming months as the group searches for a permanent executive director and a new seventh member.

Once these appointments are made, some say the Downtown Economic Development Corporation will be able to focus its energies on its mission — fusing the interests of the University, town and private sector in a healthy downtown.

While the search for a permanent executive director comes as no surprise to the group, the need for a new seventh member arose when former Chairman Bob Epting resigned in November after he was the only member who voted against taking an agenda item into closed session.

The Chapel Hill Town Council is in charge of naming a replacement.

Epting was one of four members appointed to the corporation by the town to represent downtown stakeholders. The University appointed two members, and the six members selected the seventh.

Mayor Kevin Foy said the coun-

cil should decide what to do about finding Epting's replacement at its Monday meeting.

"We have to decide what the process will be," Foy said. "My first concern is whether Bob will continue to want to serve. If that's possible, then that's my first choice."

Andrea Rohrbacher, the corporation's newly elected chairwoman, said she is unsure how the selection process for a new member would work. But she said it is unlikely that the town will appoint a new member without consulting the corporation.

On Wednesday morning, a corporation subcommittee will meet to decide how to go about the search for another new member — a permanent executive director.

Since its inception six months ago, the group has been guided by interim Executive Director Nicholas Didow, a UNC business professor.

Didow, members Tom Tucker and Nancy Sutfenfield and Rohrbacher will discuss how the corporation will search for a full-time director.

"We all hope to identify and recruit the most highly qualified director that we can over the coming months," Didow said.

Rohrbacher said the group will advertise extensively for the position because she wants to find someone who has a strong background in economic development issues.

*"Once we get a director who is experienced in development, we can focus on the issues with respect to economic development."*

ANDREA ROHRBACHER, DEDC CHAIRWOMAN

"Once we get a director who is experienced in development, we can focus on the issues with respect to economic development," Rohrbacher said, citing perennial issues such as vacancies and safety.

She said Didow has been helpful in creating the foundation of the corporation, such as setting up an office and telephone line.

"He has been very generous to devote the amount of time for this (group)," Rohrbacher said.

Didow said he is willing to aid the

new executive director and corporation if both parties think a period of transition would be helpful.

The Executive Director Search Committee will meet at 7:15 a.m. Wednesday in the corporation's conference room at 308 W. Rosemary St., Suite 202. The meeting is open to the public.

City Editor Ryan C. Tuck contributed to this article. Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

# Faculty Council OKs procedures for honor cases

Prepares system for large groups

BY JOHN RAMSEY  
STAFF WRITER

UNC's honor system now handles cases more efficiently after it underwent an overhaul in 2003, and more improvements are on the horizon, according to a report released at Friday's Faculty Council meeting.

The group's latest resolution, approved at the meeting, attempts to solve the potential problem of large-scale cases that could swamp the system, such as a case in 2000 that involved 24 computer science students.

The resolution gives the student attorney general the option to present cases involving five or more students who accept responsibility for their violations to a three-member panel and reach an agreement without a formal hearing. The resolution also includes a written notice that a student cannot graduate with an unresolved case in the honor system.

"You can have an outbreak of big cases, and this resolution makes sure we're prepared," said Judith Wegner, chairwoman of the faculty.

While the number of cases reported during the fall semester has remained between 120 and 140 for the past four years, honor system officials increased the number of cases heard in the fall from 64 in 2002 to 96 in 2004 — a 50 percent increase.

"The increase stems from the revamping of the system in 2000 and the changes in the code in 2003," Student Attorney General Carolina Chavez said. "We're much better equipped to handle the case load."

The most significant changes include measures that encourage students to accept responsibility for their actions, allow faculty to make final grading decisions and

provide more flexibility in sanctioning guilty students.

"We have more options with our sanctions now," Chavez said.

"We can offer additional papers, community service and other sanctions that focus on the educational aspect instead of the punitive aspect."

Honor system officials have seen a substantial increase in the percentage of students pleading guilty. The number was up to 75 percent last semester from 51 percent in fall 2003.

"A lot of cases are just students being lazy, cutting corners when they know what they should be doing," said Melinda Manning, a member of the Committee on Student Conduct.

Although the honor system continues to hear more cases per semester, there continues to be a backlog of unheard cases at the start of a semester.

Data show that 31 percent of cases reported last fall were heard during the same semester.

Chavez said the percentage seems low because most cases flood her desk around the time of mid-terms and finals.

"When we get cases concerning finals, it's impossible to hear them all before January," Chavez said.

The system has become much more valuable to the University community during the past two years, Chavez said.

"We want to make sure all degrees awarded are earned and honorable."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

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## POLICE LOG

FROM STAFF REPORTS

■ Chapel Hill police arrested a woman at 2:30 a.m. Sunday and charged her with one felony count of possession of stolen goods and one felony count of fraud for obtaining property, police reports state.

According to reports, Karen Leann Martin, 24, was arrested by Carrboro police for driving while impaired. Chapel Hill police had warrants on Martin and served them on her following her arrest, reports state.

Martin was released on a written promise to appear today in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ Chapel Hill police arrested a local woman at 3:35 a.m. Sunday and charged her with one misdemeanor count of driving while impaired, police reports state.

According to reports, Elizabeth Joanne Gibbard, 26, was arrested on the 800 block of East Franklin Street on one count of driving while impaired after she was involved in a motor vehicle accident.

Police transported Gibbard to UNC Hospitals for injuries from the accident.

BAC results are pending from a lab report from the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation, reports state.

Gibbard is scheduled to appear June 14 in Orange County District

Criminal Court in Chapel Hill.

■ Chapel Hill police arrested a Durham man after 3 a.m. Monday and charged him with one misdemeanor count of drug paraphernalia, police reports state.

According to reports, Noah Gordon Kesler, 20, was arrested for the drug paraphernalia charge after police observed a vehicle parked in a no parking zone on McMasters Street near Mason Street.

As police approached the vehicle, it drove off and later pulled into a driveway after passing Carver Street, reports state.

According to reports, police waited near Church Street for the vehicle to pull out of the driveway and then followed it down to Bynum Street, where police stopped the vehicle for suspicious behavior.

Police reports state that Kesler did not have identification and that when he was asked to step out from the vehicle, he only opened the door enough for him to squeeze himself out while shielding the interior of the door from sight.

According to reports, once Kesler was out of the car, police looked into the car and saw a marijuana pipe in plain view.

Kesler is scheduled to appear April 19 in Administrative Traffic Court in Chapel Hill.

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### K-12 INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM TRAINING SESSION

Tuesday, January 18th and Wednesday, January 19th  
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Student Union, Room 3206A

Join the University Center for International Studies' (UCIS) K-12 International Outreach Program! We are currently recruiting students, faculty and community members to give cultural presentations in K-12 classrooms in the surrounding area. To get a full explanation of the program, listen to previous presentation ideas and get help developing your own presentation, please attend our training sessions required of all new presenters.

For questions or more information, please visit our website at [www.ucis.unc.edu/k12outreach](http://www.ucis.unc.edu/k12outreach) or contact Tara Flanigan at 843-6860 or [tara\\_flanigan@unc.edu](mailto:tara_flanigan@unc.edu).

# Just Kick Me!

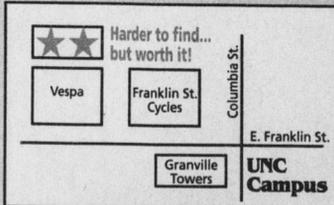


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Just complete and submit your online application by Wednesday, February 16, 2005.

NOTE: A \$200.00 housing deposit or financial aid deferment (due Tuesday, March 1st) is required to be selected for a Theme or Substance Free space. If you are not selected for a program, you can apply the \$200 to the regular room renewal process later this spring. You can pay the deposit at the Cashier's Office.