

Bataille plays balancing game

Chancellor stint almost complete

BY SAMUEL LAU

STAFF WRITER

Just one year ago, the N.C. School of the Arts and Chancellor Wade Hobgood were mired in financial controversy as state auditors found that the school had made a number of inappropriate payments.

But since then, Hobgood has resigned, and interim chancellor Gretchen Bataille, who met with state auditors for an informal exit interview Oct. 28, said that the school's audit is "absolutely clean."

The UNC-system Board of Governors also passed a set of recommendations Friday laying out a system of auditing and reporting to avoid future problems.

BOG member Brent Barringer said the financial troubles centered around Joseph Dickson, the vice chancellor of finance and administration, who resigned in July 2004, but that everything has been cleared up pretty well.

"There was a certain amount of fallout, but most of the problems have been cured," he said.

Adds Bataille, "It's a matter of saying, 'Let's go forward.'"

This forward progression will need to include finding a permanent chancellor to replace Bataille, who still is serving as UNC-system senior vice president for academic affairs.

NCSA Board of Trustees member Mary Braxton-Joseph said a search for a new chancellor has not yet been launched, though Barringer thinks a new chancellor will start no later than July 1.

Until that day comes, Bataille will continue balancing her two positions.

"I don't sleep," she laughed. To help Bataille fulfill all of her responsibilities, her academic affairs assistant Lisa Adamson said she and Bataille's assistant at the School of the Arts have access to the same calendar and work together to make sure Bataille gets where she needs to be.

At the UNC-system office, Bataille still is involved with staffing the BOG personnel and tenure

committee, maintaining her liaison role with a consultant doing a major study on economic development and keeping oversight of the UNC-system office in China.

"But my first priority is that of chancellor," she said, noting that most of her system responsibilities have been delegated to other members of the academic affairs staff.

Barringer said that it was rare for someone from general administration to serve as an interim chancellor, and that most of the time the position would be filled by someone on campus.

"(NCSA) needed a more objective and outside leader for the year," he said, and thus leaders looked toward Bataille.

"It was very important for me to analyze how the issue of the audit had perhaps damaged the school in terms of levels of trust and openness," Bataille said.

"My primary job is getting things on an even keel, being transparent about the budget and being open with the community and restoring confidence in the school."

Barringer, whose daughter is an eighth-grader in the school's ballet program, said she is doing a good job in these respects.

"All the reports I hear from parents, alumni and students are very

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GRETCHEN BATAILLE, CHANCELLOR

positive," he said, adding that she has had to make a number of tough personnel decisions.

"She has implemented a number of strategies that will be more beneficial to the future chancellor than they will this year," he said.

"It really is a thankless job." In regard to the future chancellor, Bataille said he or she should have a number of diverse qualities.

"They need a combination of artistic interests, ability and appreciation in varying areas combined with administration skills," she said.

Bataille said her replacement will be entering an environment of dedicated faculty and students.

"I am confident that the financial issues are behind us," she said. "The future of the school is absolutely wonderful."

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

Groups complain of bias in the classroom

Concerns about indoctrination

BY LINDSEY NAYLOR

STAFF WRITER

A state-ordered panel in Pennsylvania on Wednesday gave members of the state legislature and academia the chance to discuss an alleged presence of political bias on public college campuses.

The concerns in Pennsylvania reflect those held by others nationwide — that state intervention might be necessary to ensure that professors of public universities do not reveal, or to any extent peddle, their personal doctrine to students.

Sara Dogan, national campus director for Students for Academic Freedom, said states should adopt the set of guidelines proposed in 2003 by David Horowitz, president of the Center for the Study of Popular Culture.

The guidelines, which Horowitz named the Academic Bill of Rights, call for policies meant to foster intellectual diversity on campuses.

She said the Colorado state legislature signed a memorandum in accordance with the guidelines, and the Ohio legislature signed a similar resolution.

"That's what we'd really like to see in other states," she said.

Judith Wegner, chairwoman of the faculty at UNC, said support for the guidelines within the N.C. legislature had not warranted further deliberation.

"There had been an introduction of what has been described as an academic bill of rights — which I think is kind of a misnomer," she said. "When it was heard from here it basically went into committee and was never heard from again."

The issue came to a head in North Carolina in 2004 when UNC English lecturer Elyse Crystall sent an e-mail to her class criticizing a student for making anti-gay comments.

A federal investigation found UNC to have handled the situation appropriately, but the debate sparked a bill in the General Assembly advocating for the state to adopt its own academic bill of rights.

The bill, proposed by Andrew Brock, R-Davie, failed.

Wegner said Horowitz's guidelines were introduced in the leg-

islature only to give members a chance to politic.

"If the state is trying to intervene in terms of trying to say what speech is good speech in the classroom and what dialogue is good dialogue among professors, it's unconstitutional," she said.

Wegner added that it is inappropriate to apply a political template to hiring processes in which university administrations attempt to find the best thinkers and teachers.

"It's kind of ironic," she said. "The nature of the policy itself brings politics into the college."

But Dogan said sometimes it is necessary to bring politics into play when cases arise such as those in Pennsylvania, in which universities have not taken the steps needed to ensure students' academic freedoms.

"If there is discrimination due to political beliefs, then, yes, there should be discussion about it," she said.

"We'd much rather see the universities taking these steps."

Glenn Ricketts, public affairs director for the National Association of Scholars, said the president of NAS spoke at the Pennsylvania panel to bring attention to the lopsided ideology present on many public campuses, particularly within the humanities and social sciences.

He said women's studies programs provide examples of this lopsided ideology.

"Many of them are upfront about trying to convert people," he said. "How much academic work is being done as opposed to political advocacy?"

Wegner said that most professors make a point of presenting multiple perspectives and that some critics tend to exaggerate and generalize situations in which bias is perceived.

She said exposure to different ideas is at the core of a solid university education and the development of analytical thinking.

"When people raise a challenge that says, 'My political views are being trounced,' I don't know whether that just means you think something's not worth analyzing more deeply that I'm trying to expose you to."

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

Experts see chance for 'X' factor in 2008

Clinton still tops Democrat potentials

BY SETH PEAVEY

STAFF WRITER

As Americans begin looking toward the 2008 presidential election, a female presidency is becoming more likely than ever before.

With decisive Democratic victories in New Jersey and Virginia on Tuesday, the national parties are turning their attention toward the 2006 congressional elections and beyond to possibilities in the next presidential race.

"We are definitely seeing a lot more discussion about a female president," said Amaya Smith, a spokeswoman for the Democratic National Committee.

More people claim to be willing to vote for a female candidate than ever before.

"There has been a steady increase in the number of people who would vote for a female candidate," said Kristin Goss, a professor of public policy studies at Duke University.

Of possible 2008 presidential candidates, Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., has been the most mentioned.

"Hillary Clinton is certainly the leading candidate in the Democratic Party, but a lot of that has to do with name recognition," said James Stimson, a political science professor at UNC.

He said that her position easily could change once other candidates enter the race and that the predictions of analysts are almost always wrong, particularly this far in advance.

But the Democrats might not

be the only party to field a female candidate.

"I think there are a lot of strong female leaders in the Republican Party," said Danny Diaz, a spokesman for the Republican National Committee.

He mentioned Rep. Deborah Pryce, R-Ohio, and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, as being well-qualified, but said it is too early to speculate on whether they would seek the presidency.

The field of presidential candidates likely will become clearer following the 2006 congressional elections, Goss said.

She said the biggest hurdle facing female candidates is overcoming the perception that they are weak on issues of national security.

"I think the first female president will be Republican," she said, adding that conservatives traditionally are

seen as being stronger on defense.

She mentioned U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as a Republican woman who would be seen as qualified in that regard.


The Republicans might have more to gain than Democrats by nominating a female candidate, given that a majority of women already vote Democratic, Stimson said.

But when it comes to winning the 2008 primaries, a woman's chance of winning a nomination will depend largely on her fundraising ability.

"It's fundraising that matters," Stimson said.




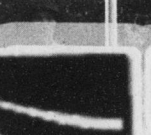






He added that the only candidates with a serious chance of gaining their party's nomination would be those who had raised \$50 million by January 2008.

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



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK 2005

November 14-18

Schedule of Events

Monday, November 14

Welcome to Carolina, Welcome to the World: International Photo Contest
12 p.m. - 5 p.m. - Awards Reception 4 p.m.
FPG Student Union,
Second Floor Lounge.

Tuesday, November 15

Foreign Language and Area Studies
Fellowship Information Session
2 p.m.
UCIS Conference Room, 223 E. Franklin St.

Carnavalito, An Evening of Latin Jazz
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
FPG Student Union, Caberet Theater.

Wednesday, November 16

Women's Refugee Micro-Enterprise
Initiative Sponsored by Exploris Museum
Featured Speaker and Panel Discussion
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
FPG Student Union
Room 3206

Foreign Language and Area Studies
Fellowship Information Session
3:30 p.m.
UCIS Conference Room, 223 E. Franklin St.

Go Global - Get Your Passport
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
FPG Student Union
Room 3203.

Thursday, November 17

University Center for International Studies
Student Research Symposium
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
UCIS Conference Room, 223 E. Franklin St.

Carolina Passport to the World Fair
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Courtyard Outside FPG Student Union.

Friday, November 18

Carolina for Kibera Information Session,
Reception, and Photography Exhibit
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
UCIS Conference Room, 223 E. Franklin St.

"....it is absolutely critical that Carolina be a player on the world stage. We must be engaged internationally."
-Chancellor James Moeser

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All Photos from the 2004-2005 photo contest