

SBP looks into academic plan

BY SERGIO TOVAR
SENIOR WRITER

Student Body President J.J. Raynor has proposed a more personalized approach to advising.

But a large portion of her academic platform has been under way well before she took office and most likely would have happened whether Raynor supported them or not.

Other parts still must be examined for feasibility. Raynor will have to work with University administrators to lobby them to get her ideas approved before she leaves office.

'Personalized advising'

Raynor wants students to have a closer relationship with advisers than they now do with a team system.

Former Student Body President Eve Carson had already started working with the advising department to accomplish this, and as a result, teams will be disbanded by the next academic year, giving students one adviser from day one.

During C-TOPS, each adviser will be responsible for meeting with four students per session, rather than about 20, as in previous years.

Also, Raynor is pushing more electronic interaction with advisers

via instant messenger and chats.

To determine the feasibility of that idea, Raynor will have to meet with administrators, who have an understanding of what's actually possible.

"We always listen," said Carolyn Cannon, associate dean of Academic Advising. "Sometimes the ideal situation sounds great, but trying to implement it may be a little more difficult."

Technological progression

Raynor said that there's software available for chats but that it would require a grant because the University has called for a moratorium on software purchases because of Enterprise Resource Planning.

ERP will change how students register for classes, review academic progress and handle financial aid.

Raynor attended a demonstration for the new portal that will eventually replace Student Central and MyUNC. She said that she was impressed with the power of the prototype but that she thinks improvements are possible.

"It needs to be a little bit prettier," she said.

Although an ERP timeline has already been established for the student implementation phase, Stephanie Szakal, assistant vice chancellor for ERP, said student leaders, including Raynor, have

and will continue to have a say.

Pre-graduate school advice

A conversation between Raynor and Cindy Spurlock, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation, was the first step toward a pre-graduate school advising office for students to get support from advisers and graduate students.

"I think we need to move on carefully because it needs to be done right," Spurlock said, adding that she will be working on it with Raynor during the summer.

Spurlock said a pilot program is being run through the provost's office and has been successful so far.

Study abroad mentoring

Raynor wants to implement a peer-to-peer advising system for study abroad programs in which students will be able to talk to other students who have participated in the program they are interested in.

She said she hopes the study abroad office will offer its network to get in touch with study abroad alumni to advertise the program.

Raynor hopes both peer advising and pre-graduate advising will begin by the next academic year.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

BANQUET

FROM PAGE 1

old guessing game.

"I don't know; I don't want to know," Marcus Ginyard said when questioned on the subject.

"Honestly, I just want everyone to come back."

Even with all the NBA discussion in the back of many minds, the banquet still evoked many grins, chuckles and, of course, tears.

Multiple speakers stressed the accomplishments of this year's squad — the team-record 36 wins, the ACC regular season and conference tournament championships, and the 17th Final Four appearance.

"I don't know; I don't want to know. Honestly, I just want everyone to come back."

MARCUS GINYARD, UNC FORWARD

Junior Bobby Frasor created probably the loudest laughs in his role as host of the Tar Heel season recap video.

Surry Wood and a teary-eyed Quentin Thomas said their final farewells to the Smith Center faithful during their senior speeches.

And there were awards given out, ranging from highest free throw percentage to top rebounder.

Thomas took most improved honors, while Hansbrough won the team MVP award.

But on top of all the fun, cheering and applause was the Smith Center's NBA-sized elephant, a beast that will linger around town for at least a few more days.

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

ELECTION

FROM PAGE 1

popular in district one.

He said he thinks that the majority of district two shares his sentiments.

Brooks said he also thinks that northern Orange County has been shortchanged on recreational facilities.

"It's not been developed like the soccer fields and parks in the southern part of the county," he said.

Bernadette Pelissier, one of three at-large candidates, said she was worried about factionalism on the board — "a tug-o-war for money and services and programs."

"My concern is that then people's expectation is someone elected from a district is supposed to concentrate on a district," she said. "I don't see that as productive."

The redistricting also forces candidates to choose between running for a district-specific seat or an at-large seat.

Candidates said their decision depends on their relationship with the districts.

"I think that my philosophy of government is more reflective of district two thinking," said Yuhasz, who has lived and worked in Hillsborough for the past 25 years.

Jacobs said commissioners have traditionally come from the rural parts of the county and more recently from the Chapel Hill-Carrboro region.

Pelissier said she is running as an at-large candidate because she wants to represent the county as a whole.

"We're all interdependent," she said. "The pie might come out of the oven bad if you only worry about one part."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

PASSOVER

FROM PAGE 1

Hill's Chabad begin Saturday and run until April 27.

Along with a five-course dinner, everyone will be served four cups of wine and shemurah matzah.

The matzah is an unleavened bread that represents the bread that Jewish people made when they left Egypt more than 3,300 years ago.

"The Jews didn't have time to let the bread rise," said Chaya, the Rabbi's 3-year-old daughter.

But Passover is also a difficult time for some Jewish people.

Jacob Forstater, a first-year graduate student at UNC, spent two hours at the grocery store and only bought an orange.

"This year Passover fell right around finals time, so cleaning my house and finding kosher food has been difficult," Forstater said.

He said it's also been difficult being away from home.

"The closest family that I have is 300 miles away," Forstater said. "The friends I have at Chabad really act as a surrogate family, especially during the holidays."

The Blumings have three children, but Rabbi Bluming said every student who frequents the Chabad is important to him.

"We have students from all walks of life," said Yehudis Bluming, the Rabbi's wife.

Freshman Casey Siemasko holds a work-study job at Chabad, where she cooks, cleans and does other miscellaneous tasks.

"Even though I'm not Jewish, I feel very welcome every time I go there," said Siemasko, who plans to attend the Seder meal this weekend.

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

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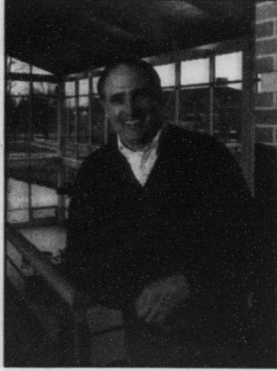
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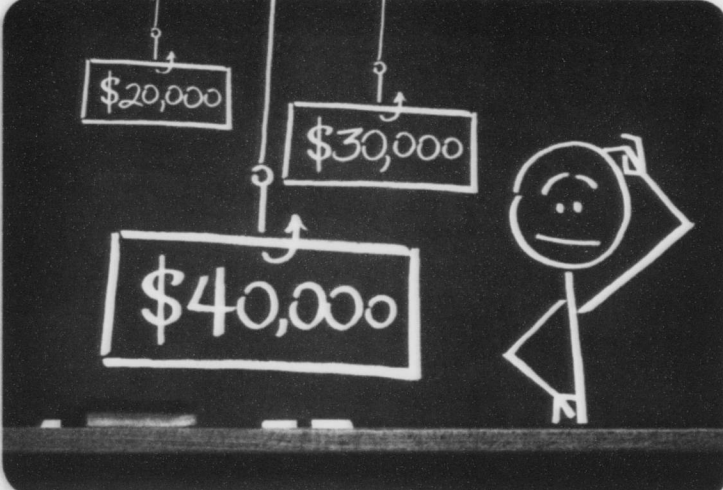
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