

Moeyer examines his job, legacy

BY BRIAN AUSTIN
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

JUNE 12 — As former Chancellor James Moeyer's term wound to a close, he was afforded the luxury of hindsight, and the benefit of experience as Chancellor Holden Thorp prepared to step into the office.

Though Thorp was unavailable for comment, Moeyer discussed his position and the opportunities and the most pressing challenges that could lie ahead for Thorp.

A strong team in place

When he first arrived on campus, Moeyer was met with a world of problems. Campus buildings were in disrepair and there was a legislative battle over the N.C. Higher Education Bond. But these problems paled in comparison to the dozen or so administrative vacancies that left holes to be filled.

"I think there were something like 10 vacant deans' offices," Moeyer said, further noting more vacant positions at the offices of provost and vice chancellor for finance. "There was a lot of work to be done to build a leadership team, so that was huge."

Thorp's administration looks to be remaining in place for the most part, though Moeyer was quick to point out the value in having administrators that are attractive, even to competing institutions.

"That's just the natural rhythm of an institution," he said. "When our highest level people get promotions and go to be presidents or senior officers at other places, that's actually a compliment."

Furthermore, Thorp had been holding meetings with upper-level administrators before leaving for a family vacation Wednesday.

Globalization and sciences

Moeyer also worked to move the University beyond the confines of Chapel Hill and of North Carolina, focusing instead on expanding UNC's mission to include global recognition and perspective.

One of the challenges for Thorp will be to capitalize on UNC's strengths.

"Right now UNC is not really a well-recognized global brand, as some other American universities are," Moeyer said. "I think that's really going to be the test of being the leading public university."

Moeyer described other ways that the University has tried to push itself to the fore, and named improvements to the natural sciences as the critically important piece of UNC's goal over the next decade.

"I think science really defines competition in the world economy," Moeyer said. "We will rise and fall on our strength in science and technology."

He added that the humanities and social sciences should be included in that consideration and pointed out immediate global opportunities for collaboration.

"Sub-Saharan Africa has huge economic, education and health issues," he said. "Universities there are desperately looking for relationships with American universities, so I think there are tremendous opportunities."



DTH FILE/RACHEL RODEMANN
James Moeyer gives his final graduation speech as chancellor on May 11. Laughing, he noted that he, too, was "graduating" in 2008.

Fighting the 'gorilla' image

One of the areas in which Thorp will first be tested is in his handling of the town-gown divide, a responsibility he has not had to face.

"We are the 500-pound gorilla," Moeyer said. "And I think we have to realize that everything we do, everything we do affects the people who live in this community. And that requires, on our part, a great sensitivity to their concerns."

The UNC Board of Trustees has begun negotiations with the town on a development plan for Carolina North, a project still in its infancy that Thorp will oversee.

"We're building a whole new campus, which in many ways is going to define his term," Moeyer

said.

Thorp, too, will face other concerns, including the loss of almost half of the current Board of Trustees and possibly his own higher education bond. Moeyer has laid out his vision for the University as an academic and research force to contend with on the world stage. As he moves on from the leadership of the University, the responsibility will fall to the chancellor-elect and Moeyer will enjoy his own time away.

He'll be spending his days with his two grandchildren and honing his organ skills before returning in the post of professor.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Miscommunication delays blue lights

BY SARAH E.F. SMITH
STAFF WRITER

JUNE 19 — The emergency call boxes and blue lights slated for installation in residential neighborhoods by a May 5 Chapel Hill Town Council decision might not be in place before students return to campus in August.

Under the advisement of Sgt. Jack Terry from the Chapel Hill Police Department and Student Body President J.J. Raynor, the council voted to place call boxes and streetlights on the corner of Mallette Street and Colony Court, as well as at Church Street and Short Street.

But because of a miscommunication between the town staff and student government, the installation of the blue lights will begin a month later than scheduled.

"The town doesn't have a single point of contact," Raynor said. "No one was feeding us information."

The proposal for blue lights included two resolutions by the council. The council rejected the first because the McCauley and Ransom streets location brought forth community protests. In the second, they approved the Mallette and Church locations, leaving the location of a third to be determined.

While Raynor and Terry were expecting to go before the Historical District Commission to approve the other two blue lights in June, Kumar Neppalli, the Chapel Hill traffic engineer and the point person for this initiative, had planned to meet with the commission at the

August meeting.

Neppalli said they could not go before the commission at the June 12 meeting because they had not received technical engineering plans from Duke Energy.

Although the location of the third blue light was a point of contention, Neppalli said the council supports its implementation.

"The council asked to go back and talk about the last location but move forward with the project," Neppalli said. "They completely approved the project a second time, with a 9-0 vote."

Due to recently increased gas and energy prices, the delayed installment and manufacturing bids for the blue lights are likely to have gone up \$1,000 from the original quote, Raynor said.

The blue lights at Mallette and Church should be installed by the end of August. But once determined, the third location will need to be resubmitted to the town.

In order to avoid expensive glitches like this one in the future, student government is taking steps to clarify this process.

"One thing we are trying to make a priority is to find out how this works in general and leave a record for others," Raynor said. "We need to stress the importance of having one point of contact so as to avoid this in the future."

The next Town Council meeting is scheduled for Sept. 8.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

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