

Task force discusses idea of Latino center

BY ELIZA KERN
STAFF WRITER

A task force of students, faculty and administrators has been created to discuss the growth of ethnic and cultural groups at the University — and specifically the creation of a Latino center on campus.

The task force on promoting emerging campus communities will seek to combine administrators' goals with those of the Carolina Hispanic Association, which is advocating for a Latino center.

The group met for the first time Thursday.

Ron Bilbao, member of the student advisory committee to the

chancellor and member of Chispa, said he sees the new task force as a combination of both his goals and those of other groups.

Ron Strauss, task force chairman and executive associate provost, outlined five goals for the task force. The first four involve investigating ways to promote ethnic and cultural diversity on campus.

The fifth goal of the task force is to determine the roles of ethnic centers, such as the Latino center.

Strauss said at Thursday's meeting that a Latino center will eventually exist on campus, but he was unsure how the project will manifest itself.

"When this task force wraps up its work, there will be some sort of Latino center in some way, shape or form," he said. "What it will look like is undetermined at this time."

Bilbao began discussing the idea of a Latino center with former Chancellor James Moeser two years ago.

Administrators, including Chancellor Holden Thorp, have been hesitant to support such a project.

The decision to create a separate task force for the project is just the next step for formally determining whether the campus needs a center, Student Body Vice President Todd Dalrymple said.

Bilbao said he believes having a Latino center would benefit all students, not just Latinos, as some administrators have suggested.

"We never wanted it to be a Latino student center. We wanted it to be a center for all students about Latino studies," he said. "What we're aiming to do is to raise awareness about our culture and what makes us unique."

Andrew Hunt, administrative assistant to the provost, said Strauss supports the idea of a Latino center, but the construction of a building for that specific purpose is unlikely.

"As of right now, it's not an ultimate goal," he said.

The task force will instead consider the use of existing spaces to promote awareness of Latino issues.

The 21-member group is made up of nine students, seven faculty members and five administrators.

The students represent the interests of various ethnic and cultural groups on campus such as American Indians, South Asians, Latinos, black and Muslim students.

The task force will have several more meetings throughout the year. Bilbao said it would send recommendations to Thorp and Provost Bernadette Gray-Little by the end of the school year.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Student art to be showcased

Art Crawl to turn campus into gallery

BY ANDREW HARRELL
STAFF WRITER

Student government's arts advocacy committee is stirring up interest for a campuswide Spring Arts Crawl.

The crawl, which will take place March 27, is the manifestation of one of Student Body President J.J. Raynor's platform points. It will turn the entire campus into a gallery for students' work.

It's now up to arts advocacy co-chairwomen Skylar Gudas and Allison Rackley to make it a reality.

About 15 students, ranging from musicians to writers, showed up to the first interest meeting Monday.

"The goal is seeing groups and individual people whom you don't usually get to see on campus, as well as old favorites," Gudas said.

She added that the organizers plan on connecting artists, showcasing opportunities and stimulating collaboration.

"The goal of this project is to be as absolutely inclusive as we can be," Rackley said. "If every single student at Carolina wanted to submit a

painting or sing a song, we would do everything in our power to make it happen. ... If you're a culinary artist and you want to be included, we'll make it happen."

Young Democrats member John Fillette is not in any arts group on campus, but said at the meeting he was interested in the potential to showcase political art.

"I've taken a few art classes and been to Memorial Hall shows," Fillette said. "I'd like to participate as well."

The crawl — inspired by similar events in SoHo, New York — is tied to this year's Creative Campus theme, "The Gender Project," a yearlong campaign to encourage conversation on gender and identity through the arts.

But Rackley said the art would not be held strictly to the theme.

"We're not going to be really demanding of how groups interpret The Gender Project," she said.

The budget and logistics of the event are still in early planning stages, but the co-chairwomen expect to

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ALLISON RACKLEY, ARTS ADVOCACY CO-CHAIRWOMAN

have plenty of volunteers between members of the committee and various arts organizations on campus.

Rackley said it would be nice to see a famous work by Picasso or N.C. musicians such as the Avett Brothers as part of the crawl, but she emphasized that this is the one day of the year those would take a backseat to lesser-known artists.

"The event is geared toward the students," she said. "The whole point is to give students a chance to access the talent of the people they sit next to in class every day."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Student record label up for award

BY TRIP SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Vinyl Records might finally have spun onto the music scene — big time.

UNC's student-run record label will be among 15 ventures competing in the Race to BE Creative Entrepreneurship Challenge this week.

The challenge is a part of Global Entrepreneurship Week, a weeklong initiative sponsored by the Kauffman Foundation and involving nearly 100 countries, aimed at promoting entrepreneurship worldwide.

Tripp Gobble, a co-founder of Vinyl Records, will pitch the company to a panel of judges in Austin, Texas, on Wednesday as part of a contest that pits the 15 young entrepreneurs against one another.

Vinyl Records was selected from hundreds of applicants as one of the top five music ventures created by people aged 18 to 29.

If the label wins, Gobble will receive \$5,000 and exclusive mentoring opportunities from leaders



Vinyl Records Co-Founder Tripp Gobble's label is in the running for an entrepreneurship award.

of the American music industry.

"I don't know what to expect yet," Gobble said. "It will be a great opportunity. We'll see what happens."

Hip-hop pioneer and entrepreneur Russell Simmons will host the event.

Gobble will spend the first half of his day in Austin at a coaching session with mentors.

Then he will give a 20-minute pitch of Vinyl Records to a panel of judges, who will decide on the winning venture before the end of the day.

"This is exactly the kind of venture I thought would be good in this challenge," said Raymond Farrow, the executive director of the Kenan Institute at UNC. It was Farrow who encouraged Gobble to

apply for the challenge.

Earlier this year, Gobble and Al Mask, the other co-founder of the label, entered their venture in the Carolina Challenge, a competition hosted by the Carolina Entrepreneurship Initiative.

"It's all about giving people the tools necessary for entrepreneurship," said Cyndy Falgout, a representative of the Carolina Entrepreneurship Initiative.

And though the duo did not win the challenge, they said the exposure eventually led to a \$25,000 grant to grow the label.

Now, less than a year later, the label comprises 16 volunteers and is working with three student bands.

Gobble said he isn't nervous about the outcome of Wednesday's competition.

"We'll see what happens. I believe in the idea enough that hopefully they will see that this is viable and important," he said. "It's all in the follow-through."

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