

# Minority advising program a success

By Alan Ayers  
Staff Writer

A peer advising program sponsored by the Office of Student Counseling helps minority students successfully meet the demands of college life.

"There are many unique challenges that minority students at UNC face," said Rosalind Fuse-Hall, associate dean and director of the Minority Student Advisory Program. "It is our goal to make their adjustment to college life a little easier and provide support until they graduate."

All freshman black and American-

Indian students are assigned to an upperclass minority adviser who meets with them to discuss their personal goals and how to achieve them.

"Minority advisers meet with freshmen every two weeks to discuss matters that are pertinent to graduating from UNC," she said. "The purpose is to keep their goals in perspective so they will be successful in their academic careers."

Eighty peer advisers with grade-point averages of 2.5 and above will be assigned to the 376 black and Indian-American freshmen. Fuse-Hall said there are currently 1,300 undergraduate students participating in the program.

"There was a time when minority students were not highlighted on campus like they are now," she said. "We started this program to build the self-esteem of our minority students so they could gain acceptance in the academic community and graduate."

The program began in 1973 following an increase in minority enrollment during the 1960s. In 1989, the program was restructured to identify students who are in danger of academic failure.

Minority students who complete the Academic Monitoring Program work with minority advisers and professors to discuss improvement strategies. Participants who achieve a grade point average of 3.0 or above are honored in recognition ceremonies held each semester.

Fuse-Hall said these efforts have been successful at retaining minority students. "The graduation rate of African-American and Native-American students increased dramatically after these programs were implemented," she said. "They have also been instrumental in our recruitment of minority students."

Successful graduates of the program include Karen Stevens, the first black female Rhodes Scholar in the United States and Georgia Rep. Thurbert Baker.

# Herzenberg

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scot-free."

But Chilton added that he hoped Herzenberg would remain on the council. "If he feels he can continue, I would encourage him to do that," Chilton said. "If that resolution is one that asks him to resign, I'm going to vote against it."

Council members Roosevelt Wilkerson and Joyce Brown left Town Hall without speaking to members of the press, while council member Alan Rimer participated in the meeting by conference call.

The Thursday meeting was preceded by an impromptu court battle between the media and the council.

Despite the efforts of attorneys representing the N.C. Press Association and various local media organizations,

Orange County Judge Patricia Love denied a request Thursday for an injunction to stop the council from going into executive session.

Hugh Stevens, general counsel for the NCPA, urged the council to have the courage to conduct their meeting in public and to respect their constituents' wishes and the wishes of Herzenberg, who voted against holding the executive session.

"I think that it's astonishing (the council) would endeavor to delve into the behavior of (Herzenberg) when that member voted against the motion," Stevens said after council members voted to close the meeting. "I think it shows a lack of personal sensitivity."

Stevens also praised Chilton for voting against a closed meeting, calling the vote an orchestrated front by other council members.

While the council debated further action last week, other community leaders expressed differing opinions about Herzenberg's position on the council.

Mickey Ewell, the new chairman of TaxWatch, said Wednesday that although he thought Herzenberg was an effective member of the town council, anyone in TaxWatch would call for Herzenberg to step down.

Ewell finished fifth in the November election battle for four open seats on the council. If Herzenberg resigns, the council has the option to appoint any nominee to fill the post. Some have said Ewell would be an obvious contender.

"I wish Joe would step down," Ewell said. "It certainly doesn't set the proper example."

But Chris Moran, director of the Inter-Faith Council shelter for the homeless, said he supported Herzenberg both as an individual and for the positions he has taken on important issues.

"He has always been a friend of the homeless, of the poor, of the disenfranchised," Moran said. "I don't believe in forsaking friends."

Anna Griffin contributed to this story.

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