

University makes steps to hire new professors

By David Cunningham
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The Plan for the Class of 2000 was to bring more than 40 new faculty members to campus — 40 new faculty members were also promised when it was passed in 1995. Two years later, the university has hired 21 of the 40 new professors and is actively recruiting for four additional positions.

The Calloway School of Business and Accountancy has received three positions and is in the process of hiring for a fourth. The other 18 positions have been distributed among 16 undergraduate departments.

According to Paul Escott, the dean of the college, the hirings have had the dual effect

of increasing the number of classes available and decreasing the number of students in each class.

The hiring began in the summer of 1996 with 12 new faculty positions added. Six more were hired this summer and three positions are currently being recruited.

According to Escott, next year's budget contains room for six more positions.

"I'm certainly hoping that by 2002 we will be at 40," Escott said. The hirings are spread out, he said, to help the departments, since recruiting for positions is a drain on their time.

"It's better to spread it out and to let people plan their time," Escott said. Positions are also being made available slowly

so that other elements of the Plan for the Class of 2000, such as the creation of merit scholarships for research and study-abroad programs, can also be implemented.

"We've tried to move ahead on as many fronts as we can," Escott said. The procedure for hiring is that departments submit requests for new positions in the spring and Escott makes a decision in late June for who will receive positions. Then, a year-long recruitment process takes place.

"One of the things that is important (in deciding which departments will receive positions) is student need for instruction," Escott said. "Additionally, programmatic needs in a department are considered."

Originally, one of the major goals of the

hirings was to increase the faculty positions of the science departments, Escott said.

Large class sizes and the presence of doctoral students necessitated the need for increased faculty, he said.

The physics and chemistry departments have each received one position and the biology department has received two positions. In the case of the philosophy department, Escott said, many students waited until the spring of their senior year to take introduction to philosophy.

Consequently, some students had difficulty getting into the course, so an extra position was created to help alleviate this problem. Escott emphasized that the new professors have increased not only the quan-

tity, but also the quality of the professors at the university. "We've hired terrific people," he said.

The following departments have received additional faculty positions: American ethnic studies, art, biology, chemistry, communications, East Asian languages and literature, economics, English (two), health and exercise science (two), math and computer science, music, physics, psychology, religion, Romance languages and sociology. Additionally, philosophy, religion and biology are currently recruiting to fill new positions.

"Departments from all parts of the college and its curriculum have been successful in attaining new positions," Escott said.

Frat closed through 2000

Continued from Page A1

the start we were hoping it would be a little less harsh," he said of the verdict and the sentence.

Holmes said that the treatment the pledges experienced was a consideration when he made his decision. "One of the things I hope everyone considers in this is we focus a lot on the organization — and we should — but we also need to look at people who may have been affected by practices that were ... not what they should be," he said.

The fraternity has until Nov. 23 to file an appeal with the Student Life Committee, which can affirm Holmes's decision or overturn the verdict and sanctions. The committee can also reduce or increase the sanctions if it agrees with the verdict.

"We haven't officially turned in anything yet, but we plan to appeal," Pianca said. Pianca said that the national fraternity of Kappa Sig was going along with the school's decisions for now. According to Holmes, representatives from the nationals were at the hearing and present for the announcement of the verdict and sanctions.

"We haven't officially turned in anything yet, but we plan to appeal."

Brian Pianca
President of Kappa Sigma

Holmes began investigating the Kappa Sigs Oct. 13.

The university has not released the source of the charges against the fraternity. A hearing was held before the Group Advisory Panel Oct. 22.

The committee made a recommendation about what the verdict and sanctions should be, but those recommendations have not been released. Holmes investigated for another few weeks before coming to a decision. During the investigation, all fraternity brothers and other people involved in the incident were interviewed by a member of the administration.

Sanctions are determined according to three standards, Holmes said. They are whether the actions were premeditated, whether the actions appear to be growing out of the life

of an organization and the position the organization's leadership takes in regard to the alleged act.

The suspension of Kappa Sigma marks the first time a fraternity has been suspended from campus in at least a decade.

The last fraternity to be removed from campus was the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, which had its charter revoked in December 1993 because of repeated noise and trashing violations, property damage, theft of building materials and for having a "pocket pledge."

The sentence was later reduced to probation, but the Pikas did not regain their university lounge space until a few years ago.

Sigma Phi Epsilon was the fraternity convicted of hazing. In 1994, the fraternity was given a year's probation for hazing activities that included forcing pledges to hold hands, walk backwards, get excessively short haircuts and participate in exercise drills.

Probation means that the group has "restrictions ... placed on some or all of the organization's activities and its use of university services and facilities," according to university policy.



Noel Fox/Old Gold and Black

I want to suck your blood

Sophomore Kristen Kinsey gives blood as part of a Resident Student Association-sponsored blood drive. The blood was donated to the Red Cross, which was one of the events during Residence Hall Week.

Plus/minus now optional

Plan will allow students to choose between grading systems

By Tim MacPhail
Old Gold and Black Reporter

Students who are angry about the adoption of the new plus/minus grading system might not have any reason to be disappointed after all.

The Academic Affairs Committee decided to allow returning students to choose whether they want to be graded by the new plus/minus system, which will be implemented in the fall of 1998, or keep the current flat grading system, said Mark Leary, a professor of psychology and chairman of the committee.

The plan, which must still be approved by the Registrar's Office, calls for individual students to make a one-time selection of their preferred grading system.

The selection would be made prior to registration next fall and would affect them for their remaining semesters as an undergraduate. Paul Escott, the dean of the college, said that this proposal is an attempt by the committee to be considerate to returning students, who enrolled at the univer-

sity without knowledge that the new system would be adopted.

"(The Committee) wanted to be certain that it was acting fairly and properly in every way," Escott said.

Leary said that it has always been the policy of the university to make sure students are governed by the rules under which they enrolled. "The current members of the committee felt very strongly that students ought to have the option," Leary said.

Escott said that he has noticed an increased understanding and acceptance of the plus/minus system since its adoption last spring.

Last year, Student Government surveys showed 60 percent of students opposed the plus/minus system.

The option seems to have increased student acceptance of the system. Junior Drew Brown supports having the choice, saying that it would be unfair for a new system to be forced upon students in the middle of their studies at the university. "You can't change the rules of the game at halftime," he said. Sophomore Jim Insko also favors having the option. "Any-

time they trust the students with a choice, I'm happy," he said.

Brown said he sees more A-minus grades than A grades being given under the new system and would therefore probably choose to retain the old grading system in order to keep his grade point average higher.

Sophomore Alice Ockleshaw also said she would probably stick with the current method of grading, saying there is not a big reason to switch. "I don't see why you should fix it if it's not broken," she said. Leary said that as far as he knows, the only possible obstacle to the plan is the registrar's computer system.

Hallie Arrington, a senior associate registrar, said that the new plan could most likely be accommodated by the registrar's office, though logistics would still have to be worked out before fall registration.

The plus/minus system calls for grade points to be assigned at one-third-point intervals. An A would still be worth four points, an A-minus would be worth 3.667, a B-plus 3.333 and so on.

SBAC increases allocations

during the appeals process

By Heather Seely
Assistant News Editor

Because the Student Budget Advisory Committee had left more funds than usual for appeals, it was able to allocate extra money not only to the 15 groups that appealed but also many other groups in its final recommendations for the 1998-99 school year.

Senior Ryan Marsh, the treasurer of Student Government and the chairman of SBAC, said that this year the \$53,000 the committee had allowed for appeals was higher than usual because it wanted the organizations to put in the extra effort to receive the funds.

"This time we left the ball in the court of the clubs and said, 'If you want this money, appeal for it,'" Marsh said.

Marsh said that organizations' appeals ranged from speaker fees to items specific to the group, and the nature of the appeal often determined how much the groups received.

He said that every group that appealed did receive more money.

"I don't feel bad granting money through the appeal process. There are some times that we might cut something (in preliminaries) that is very necessary to the group," Marsh said.

Marsh said that the preliminary budget did not reflect the final allocations well because the large amount of money that had been left for appeals allowed many groups to see an increase.

SBAC allotted about \$422,300 to 47 organizations and 16 club sports. The initial requests of these groups totaled about \$524,130, including about \$27,215 for decision packages.

Fourteen of the 63 organizations received the total amount of their initial requests. All but nine groups experienced an increase in their budgets from last year. "I think the percent increase column is the one that I am most proud of," Marsh said.

The Asian Student Interest Association had the one of the highest increases, second only to club swimming, of 230 percent. But the \$4,091 it received still falls over \$16,000 short of the \$20,321.20 it requested. Despite this, junior Praneetha Akula, the president of ASIA, said that she was happy with the appeals process. "There is a significant increase in our allotment as opposed to last year, which tells me that maybe Student Government is increasing their understanding of the importance of this organization," Akula said.

Sophomore Julie Eling, the president of the Jewish Student Organization, was fairly pleased with her organization's allotment as well. "I was pretty happy with our SBAC allotment except in relation to other groups. I realize that we are new so that will come with time," Eling said.

Marsh said he feels that the allotment process was very fair and did not discriminate against any group. "I don't think that anyone, if they sat through our meetings or just looked at these numbers, could say we are biased against any group," Marsh said.

Wicker praises university for part in new DWI legislation

Continued from Page A1

"We will keep trying to push it up," Wicker said.

When asked about the effectiveness of this new legislation, Wicker said that it places North Carolina among the toughest in the nation. He noted that Mothers Against Drunken Driving graded the state's legislation last year as an A minus.

"This will give us an even higher effectiveness rating as it allows us to test for other substances than alcohol and there is a thirty day revocation period," Wicker said.

Wicker also noted areas he would like to see improved in

"The issue is not going to be settled by strengthening laws, but by taking responsibility for ourselves and those we love."

Thomas K. Hearn, Jr.
President

future legislation. He said he wanted to raise the status of repeat offender to the second or third offense and consider a zero-tolerance policy for those holding a commercial driver's license.

Wicker also commended President Thomas K. Hearn Jr. for

being an instrumental force in the advancing of this legislation. Hearn then responded by commending the efforts of the university's students in pushing the new legislation through last spring's Rally in Raleigh.

"Your voices were heard and your opinions heeded. However, the issue is not going to be settled by strengthening laws, but by taking responsibility for ourselves and those we love," Hearn said.

Wicker also praised the students' lobbying for this new legislation and honored senior Catherine Mitchell for her efforts. Mitchell celebrated the efforts of university students at the rally, noting their channeling of pain

and frustration into tangible proactive change.

Mitchell called the new legislation "a lasting legacy to the state of North Carolina" and said, "This is truly an accomplishment for Wake Forest students and an uplifting close to a tragic year."

Two public service announcements with the slogan "Booze it and Lose it" were unveiled at the press conference; one was a television commercial and the other an audio piece with Governor Jim Hunt. Wicker said of the new legislation, "North Carolina will no longer tolerate repeat offenders and this will make sure every driver and passenger can travel in a safe manner."



Noel Fox/Old Gold and Black

Senior Catherine Mitchell, chairman of Safe Roads, and Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker discuss the new DWI laws at a press conference Nov. 18.