

# Forums seek future chancellor attributes

By Kayla Pearson  
Around the Campus Editor

A series of six public forums hosted by the Chancellor Search Committee on Oct. 13, 14 and 20 found some students, faculty and the community want a chancellor who will be a recognized face, protective of the Native heritage of the school and focused on growth, retention and academic philosophies of the University.

Charged with the task of choosing nominees for the next chancellor, the committee asked those who attended the forums to discuss UNCP's strengths, measuring success and priorities as well as the qualities, skills, experience and credentials that the future chancellor should have.

However, attendance at the forums was low, with the most being a crowd of around 50 people at the overflow forum on Oct. 20.

## Retention

A chancellor who can improve retention was a requirement outlined by UNC President Esquire Bowles on Sept. 22 and reiterated by various speakers at the forum.

Faculty who spoke on Oct. 20 felt the best way to mirror this characteristic is to find a chancellor who will create a network of faculty and students focused on personal development. This makes the at-risk student feel secure and cared about and makes them want to stay.

They also felt the new chancellor should be creative in coming up with solutions.

"We want to have a chancellor who uses innovative ideas," Art Associate Professor Dr. Tulla Lightfoot said.

## Fund raising

Lack of funding for needy students, housing and technological advances in departments was also an issue.

"Desperately we need a chancellor who is an artist at winning and drawing people to give," Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management Jackie Clark said.

"A need for a chancellor

who can move people to give, make a difference in the life of students and make education possible is our core mission. We need technology, but we have got to have supplemental aid for our students," she added.

Students expressed the desire for not just more aid but better housing.

"We need someone who is willing to improve the graduation rate, infrastructure and living arrangements. Invest in infrastructure to have better places to live without having to gamble on the lottery. Also increase accountability in the financial aid department and with other staff," sophomore Latif Darden said.

Community members expressed the need for the chancellor to be a part of the many discussions going on about economic growth in the area. They described a leader who will have respect from the community and will respect the Lumbee heritage of the school and town.

## American Indian

While most of the credentials mentioned had to do with knowledge and educational background, it was the Center for Lumbee Studies who added race to the list. At the last forum the president of the Center for Lumbee Studies read a submitted document endorsing an American Indian as the next chancellor.

They cited President Bowles' desire for a candidate who will embrace the culture of the area and see it as an asset and the fact that historically black colleges and universities hire African Americans at their institutions as reasons.

"If we accept the premise of black chancellors at traditional black institutions of higher learning, why does it cause unease to suggest an Indian chancellor for the University of North Carolina at Pembroke? It suggests that some are afraid to publicly proclaim their heritage, or that it somehow embarrasses, or demeans, them as a people," the document said.



A student voices his opinion on the priorities and qualifications of the future Chancellor at the student forum on Oct. 14 in the UC Lounge.

The center asked for three American Indian nominations to ensure that the culture of the school is kept in tact.

"To deny the American Indian (mostly Lumbee) heritage of this fine institution is to deny the truth that what is known as the University of North Carolina at Pembroke was, in fact, established as a normal school for the local Indian population in 1887 because the local whites would not allow them to go to any other school, and they would not be forced to attend the local black schools against their cultural will," the document said.

The document can be read at <http://blog.thecenterforlumbeestudies.org/>.

The center is a private entity in Robeson County.

## Other ideas

Student speakers emphasized several issues such as improving transportation and parking and having a passion for the University and its students.

Staff speakers asked that the next chancellor improve staff salaries, have high-level administrative experiences, understand the importance of educating future American Indian doctors and health care workers and bring a doctoral program to the University.

Faculty speakers asked that the next chancellor have experience at a regional university, create an environment where faculty can contribute to the community, have a vision of what UNCP stands for and understand distance education's place in the future of teaching and learning.

## Future task

The committee will begin advertising for the position the first week of November with a review of applications to begin Dec. 20.

They have already written a draft of the job description that will be advertised nationwide. The description will not require a Ph.D., but will require a "terminal degree," which may include a law degree, Ed.D. or other appropriate degree.

The candidate will "exemplify their potential for the position with outstanding professional leadership and/or an extensive record of scholarship and teaching," said Lucy Leske, a consultant with Witt/Kieffer, the

search firm hired by the committee.

"We do have quite a bit of work left to be done on the description of the chancellor. What we do have is a very short, generic ad. Your input is very essential to the process of developing a leadership profile," Committee Chair Dr. Freda Porter said.

A survey with the discussion topics is available online for anyone who wishes to submit comments at [www.uncp.edu/chancellorsearch](http://www.uncp.edu/chancellorsearch).

# Advice offered for future medical school students

By Melody Kirkpatrick  
Staff Writer

Dr. James G. Peden, Jr., from the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, offered advice during a Health Careers Club event to UNCP students considering medical school on Oct. 14.

Dr. Peden acknowledged that the Brody School of Medicine has accepted approximately 10 graduates from UNCP so far. He said the Brody School of Medicine is trying to create a special partnership with the biology and science departments at UNCP to aid in increasing a diverse medical population.

Last year, the Brody School of Medicine received 879 applications, he said, but they are encouraging individuals of different backgrounds that are underrepresented in the medical profession to apply. They want to diversify the medical profession and supply the eastern part of North Carolina with medical care.

Every resident from North Carolina that applies to Brody School of Medicine automatically gets a secondary application. This would help with the process to bring more medical doctors to the North Carolina region, he said.

When applying to medical school, he pointed out that students go through nearly the same process for all of them. Even if a student doesn't

have a strong GPA, then it is very important that the student does well on The Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). Doing extremely well on the MCAT, Dr. Peden said, will help your chances of being accepted into a medical school. The MCAT exam consists of biology, chemistry, physical science and a writing section to test writing ability. Dr. Peden advised that students should only take the MCAT when they are completely ready. He said to never take the MCAT for practice because "you will never be able to get rid of bad scores."

A big reason medical schools look at MCAT scores, he said, is because it tells them how well you will do later on as a doctor when you have to take a licensing exam.

Medical schools welcome prospective students to go on interviews and tours.

"The interviews begin around late August through the month of April," he said.

The interview is a serious part of the acceptance to medical school largely because the committee members who consist of faculty and students can determine if the individual is headed in the right profession by applying to medical school, he said.

"The tours are designed so you can ask questions that you were too shy to ask the committee members," he added.

The interviews of the

applicants are conducted in the order that the applications were received. This gives the applicants a fair chance, he explained.

The committee members are non-confrontational and are friendly because they want the interview to go smoothly, he said. They want to really get to know the person on the inside.

It is wise, he said, to fess up about having any kind of criminal past because you can be dismissed from medical school if your past comes up at any time.

"Medical exposure can increase your chances of being accepted into a medical college," he said. They need to know that you had some exposure so they know that you have an idea of what to expect. For instance the amount of time you spent in a clinic or a hospital for your own health reasons or for volunteer work contributes to your medical experiences.

The number of hours of volunteer services, according to Dr. Peden, does not matter that much. Just the fact that you tried is taken under consideration.

He said that "we have the lowest tuition in the U.S." out of all of the medical schools in the U.S. He said "on average med school graduates from Brody owe a whopping \$81,000." It appeared that's not as bad as it sounded judging from his shrug of the shoulders when he made that statement.



A student's car catches on fire Oct. 19. The fire occurred in the parking lot behind Wellons Hall. Students in Wellons were evacuated. The fire was quickly extinguished by the Pembroke Rescue Squad and Fire Department.

Photo by Kayloni Wyatt