

**Chancellor's African American Community Advisory Council
Monday, March 24, 2008, 3:00 p.m.
Room 105, Ruby C. McSwain Education Center,
JC Raulston Arboretum**

Minutes

Members present: Marti Adams, Alice Garrett, Dwayne Greene, Angel Lewis, Carolyn Smiley Love, Mitchell Silver, Jim Stewart, Brad Thompson, J.J. Wilkins, Sandra Williams, Melanie Wilson.

University Members: Diane Baker, Marcia Gumpertz, Orlando Hankins, Larry Nielsen, Jim Oblinger, José Picart, Keith Powell, Jo-Ann Robinson.

Presenters: José Picart, Shonaka Ellison, Julie Rice-Mallette, Tony Patterson, Kelly Laraway

Agenda Items:

• **Call to Order**

Chairperson Jim Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting.

• **Welcome and Campus Update**

Chancellor Oblinger welcomed everyone and reported on the following:

- The WolfAlert text messaging and tower alert system has been tested.
- NC State won the Water Conservation Challenge with UNC-CH. The winner was announced during the ACC Tournament. Mayor Meeker and other external constituents acknowledged the University's effort in conserving water.
- UNC System Budget Priorities:

• **Admissions Update**

Shonaka Ellison, Assistant Director of Admissions, gave an overview of the Undergraduate Freshmen Admissions status for Fall 2008 and distributed newly printed materials from the Admissions Office. Ms. Ellison reported an enrollment increase in new African American freshmen this year as compared to fall of 2007. Currently, there is also a decrease in the number of Hispanic/Latino students. Ms. Ellison attributes the increase in the number of new African American freshmen to several factors, including outreach efforts and Pack Promise. Per Ms. Ellison, NC State has more African American students than Georgia Tech, Virginia Tech and UNC-Chapel Hill.

- **Pack Promise**

Tony Patterson, Associate Director and Julie Rice Mallette, Associate Vice Provost and Director for Scholarships and Financial Aid presented the Pack Promise (a plan for student success). Pack Promise focuses on improving retention and recruitment of undergraduate students and will provide 100 percent of the financial aid needs for new freshman from families whose income is equal to or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level. Pack Promise also provides additional academic support and advising, mentoring and work-study jobs, and academic counseling to ensure Pack Promise students remain eligible and succeed at NCSU. The Pack Promise package was implemented for the first time in 2006-2007 academic year. Pack Promise Scholars are students whose family income is at or below 150% of poverty level (for 2007-2008 family of 4 # \$30,000) and other assets are limited. Some Pack Promise benefits may include:

- * receiving 100% financial aid for up to nine semesters of enrollment
- * maximum need-based loan of \$2500 per year + \$1500 in FWS
- * scholarship and grant funding to meet remaining need
- * priority for undergraduate research work-study opportunities
- * more focused financial aid and academic advising

Academic Coaching is a voluntary relationship to assist students in transitioning to NC State. Faculty, staff, and graduate students can serve as coaches. Transition group or the “T-Group” is a group of seven scholars who agreed to meet once a week for twelve weeks. An NC State faculty member and a Counselor of Education doctoral student facilitated the group. The students’ performances were highly successful. Pack Promise anticipates more peer mentoring, Fall and Spring workshops, development of a student website, increased communication efforts, and more leadership development opportunities.

- **Pre-College Programs**

Dr. Kelly Laraway, Director of the Pre-College Programs provided an update on the progress of the program. Dr. Laraway reviewed the program’s mission and purpose and highlighted on-going initiatives. Some of which include establishing an Pre-College Coordinating Council that will focus on enhancing communication and collaboration among pre-college program leaders and staff. Dr. Laraway reported on Information and Marketing efforts, Campus Connections efforts, University Connections, Community Connections, and funding proposals. All of which are focused on promoting the Pre-College Program Office and the programs and opportunities available at NC State for K-12 students.

- **Discussion of Council Projects**

Chairman Jim Stewart shared with the committee members a list of possible social capital and community engagement initiatives, which the Council members generated at a previous meeting. He then asked the members to identify from the list, three initiatives they consider priority issues to pursue and email them to Wendy Giddens in the Office for Diversity and African American Affairs. Ms. Giddens will record the responses so the committee will be able to begin working on the initiatives that ranked the highest.

- **Adjourn**

Chairperson Stewart invited members to enjoy a self-guided tour of the JC Raulston Arboretum and then adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.