Susan King has second visit

By Lyle Kendrick **University Editor**

A formal offer has not been made for the position of dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, but Bruce Carney, executive vice chancellor and provost, said he is in talks with a candidate, whose name he would not release, about the position.

Susan King, the final candidate to be interviewed and the candidate with the most professional experience, visited the University for the second time July 1.

King declined to say in an interview whether she had received an offer from Carney.

"I wanted to come down and understand the community a little better," she said, adding that her

first visit was tightly scheduled. She declined to comment Tuesday on the specifics of her

King is the vice president of external affairs and director of the Journalism Initiative for the Carnegie Corporation.

She has also held the position of assistant secretary for public affairs in the Department of Labor and has reported for CNN and ABC Radio News.

While King comes from a largely professional background, she lacks the academic background of the other candidates.

The other candidates — Carol Pardun, John Pavlik and David Perlmutter — are the heads of the journalism programs at the University of South Carolina, Rutgers University and the University of Iowa, respectively.



DTH FILE/MINHAJ BAQAI

Susan King speaks during a visit to UNC. King, the final candidate to be interviewed for the position of dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, visited the University for the second time on July 1.

said, citing pressing budgetary

ism professor, said a candidate

with a professional background

would bring skills like grant writ-

ing, but a dean with an academic

background would have a better

Ryan Thornburg, a journal-

Some professors said whether the new dean has a professional or academic background would impact his or her ability to lead.

Chris Roush, a journalism professor, wrote in an email that a dean with a professional background might not fit into a University setting as quickly as someone with an academic background, but could bring a fresh perspective to academic issues.

"However, given our cur-

rent situation at the School of understanding of the tenure pro-Journalism, and the University as cess, teaching and managing a a whole. I think it would be betuniversity's faculty. Dulcie Straughan, senior ter to have someone who has run the academic gauntlet before," he

associate dean of the journalism school, became interim dean June 30 after Jean Folkerts stepped down from the position.

She will continue until a new dean is found or June 30, 2012.

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

State may merge local colleges

By Sam Schaefer Staff Writer

As state legislators continue efforts to streamline government spending, community colleges are the latest state-funded entities to be scrutinized.

A report presented last month by the Program Evaluation Division, a nonpartisan oversight unit of the N.C. General Assembly, recommends 15 mergers of small community colleges — those with fewer than 3,000 full-time students — with larger colleges within 30 miles.

The state's community college system could save \$5.1 million annually in administrative costs from the mergers, according to the report. The state budget includes a cut of 10.7 percent or \$117 million in state funding for community colleges.

But system administrators say the mergers will harm the communities served by small colleges.

Linda Weiner, vice president of engagement and strategic innovation for the system, said more centralized administrations would provide a disincentive for local governments to continue funding small community colleges. Community colleges received 27 percent of their funds from counties in the 2010-11 fiscal year, according to the report.

"If you took those colleges and joined them, they would not be as responsive to an individual community," Weiner said. "That would be a detriment to the local economy.

Rep. Julia Howard, R-Davie and N.C. House chairwoman of the joint legislative program evaluation committee, said branch campuses have already been successful in the state.

"I am in a county that has a

BY THE NUMBERS

10.7 percent

State cut for community colleges

15

Proposed campus mergers

\$5.1 million

Potential annual savings

multi-campus situation," she said, referring to the Davie Campus of Davidson County Community College. "It hasn't hurt our fundraising ability in the county, nor has it had any impact whatsoever on industry recruitment."

But Weiner said branch campuses offer specialized course lists that lack general courses typically offered at the main campuses of the colleges.

"Turning community colleges that are currently comprehensive sites into multi-campus sites would definitely limit course

availability," she said. John Turcotte, director of the Program Evaluation Division, said the student experience at community colleges would not be affected

by the proposed mergers. "We did not recommend any ways to cut instruction," he said. "Students would not be affected at all."

Howard said the committee would act on the report within two to four weeks. The committee could vote to accept the division's recommendations, potentially resulting in a draft of a bill that would implement the mergers — though it would not be considered until next year's short legislative session.

Contact the State & National $Editor\ at\ state@dailytarheel.com.$

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