

Entwisle makes her pitch for research job

Seeks to improve UNC’s reputation

BY CAROLINE CORRIGAN
STAFF WRITER

Barbara Entwisle, one of three finalists in the University’s search for a vice chancellor for research, said she wants to see students and faculty propel the University to a level of research prowess consistent with its mission.

“We should be ‘the’ public university,” she said.

“Unlike private institutions, we have an explicit role to play to the state that supports us.”

Entwisle, director of the Carolina Population Center and interim vice chancellor for research, presented her vision for research during a public forum Wednesday.

Entwisle said her goal is to see the University be a leader in the creation and application of knowledge in order to serve citizens on a state, national and global level.

She emphasized challenges that are unique to the University.

“We can’t buy our faculty in the same way a well-endowed private university can,” she said.

“But that doesn’t mean we can’t be great. It doesn’t mean that we shouldn’t be great.”

She added that interdisciplinary research and greater student involvement are essential for reaching that goal.

“Working across disciplines is the way to solve the world’s problems,” she said. “It is a source of innovation and a competitive advantage.”

“(Students) inspire faculty,” she added. “They also engage faculty, they collaborate with faculty, they attract faculty and they help retain faculty.”

Karen Gil, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and chairwoman of the vice chancellor for research search committee, said Entwisle exhibits the qualities the committee is looking for in its candidates.

“Barbara has breadth and depth of experience in research administration,” she said.

If selected, Entwisle would become one of a handful of internal candidates to receive promotions at UNC recently.

Jonathan Sauls was selected to become dean of students earlier this month after serving on an interim basis since July 1.

Bruce Carney, executive vice chancellor and provost, was selected for his position in March 2010 after serving on an interim basis. Winston Crisp, vice chancellor for student affairs, was selected for his current job after previously working as associate vice chancellor for

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BARBARA ENTWISLE, ON RECRUITING

student affairs.

Entwisle has worked at the University for 29 years, having won several awards, including the UNC Distinguished Teaching Award for Post-Baccalaureate Instruction in 2003.

Entwisle said the extent of her experience is one of the main reasons she wants to take up the position.

“I have accomplished everything I have set out to do,” she said. “I am looking for new challenges.”

Jo Anne Earp, professor and chairwoman of health behavior and health education at the Gillings School of Global Public Health, said Entwisle’s speech at the public forum helped affirm her place as a strong contender.

“Her speech was very strong and well thought-out,” Earp said. “She has a leg up because she’s in a position to know what’s needed.”

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.



DTH/KATIE BARNES
Finalist for Vice Chancellor for Research Barbara Entwisle speaks in Wilson Library on Tuesday afternoon at a public forum. Entwisle is currently the interim vice chancellor and a professor of sociology at UNC.

Freedom writers relate to children, share trials

BY HALEY SKLUT
STAFF WRITER

Henry Jones used to go by a much different name — Cyanide.

“Cyanide is a poison,” Jones said. “That’s what my family was.”

Jones, one of the original student writers made famous by the book and movie “Freedom Writers,” spoke Tuesday at the Sonja Haynes Stone Center.

As a 10-year-old boy, Jones said he wasn’t the only child in his rough hometown to see drive-by shootings, witness the shooting of family members or question the value of life altogether.



DTH/ERIN HULL
Tony Becerra, one of two original “The Freedom Writers Diary” students, speaks in the Stone Center as part of a lecture hosted by SMART.

“I lived in a world where the value of your life can be five bucks, it can be just a simple misunderstanding or it can be just because someone doesn’t like your ass,” he said.

But Jones and Tony Becerra, another one of the original Freedom Writers, said they turned their lives around after their high school teacher, Erin Gruwell, showed an interest in their lives. Gruwell encouraged them to keep diaries and work hard in school.

The writers said they came to UNC to let impoverished elementary and middle school children who are part of the Stimulating Mental Awareness Related to Teens Mentoring program know they are also important. Their audience included children from grades four to eight, along with some of their parents and teachers.

The event was co-hosted by two UNC students in the SMART mentoring program, juniors Lisa Pelehach, executive program coordinator, and Erin Sanderson, chief operations coordinator.

“I hope for this to be an event where the youth can hear stories of positive role models and use it for inspiration in their own lives,” Pelehach said before the speech.

Jones said he knew what it was like to come from an underprivileged background, because he grew up among “pimps and gang members.”

“I did what I knew,” Jones said.

He saw violence on a daily basis from a young age, and he lost all of his possessions when gang members burned his house down.

“When you get to the age of 12 and you’re just completely immune, human life means absolutely nothing,” Jones said.

He said he didn’t read as a child because books couldn’t keep him safe. In the real world, all he needed to know was which gangs lived where. All that separated him from his brother, who has been in prison since Jones was 15, was that Jones had an opportunity.

“All it takes is someone to see something in you that is worth salvaging,” he said.

Becerra, who was the first in his

family to graduate high school, said he is proud of his publications and fame. But he is more proud to be a role model for his nephew, who will graduate high school this year.

One of the students in the mentoring program, Nyeisha Jackson, said she learned a valuable lesson from the event.

“Usually I just fight the person back, but now I will tell the teachers.”

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

Private colleges licensed

UNC-system schools fear competition

BY MADELINE WILL
STAFF WRITER

Public universities across the state are gearing up for competition from for-profit institutions.

The UNC-system Board of Governors has been charged by the N.C. General Assembly to license non-public education institutions, including for-profit schools.

The board recently approved licensing three new facilities, including Kaplan. Licensing allows the institutions to build and market in North Carolina.

“We are responsible for licensing all out-of-state for-profits that want a physical location in our state and we’ve had this responsibility for many years,” said Hannah Gage, chairwoman of the board, in an e-mail.

But the licensing of for-profits has sparked concern among smaller universities in the UNC system about losing students to the new learning centers.

Before the recent addition there were 26 institutions licensed in the state that operate a total of 60 sites in the state, said Frank Prochaska, associate vice president for academic affairs.

They offer 187 different degree programs, including associate, bachelor and master degrees, he said.

“These licensed institutions do offer many degree programs that are very much the same as UNC campuses,” Prochaska said. “There is certainly competition that way.”

But the majority of the degree

programs are at the associate level, which does not compete with UNC-system schools. For-profit institutions also cater to non-traditional students, like working adults or part-time students, he said.

“In general, there’s really more of a competition between these for-profit institutions and community colleges,” Prochaska said.

But John Davis, a member of the educational planning committee on the board, said UNC-system schools are putting a strong emphasis on online education to compete with the for-profit institutions.

And there is more competition between for-profit institutions and smaller UNC-system schools, like Fayetteville State University, Gage said. About eight for-profit institutions already exist in the Fayetteville area.

“Their military market attracts a huge number of for-profits which compete for many of the same degrees FSU offers,” Gage said. “FSU, in our opinion, has better quality at a lower price, but the schools like Kaplan have huge marketing budgets, which we lack.”

James Anderson, chancellor of FSU, said for-profits’ tendency to locate in large cities and military bases has taken students away

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HANNAH GAGE, UNC-SYSTEM BOARD OF GOVERNORS CHAIRWOMAN, ON LICENSING PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS.

from FSU in particular.

“It doesn’t affect all schools equally,” he said.

And for-profits attract students who are looking to take courses online, a pathway FSU specializes in, Anderson said.

He said he has asked the board to increase his marketing budgets, as the cuts have negatively affected him more than other universities.

“I have less money for marketing but I have to compete against for-profits,” he said. “The marketing cuts should not have been the same for all schools.”

He said the board understands the difficulties the licensing of for-profits creates for universities like FSU.

“Under the current approval process, we have no option but to approve them if they meet the standards — even if there’s no real need for the degree,” Gage said.

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