

Florida State schools must achieve diversity

by Jack Wheat
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ORLANDO, Fla. — State universities entered a new era Friday, February 18, when the Board of Regents directed them, by unanimous vote, to achieve diversity on campuses without taking into account the race or gender of applicants for admission.

After an emotional public hearing lasting four-and-a-half hours, regents approved, 12-0, Gov. Jeb Bush's Talented 20 plan, which guarantees a spot somewhere in the ten-university system to public high school seniors who graduate in the top 20 percent of their class and complete 19 college-prep classes.

The policy now bans racial and gender considerations in the admissions process, but allows the schools to use such factors as socioeconomic status, whether a student's parents went to college, and the quality of the student's high school.

State University System Adam Herbert said the plan creates "a climate in which everybody is being judged not on the basis of race or ethnic background, but what they have done with their lives."

The board changed admission rules despite the powerful objections of hundreds of supporters of existing policies. Opponents said Bush, Herbert, and regents are dead-wrong in their pledge that the new policy will increase opportunities for minorities to attend state universities. Some said they fear a return to segregation on university campuses.

In response, regents passed a resolution saying universities should continue aggressive affirmative action to increase diversity, such as using scholarships to recruit more minority students.

Before the vote, the state university presidents said they expect no problem in maintaining minority enrollments under the new policy.

"A lot of people are focusing on a plan they've heard about, but haven't read as closely as they might have," said Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte, president of Florida State University, the state's second-most selective public university. "I actually see the governor's plan as a very competently drafted plan for us to take further steps for diversity."

But officials at the University of Florida, the state's most prestigious university, worry that they won't have tools to make sure significant numbers of minority students are selected when they evaluate more than 23,000 qualified applicants for 5,900 freshman slots.

UF Interim President Charles Young, who was chancellor of the University of California at Los Angeles when that state banned consideration of ethnicity in admissions, said UF officials are consulting with counterparts at UCLA, California at Berkeley, and the University of Texas at Austin to learn how those schools responded to similar policy changes.

"We've got to do all the things together that will enable us to maintain diversity," Young said.

Critics of Talented 20 call this a sad day in Florida history. "My heart is heavy — heavier than it has ever been since I've been on the Florida Legislature," said State Sen. Kendrick Meek, D-Miami, who was first elected to the House in 1994.

Meek said Bush's One Florida anti-affirmative active initiative, which includes the Talented 20 plan, has created the state's deepest racial divide in 35 years.

The Rev. Frank Williams of Tampa agreed. "This is racist, it's biased, and it's full of hatred. This is garbage. I wouldn't even want this to be recycled."

The two were among more than 60 speakers at the public hearing, most of whom opposed the university admission policy. But a few said Bush's plan is the state's best hope for preventing a sweeping, California-style ban on affirmative action that would prevent universities from taking any effective actions to maintain current levels of diversity.

Another speaker, state Sen. Daryl Jones, D-Miami, chairman of the legislative Black Caucus, said the Board of Regents' own statistics show the policy will not lead to increased minority enrollment. University system data shows Talented 20 would make around 480 more minority students eligible for university admission. At the same time, it would ban the ten universities from using the alternative admission procedures that led to the enrollment of 1,039 minority students last year specifically to achieve diversity.

"We're losing ground," Jones said.

John Hosman, student body president of the University of West Florida and chairman of the Florida Student Association, called the Bush plan premature.

"Sadly, if the timing is wrong," he said, "it may take a generation or more before we realize it and another generation to correct it."

Herbert, regents Chairman Tom Petway of Jacksonville, and other backers insisted the plan will work. Universities will be expected to work with high schools with large minority enrollments to make sure students in the Talented 20 go into universities, Herbert said. Universities will still be able to admit promising students who do not meet regular admission standards.

In addition, the policy — which does not replace current admission standards but provides additional factors for judging applications — is one element of a larger Bush program for improving minority participation in college, Herbert said.

The governor is asking the Legislature for more money for need-based scholarships and improved college preparatory work in schools serving low-income students, including more advanced pre-college classes and better preparation for the SAT admissions exam.

U. of Wisconsin joins string of campuses protesting FLA

by Scott Marino
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MADISON, Wis. (TMS) — In response to a sit-in outside the chancellor's office, the University of Wisconsin at Madison has announced new initiatives toward curbing the manufacture of university-licensed goods in sub-standard conditions.

Among them is withdrawal from the Fair Labor Association, an anti-sweatshop group critics say is weak and merely a public relations front for corporate members such as Nike and Reebok. Protesters are particularly troubled by the association's unwillingness to publicly disclose the names and exact locations of manufacturers producing university-licensed goods.

The Wisconsin sit-in, led by the Anti-Sweatshop Committee, is the latest of several demonstrations directed at Chancellor David Ward — and the latest of several demonstrations on campuses across the country.

Ward is accused of ignoring recommendations from the committee and from members of an advisory board appointed to ensure the university avoids doing business with sweatshops. Three students on the board resigned a few weeks ago, claiming frustration with a lack of response from university officials.

To meet protesters' demands, Ward agreed to pull the university out of the association. Still unclear is whether the university will join forces with the Workers' Rights Consortium, a smaller group made up of human-rights organizations and some universities that supporters say has more credibility than the FLA.

Officials at the University of Chicago and Pennsylvania are also discussing membership in the consortium, while the University of Michigan and Indiana University have agreed to join it.

"We will participate in this process so long as we are making progress towards a fair and credible monitoring system," Ward said.

Indiana U. professor an expert in "sexology"

by Christina Jewett
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BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (TMS) — Erick Janssen sees things every day that would make even Cupid blush.

In a building that houses the world's second largest library of erotic materials — the Vatican has the largest — Janssen studies human sexuality as an assistant scientist at Indiana University's Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction.

"I'm not a sexologist," he said. "There's no such thing as a sexologist. There is no doctoral program for a sexologist — yet."

But if there were such a thing Janssen would be the perfect candidate. His expertise has contributed to *Cosmopolitan*, *Glamour*, and *Playboy*. While the institute dishes out plenty of information to the popular press, its main focus is on research and academic publishing. The institute rose to international fame with Alfred Kinsey's publication of *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* in 1948. The book met with severe criticism — but also managed to find great favor among many people who found its contents reassuring in an age of sexual repression.

"It allowed people to see that people do engage in a range of behavior," said Jennifer Bass, head of information services at the institute. "[People learned] men masturbate and don't end up with a curse or hairy palms."

Two decades after the book's controversy subsided, Janssen was just a kid playing in the Dutch countryside. Although as a child he wanted to be a musician, his coursework in psychology steered him into a career focused on sex research.



PHOTO BY VONETTA LOGAN, INDIANA DAILY STUDENT

Erick Janssen, assistant scientist at the Kinsey Institute, recently co-authored a study finding that male fragrance has a positive effect on female genital response in the post-menstrual phase. Janssen is one of the world's leading experts in "sexology."

"Sex, in many forms, shapes, and disguises, plays important roles in everyone's life," he said. "It is related to how men and women interact, to how they feel about themselves, to how they respond to people they consider 'different,' to how they deal with emotions."

But choosing the life of a sexologist comes with certain occupational hazards. It seems everyone thinks it's funny to give Janssen phallic gag-gifts. Sexual tools and trinkets — including penis-shaped pasta and a mug with a shiny penis handle — clutter his office and line his shelves. And then there are all those incredulous looks he gets when he rents as many six porn flicks — his research materials — at the local video store.

"I tell them I work for the University, but they just look at me like 'Yeah, right, ok, yes sir,'" he said.

Janssen said he also fears car accidents — but for reasons the average person doesn't even consider.

"I'm afraid of what the police might find," he said.

Since coming to America to work for the institute in 1995, Janssen has examined the fine balance between sexual excitation and inhibition — what he calls either "pushing on the gas pedal" or "hitting the break." Janssen and his colleagues are working to better understand why people engage in risky sexual activity — or have a hard time engaging in sexual activity at all.

They've enlisted scores of volunteers to help them, and their lab looks like a sparsely decorated dorm room. A throw rug is on the floor, curtains are on the window, and a leather chair and ottoman are near the door. There's also a color TV that's hooked to a VCR controlled from an outer office. But that's not a remote control on a table near the chair. It's a "RigiScan" designed to measure male volunteers' erections as they watch a variety of images — sexual and non-sexual — flashed before them on the TV screen.

"Having sex in itself can induce feelings of love, depending on the circumstances and with whom you

are, of course," Janssen said. "During sexual arousal, levels of oxytocin — a brain peptide that is believed to be important in facilitating 'pair bonding' — go up, and they peak during orgasm."

For studies aimed at monitoring women's sexual arousal, Janssen holds up a device that looks like a cross between a tampon and a lightbulb. A filament inside the device measures photons, in the form of infrared light, that a woman generates as she becomes sexually aroused.

Although Janssen is very scientific and precise about his lab work, he views sexual desire — and sexual arousal — in the realm of emotions.

"[Sexual arousal] is an emotional state, involving feelings as well as physiological reactions, and it serves a purpose, is relevant to life's goals, is functional from a biological point of view," he said. "It is a 'hot' brain-state, and for some researchers that is already enough to say someone is experiencing an emotion."

The institute is conducting several studies in addition to Janssen's. Researchers are trying to determine why women stop taking the pill, learn more about Viagra's effects, and find out whether fragrance affects women's sexual arousal.

Janssen said his study of human sexuality is an act of love that requires compassion specifically designed to help people improve their lives.

"There are many ways you can do that, I know, and this is just one — for women, for people of different sexual orientation, for victims of sexual violence. Maybe even for men," he said. "And, yes, I believe that part of the solution is based on a better understanding of ourselves as sexual beings."

UNCC students push for name change: University of Charlotte

by Jon Goldberg
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CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Mike Holdenrid is sick of sports announcers and outsiders confusing his school with UNC Chapel Hill or calling it NC Charlotte or UNCC Charlotte.

He and hundreds of other students are suggesting a solution: change UNC Charlotte to University of Charlotte.

"Some people think we're even a community college," said Holdenrid, who was raised in Charlotte and is president of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity. "It's really frustrating."

The name change idea has bobbed around the campus for years, but never before has a student group carried it so far.

Delta Sig members collected more than 1,000 signatures from students supporting the name change this month. At the Feb. 26 homecoming basketball game against Tulane, they plan to wear green T-shirts reading "University of Charlotte" while screaming from their courtside seats.

The group's members are also reaching out to alumni, who they feel they need to win the fight. Fraternity members plan to man homecoming booths about the issue. They've also set up message boards on Internet sites to get the word out.

UNCC officials haven't discussed the issue and are not pursuing it, said Jack Claiborne, the university's public relations director. He said students will face a long, tough battle.

"We have more than 65,000 alumni who have diplomas saying University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Let's just say it will be a very controversial issue," Claiborne said.

The UNCC Board of Trustees, UNC Board of Governors, and N.C. General Assembly all would have to approve the change.

This isn't the first time UNC system schools have rallied around a name change.

In 1991, some UNC Chapel Hill leaders lobbied to drop the Chapel Hill from the school's name. They wanted to be called University of North Carolina, as the school was known until 1963. Then-basketball

coach Dean Smith and the alumni association favored the move, but the idea didn't win approval after chancellors of other UNC system schools complained.

In the mid-1990s, officials at the school then known as Pembroke State University fought for and won permission to become UNC Pembroke. They wanted the school's name to more clearly reflect its UNC affiliation.

Ken Carpenter, a 1978 UNCC graduate who is co-president of the Triad-area alumni association, worries that the students' drive sends the opposite message from Pembroke — that the school doesn't want to be part of the UNC system.

Though he doesn't object to the possibility of a name change, he's not sure University of Charlotte is the right fit. He'd want to keep UNC in the name.

"That's part of our identity," said Carpenter, a team manager at Wachovia Bank in Winston-Salem. "I want a name that doesn't sound like we're seceding from the union."

UNCC graduate James McCoy,

who as the Delta Sig adviser helps steer the group's plans, said students are proud of their UNC affiliation. That doesn't mean they want it in the school's name, any more than Appalachian State University wants to become UNC Boone, he said.

McCoy has watched people flub the UNCC name for years. He said his freshman roommate visited the school thinking it was UNC Chapel Hill but liked it so much that he stayed.

Later, while working for the school's sports information department, McCoy watched reporters call or write it every way but the correct one.

The University of Charlotte name would help the school distinguish itself, while also boosting the city's name recognition, he said.

"It would give the city a lot more ownership to the university," said McCoy, who graduated in 1993 and is now an MBA student. "We're right here in the middle of one of the fastest growing regions, and it's still just considered a suitcase, satellite school on the outskirts of the city."

U. of Cincinnati sorority suspended for hazing

by Paul McKibben
The News Record
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CINCINNATI (TMS) — It was far from *Animal House*, but hazing nonetheless, officials at the University of Cincinnati said before suspending the campus' chapter of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Chapter members are accused of running some of their new members through an evening of stunts far tamer than the alcohol guzzling, nude dancing, and gunfire that have marked fraternity events across the country in recent months. In fact, university and sorority officials have concluded that the events of Feb. 4 did not include drinking, sexual misconduct, or any physical harm to pledges. But that didn't stop the university from suspending the sorority indefinitely. The group's national organization has placed it on probation until the end of the school year.

"It is hazing," said Mauricio

Gonzalez, the university's associate vice president for student life. "It was personal embarrassment and was demeaning to the students to be put through this thing."

Sources told *The News Record* that on Feb. 4 the sorority's new members were made to lie on a floor while more senior members shouted insults at them. They were also commanded to make animal noises at the pleasure of two men living in an off-campus apartment complex and forced to sing silly songs and play children's games — such as Ring Around the Rosie — at several fraternity houses. At their final stop, a fraternity house belonging to the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity chapter, the initiates were made to recite the Greek alphabet while crawling up stairs.

Those events, university official said, merited the chapter's suspension. Officials of the sorority's national organization agreed and also removed several officers, including the chapter's president. The chapter placed as

many as 12 members on probation. According to sources, two members face expulsion from the sorority.

"We're terribly disappointed. It's a very old chapter," said Elizabeth Corridan, the sorority's national executive director. "They just need to pull themselves together and come back in line, and

together we'll be able to be proud of the Cincinnati chapter."

Many campus Greeks are also critical of the sorority.

"We're definitely upset," said Robyn Kish, a third-year student and member of the Theta Phi Alpha sorority. "It hurts the whole Greek system. I guess they got what they deserved."



PHOTO BY THE NEWS RECORD

The Kappa Alpha Theta house at the University of Cincinnati.