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THE REBEL YELL

The Student Newspaper of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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Academic reorganization in the works

BY CATINA HAVERLOCK
STAFF NEWS WRITER

A recent proposal calling for an academic reorganization of UNLV's programs may result in a reduction of the university's independent colleges.

A committee composed of professors and administrators submitted the proposal last week to UNLV President Carol Harter and Douglas Ferraro, the university's new provost.

"The UNLV campus is being asked to consider the organization of its colleges and

schools in the context of President Harter's vision of the institution as a premier urban university," Ferraro said. "Our intent is to mold UNLV into a university with student-centered and research foci that relate to the city and region, while achieving excellence as a national university."

The proposal, which includes three separate reorganization scenarios, eliminates the College of Human Performance and Development in every scenario.

"I have mixed feelings," said John Young, chair of the kinesiology department, which is

part of the College of Human Performance and Development.

Young, whose program would be split and transferred to the College of Education and the College of Health and Human Sciences said, "It's an exciting opportunity for science to combine with athletics. They can move in some new and exciting directions."

Young added, however, that he would like to see the kinesiology program undivided.

"We gain something and we lose something," Young said. "But, if the university is going to make these changes, the

sooner the better."

According to the report, the elimination of the college could save about \$200,000.

Scenario One suggests reducing the number of free-standing colleges from 12 to nine. In addition, this scenario would increase the balance among colleges, with no college having fewer than 40 faculty members or four departments.

Also under Scenario One, the College of Architecture, Construction Management, and Planning would merge with the College of Engineering to create a new College of

Engineering and Architecture.

Scenario Two proposes the creation of a new College of Public Policy and Human Services. Interdisciplinary programs such as communication, social work, public administration and health care administration would become part of the new college.

The most significant change under Scenario Three is the creation of a new College of Interdisciplinary Programs. The new college would consist primarily of programs that are not currently assigned to an

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PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

Wednesday's Unityfest attracted many students wanting a glimpse of other cultures.

Unityfest promotes cultural awareness

BY APRIL PARTRIDGE
STAFF NEWS WRITER

Rain and wind forced the sixth annual Unityfest celebration to move indoors Wednesday shortly after it began, but the relocation didn't dampen the spirit of the celebration.

More than 25 UNLV organizations participated in the event, which began in Valerie Pida Plaza and ended in the Moyer Student Union Ballroom.

Unityfest began in 1990, and the celebration's purpose has changed over the years, according to Dane Roberts, Campus Community Development program coordinator.

"The purpose then (in 1990) was to celebrate different cultures. Now the emphasis is a little bit more on diversity and enjoying (different) people and building bridges," Roberts said. "If you know (people of different cultures), you'll

be less likely to be antagonistic in other situations."

Booths were judged in the categories of food and banners.

The Black Student Association received the best food award. BSA's booth featured bean pie and sweet potato pie, traditional African-American dishes.

The organization also sold traditional African and African-inspired jewelry and displayed cloth with African patterns.

The best banner award was given to the Latter-day Saints' Student Association. LDSSA's booth featured items collected by members who served LDS proselytizing missions in foreign countries.

LDSSA members dressed in clothing collected abroad and answered questions about the countries they had visited.

In addition to ethnic organizations, some sororities, academic clubs and other groups

participated, including the Sociology Club, the Jean Nidetch Women's Center, and the Disability Resource Center.

Pepsi Cola donated Pepsi for Unityfest, while ARAMARK Food Services, the parent company of the UNLV dining commons, supplied free cake.

Although inclement weather forced the relocation of Unityfest, it didn't hinder the event's success, Roberts said.

"I was surprised how helpful and cooperative the students were in moving inside," Roberts said.

Student response to Unityfest was favorable.

"There is a lot of unity here," Andres Mendoza, a 19-year-old freshman majoring in civil engineering, said. "I got to meet people and see and experience other cultures."

Craig Roberson, a junior majoring in sociology, agreed. "This is a good way to bring us together."

Reverse discrimination debated

BY CHRISTOPHER F. REITMAIER
STAFF NEWS WRITER

The widely-held belief that minority and female Ph.D. graduates are more successful in finding jobs in academia than white males was challenged in a forum March 12, sponsored by UNLV's Multicultural Student Affairs.

John K. Wilson, author and University of Chicago professor, addressed discrimination, conservative correctness and affirmative action in relation to universities.

Wilson, a white male, challenged the myth that white male Ph.D. graduates are overlooked in the university hiring process in favor of minority or female candidates.

"There is this belief that minority and female candidates receive more (job) offers than they know what to do with, while white male candidates experience greater difficulty (getting a teaching position at a university). That is just not so," Wilson said.

"Statistics show that 68 percent of the academic positions available at universities are filled by white males."

According to Wilson, minority and female Ph.D. graduates are more likely to receive less desirable positions at community colleges, where the workload is heavier, as opposed to positions at top-notch universities.

Wilson examined possible reasoning for a lack of minority students entering graduate school. "Many minority students opt to enter business school or

law school," Wilson said. "The long-term monetary rewards outweigh the short-term financial debts."

"They also enter professional schools because the entrance process is something they are more familiar with."

Wilson also spoke about "the legacy preference," which he claims is particularly a Harvard University phenomenon, where admissions preferences are given to the children of alumni.

"For institutions like Harvard, the financial considerations outweigh the moral considerations," said Wilson. "Their (children of alumni) entrance test scores and overall qualifications, on average, are much lower, and unfortunately some qualified students of all races are turned away."

According to Wilson, the right-wing conservative attack on higher education is an attempt to take universities "back to the good 'ol days," where minority and women studies did not exist, and universities, on the whole, were smaller, whiter institutions.

Velica Haron, UNLV MSA director, called Wilson "an excellent role model for all students."

"He has taken his liberal arts education and used it to make a change," Haron said.

Marcus Wright, a senior majoring in engineering who attended the forum said, "I think it's difficult for everyone to get an academic position at a leading university; it's not just relegated to race."