Lester announces resignation

By Ellie Evans
Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Don Lester, dean of McAfee School of Business Administration since 1996, announced his resignation Tuesday, March 27.

“I think everybody that leaves Union misses the people the most, both students and faculty/staff. I will certainly miss the business faculty the most. I attribute the success of the department especially to them and to the program directors. Dr. Steve Atmrodal and Barbara Perry,” said Lester.

The office of the provost plans to begin meeting to discuss the methods of selecting a replacement. “Dean searches are very serious matters, of course. We will take our time to formulate a well thought out plan,” said Dr. We.

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Carla Sanderson, provost and a well thought out plan,” said Dr. We. “I feel standardized tests, such as the SAT and ACT, are being criticized by some colleges and university admissions officers.

The admissions personnel at Union are taking a new approach within the admissions policy to consider more emphasis on the high school performance and intelligence of students rather than heavily relying on standardized test scores.

“I think the tests have a purpose,” said Sanderson. “They are also required to find the most effective criteria for students’ potential for success. “We as a faculty wanted to try to stay on top of the most effective ways to learn about the academic potential of our applicant pool,” said Sanderson. “We want to ensure the success of the students we admit and this may lead toward admitting a better prepared student in the future.”

The Undergraduate Admissions Task team is comprised of four faculty members and five administrative members who will extensively review the admission policies and propose to the Union faculty their ideas for fair admission requirements.

“The goal is to help set students up for success with policies that are fair and consistent,” said Dr. Charles Fowler, vice president of enrollment management.

One of the proposals approved in the Fall of 2000 was a student success program developed by Griffin and Fowler. This program consists of a set of conditional guidelines for students who did not fully meet the admission requirements.

According to the guidelines, a student must work with a regular faculty advisor to create a success plan for their individual needs. The student must attend a workshop during the first week of the semester to help develop better reading and study skills.

They are also required to study or receive free tutoring in the Learning Center for a minimum of seven hours per week during their conditional admission semester.

The academic schedule for the student is limited to 13 hours, and they must earn a 2.0 GPA in order to be removed from conditional status.

“The goal of this new emphasis is to be able to admit students who will be successful at Union and to then provide the resources necessary to ensure that success,” said Griffin.

The reconstruction of the admittance policy issue will likely be voted on during the May faculty meeting.

Across the United States, colleges and universities are studying the SAT/ACT debate and some plan to refocus their admissions policies on student performances and discard standardized tests.

President of the University of California system’s Richard Atkinson has called for discarding the SAT from the admissions policy at the University of California’s eight undergraduate campuses, including Berkeley and UCLA. He said students should be judged by what they learned, not how they scored.

Atkinson said in a Time magazine article he wants to make SAT scores optional in the assessment process for all 90,000 students who apply to the University of California each year.