

**Updated Statement from Stephen Farmer
Assistant Provost and Director of Undergraduate Admissions
January 26, 2007**

Yesterday (Thursday, January 25) the Associated Press reported in error that the 2,703 students whom we mistakenly emailed were on our waiting list. In fact these students are second-deadline candidates whose applications have not yet been reviewed. While the Associated Press corrected its original story Thursday afternoon and distributed the correction widely, the erroneous version appeared in several evening news reports and on media websites.

First-year candidates who applied by our second (January) deadline are currently under review and will be notified of their decisions on or around March 31. We will officially communicate these decisions only by mail, although we will also post them, as a courtesy, on students' UNC homepages.

**Statement from Stephen Farmer
Assistant Provost and Director of Undergraduate Admissions
January 25, 2007**

On Tuesday, January 23, we mistakenly sent an email intended for first-deadline admitted students to 2,703 second-deadline candidates whose applications have not yet been reviewed. We continue to regret this error and to focus on these candidates, who have honored us by applying for admission to Carolina and who deserve our respect and care. We want to reassure these students that we value their interest in Carolina and will evaluate their applications as fairly, as carefully, and as thoroughly as we can. In addition to the two email apologies we sent yesterday (Wednesday, January 24) to all second-deadline candidates—one from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, and a second from me personally—today we are communicating by letter with the 2,703 students to whom we sent the mistaken email. These students include 743 from North Carolina and 1,960 from outside the state.

We remain committed to carefully reviewing the circumstances that led us to make this error and are taking steps to help prevent its reoccurrence. Our admissions officers continue to welcome calls from students, families, and counselors. We have also established a dedicated email account, uncdirector@admissions.unc.edu, to help us answer these inquiries immediately. As of 4:30 p.m. today, we have responded to phone calls or email messages on behalf of 256 students. In all of these contacts, we have apologized for our error and worked to clarify the admissions status of these students. All second-deadline applicants should receive their decisions no later than the end of March. Official admissions decisions are communicated only through mail and through students' UNC homepages.

We are grateful to students, parents, and counselors for the extraordinary kindness and understanding they have shown to us. We will strive to return their courtesy, and our door will remain open.

**Statement from Stephen Farmer
Assistant Provost and Director of Undergraduate Admissions
January 24, 2007**

At 3:50 p.m. on January 23, 2007, as a result of two simultaneous human errors, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions mistakenly sent an email to second-deadline candidates requesting the submission of their midyear grades. The email began: "Congratulations again on your admission to the University. We require all admitted students to submit midyear grades to us online."

We recognized this error at 4:50 p.m. and believed that it was confined to 538 students. At 5:30 p.m. we emailed these students to apologize for our error and to explain that all second-deadline candidates are still under review.

At 8 a.m. today we discovered that the error involved more students than we had previously believed. We immediately emailed all second-deadline candidates who did not receive the first correction message to apologize for our error and to explain that all second-deadline candidates are still under review. We have since learned that a total of 2,703 students received this erroneous email.

At 12:15 p.m. today we emailed 2,323 high-school counselors to inform them of this error and to offer to answer any questions that they, their students, or their students' parents might have.

At 3:45 p.m. today I emailed all second-deadline candidates to reiterate our apology for the error, explain why it occurred, and offer the assistance of our admissions officers.

We will continue to express our deep regret for this error. We are also developing internal controls that we believe will prevent this error from recurring. While our official admissions decisions are communicated only through mail and through students' UNC homepages, we understand that many of the students who received the mistaken message have been disappointed to learn that we have reached no decision regarding their candidacy. We deeply regret this disappointment, which we know is compounded by the stress and anxiety that students experience as a result of the admissions process. In responding to this error, as in everything we do, we will strive to alleviate this stress and to treat our students fairly and humanely.

Stephen Farmer
Assistant Provost and Director of Undergraduate Admissions
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