

The Banner

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UNC-CH requires freshmen to own computers in 2000

UNCA administration has no plans to follow suit

By Amelia Morrison
Staff Writer

The administration of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) announced on Feb. 12 that it will require that all freshmen entering the university in the year 2000 own a laptop computer.

"It is kind of nice to usher in the 21st century by requiring laptop computers," said UNC-CH Chancellor Michael Hooker.

According to Thomas Cochran, UNCA associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, the UNCA administration has no plans for implementing personal computer ownership requirements. "Our position is that it is not something we want to mandate," said Cochran. "Mandatory purchase of laptop computers is not in the cards for UNCA."

Hooker said that incoming freshmen at UNC-CH who own desktop computers will be required to purchase new laptop computers, and the exact cost of the required computers has not been determined. The price of laptop computers currently ranges from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

"I don't think it is fair because many families cannot afford that, and a lot of people already own desktop computers that I think are just fine," said Lisa Jackson, a sophomore biology and Spanish major at UNC-CH.

According to Hooker, UNC-CH will offer low-interest loans and increased financial aid to those who cannot afford the cost of the new computers.

"We are trying to level the playing field for those who cannot afford laptop computers," said Hooker.

"I think the computer requirement is necessary, in order to assure that everyone who graduates from Chapel Hill has equal experience using and access to computers," said Jaime Luton, a sophomore public policy analysis major and secretary of the Academic Affairs committee at UNC-CH.

Hooker said that he expects other universities to adopt similar computer requirements in the near future.

Wake Forest University has required that all incoming students own laptop computers since 1995, and Western Carolina University adopted a similar computer requirement in 1997.

"Years down the road, everybody is going to be doing what we are doing," Hooker said.

Cochran said that student ownership of computers at UNCA will likely become universal without an ownership requirement from the administration.

"It will be mandatory in the sense that all students are going to feel like they must have one," said Cochran. "As more computing becomes integrated into instruction and labs, it will be a necessity to have access to or have your own computer."

"In the case of Chapel Hill, I think it is probably more public relations than necessity," Cochran said.

Director of University Comput-

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Michael Hooker

Drug violations rise system-wide



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PRESTON GANNAWAY

Ninety-eight percent of the drug violations in the University of North Carolina system during the 1996-97 school year involved marijuana. Possession of marijuana was the most cited offense, marijuana trafficking ranked second.

By Nicole Miller
Staff Writer

According to the latest annual drug report released by the University of North Carolina General Administration, the number of student drug violations reached an all-time high in 1996-97. The system began keeping records on drug violations in 1988.

Drug violations rose from 495 in 1995-96 to 579 in 1996-97. The lowest number of violations was in 1991-92, when 98 violations were reported. Violations have risen steadily since 1991-92.

Of the 579 drug violations within the 16-campus UNC system last year, 541 involved possession of marijuana, and 24 involved trafficking mari-

juana. Fourteen percent of the reported violations related to possession of other substances, with the most frequent being Rohypnol (the "date rape drug") and mushrooms.

The UNC General Administration stressed that the report, released on Feb. 12, does not reflect actual drug use at the constituent universities. The administration said that the report was intended to show what the universities are doing in the way of prevention programs and activities.

"The report is a monitoring device for the Board of Governors policy on illegal drugs," said Cynthia Bonner, associate vice president for Student Services and Special Programs at UNC General Administration.

The Board of Governors policy requires that the universities provide drug education, interven-

tion, and counseling programs, and it requires schools to apply at least minimum sanctions against violators.

The annual report, compiled from individual institution reports, "gives the general administration an idea of what is going on in terms of education," said Bonner.

Pulley said that the general administration's main concern is student welfare. Intervention, education, and treatment of drug abusers are more important than simply seeking to punish offenders, she said.

Of the 579 cases in 1996-97, schools permanently expelled five students, temporarily suspended 78 students, placed 405 on probation. Seventy-eight cases were dismissed, and 13 cases have not received sanctioning at the time of the report. All penalties imposed were in compli-

ance with the UNC policy on illegal drugs.

For the past two years, UNCA has reported three drug policy violations per year. Winston-Salem State University and Elizabeth City State University were the only two system schools with fewer violations than UNCA.

The three UNCA drug offenders in 1996-97 were sentenced by the student conduct system to probation and participation in UNCA's drug and alcohol rehabilitation program.

Appalachian State University (ASU) had the highest number of reported expulsions, rising from 73 in 1995-96 to 135 in 1996-97. However, school officials attribute the increase to stronger enforcement of the school's drug policy, and the

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Big South champs



PHOTO BY TRAVIS BARKER

The UNCA men's basketball team clinched the Big South regular season championship with a win over Winthrop on Feb. 21. Robert Stevenson (pictured above) scored 20 points. See story on page 6.

Search for asbestos continues

By Gene Zaleski
Staff Writer

The Office of Facilities Management is surveying all campus buildings for the presence of the carcinogenic asbestos.

Floor tiles containing asbestos were removed from residence halls in the Governor's Village over Christmas break.

According to UNCA Safety Officer Tom Goddard, the Governor's Village still has a number of tiles containing asbestos.

"The Governor's Village has vinyl floor tile underneath carpet in some areas," said Goddard. "It does not pose a health hazard or risk because it is what we call contained or encapsulated, because the carpets are on top of it."

Goddard said that the tiles containing asbestos are not dangerous because they are not friable, which means that the asbestos is pulverized into tiny particles. He said that only friable asbestos poses danger. "The only exposure a person could have would be to take a jackhammer and break up the floor," said Goddard. "We try to determine

what is likely to happen and what probably will happen. No resident should be doing anything that could disturb the asbestos."

"It is not considered a safety hazard," said Pete Williams, director of housing and residence life. "The tiles themselves are safe. It is only in the removal of the tiles that would be harmful to anyone."

The floor tile was tested in Founder's Hall in December and was found not to contain asbestos.

The other residence halls were built recently and should not contain the asbestos component, said Goddard. "Building material used after 1978 does not contain asbestos," said Goddard.

Goddard said that the building contracts for the South Ridge residence hall and West Ridge residence halls specified that the build-

ings would be asbestos-free.

According to Goddard, UNCA classroom and administration buildings are currently being tested, and some have been found to contain non-friable asbestos similar to what is in the Governor's Village.

"Parts of Carmichael Hall and Phillips have vinyl asbestos floor tile, which contains about two to five percent asbestos," Goddard said.

"We have checked the mechanical rooms and boiler rooms first, because that is where the asbestos was more likely to be," said Goddard. "In some areas where it has

been identified that there is no asbestos we put up a sign that says, 'There is no known asbestos in this room.'"

"If floor tiles contain asbestos we make sure the tile is washed and waxed," said Goddard. "This is the

primary concern if the asbestos is not friable.

Goddard said that extra care has been taken to remove asbestos from locations on campus before construction or significant renovation is undertaken.

"When there is construction work to be done, then an abatement will be done to remove the asbestos," Goddard said. "Qualified abatement contractors come in and remove it to give us a space free of asbestos."

The most recent asbestos abatement project done on campus was in the sports medicine wing of the Justice Center.

"The space they went into had a molding that was sprayed on and it contained small percentages of asbestos," said Goddard. "It was removed by an abatement contractor prior to that space being renovated."

Goddard said that the asbestos currently on campus does not pose a threat to the UNCA community. "I cannot swear to you that I know where every bit of asbestos is, but we are in a process to determine what is and what is not asbestos-laden," said Goddard.

"This does not mean the buildings are unsafe," Goddard said.

UNCA Safety Officer Tom Goddard said that the asbestos currently on campus does not pose a threat to the UNCA community.