

The Banner

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Students punished in harassment case

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The University Conduct Board has taken disciplinary action against four students, all members of the track team, who were recently investigated for harassment.

Charles Schabel, a junior meteorology major, filed an investigation report with public safety on Sept. 26, stating that he was assaulted, ridiculed, humiliated by jokes

of a sexual nature, and had his bookbag defecated upon.

According to Ryan Hobday, the primary offender in the investigation report, he and David Jordan, who admitted in his statement to public safety that he defecated on Schabel's bookbag, have been required to move off campus by the University Conduct Board.

"As far as the track team, we are getting different punishments from Stan Rosenthal," head men's/women's track coach, said Hobday. "But as of right now, everybody is still on the track team."

Kurt Wilson and Matt Tatham, who were

listed as additional suspects in the investigation report, said they did not take part in the harassment.

"Our names were not even mentioned in this whole thing until we volunteered to let Ryan submit our names as witnesses," said Tatham. "If we had known all of this stuff was going to come down, I doubt we would have let ourselves get involved."

"(Tatham and I) just got pulled into it," said Wilson. "They just associated us with" Hobday and Jordan. "Because we're on the cross country team, (public safety) assumed we were guilty with them."

"I would like to sit down face-to-face with

someone in a position of authority and maybe Charles too, and just talk," said Wilson. "I really think we could resolve our involvement in the matter. David obviously messed up. He should have never used the bathroom on Charles' bag."

"I think Ryan and David are the guilty ones," said Schabel. "I don't think Kurt and Matt deserve punishment." Schabel also said that he offered assistance to Tatham and Wilson in their efforts to appeal their punishments.

Wilson said his punishment consisted of five hours of community service with public safety, a letter of apology to Schabel, and

a letter to his track coach explaining his involvement.

"There was alcohol intervention that I had to go to, but that got dropped," said Wilson, who was not drinking on the night the incident occurred. "They are still sticking with the other stuff. I am going to fight it. I don't think I deserve the punishment."

Tatham said his punishment was similar to Wilson's, but he also has to participate in alcohol intervention.

"I was caught drinking, and I admitted to drinking," said Tatham. "If I have to go to

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Tuition faces regulations

By Shaun Cashman
Staff Writer

A Tuition Policy Task Force put together by the Board of Governors has released its report of suggestions to establish a more systematic process for regulating tuition in the UNC system.

Under the new policy, "it ought to be a lot easier for students to forecast what their tuition is going to be," said professor of economics Bruce Larson, who worked on the Task Force. "Changes in tuition will be more orderly."

The report maintains the state's policy of an affordable, high-quality education, but places the power and responsibility of maintaining tuition levels under the direction of the Board of Governors.

Under the proposal, the Board would approve tuition changes one year in advance, and the 16 campuses would have to present budget proposals outlining reasons for any increases.

"I suspect there will not be a lot of change in terms of tuition at UNCA," said Larson.

In the report, the Task Force determined that there should be stricter controls on tuition rates in North Carolina.

The Board of Governors approved the new tuition policy on Nov. 13, then sent it to the state Legislature for final approval.

The study was a result of the 1997 North Carolina State Budget Act, which directed the Board of Governors to conduct a study to establish firmer tuition policies.

The Task Force was composed of representatives of the board, faculty, staff, and students.

Among the current policies being evaluated are increases in student fees. UNCA has the highest fee rate of all 16 UNC schools at \$1,032, with almost \$400 going towards the athletic fee. UNC Greensboro ranks second with \$1,003, of which about \$300 goes toward athletic fees.

If the tuition policy is approved by the state Legislature, UNCA will have to validate any increases in fees.

Currently, the Legislature determines tuition during the budget process.

That system does not allow much time for students and administration to make informed plans concerning student payments, and financial aid offices are burdened with assisting students in coping with unexpected tuition increases.

In addition to not having sufficient time to plan for tuition increases, the Task Force found other faults with the current system used by the Legislature to determine tuition fees.

Tuition cost has increased an average of 8.1 percent over the past 10 years, which translates to about 2.6 percent more than the growth of per capita personal income in North Carolina over the same period, according to the report.

In 1972, resident tuition and fees averaged \$486, and by 1998, that has increased to about \$1,791.

However, compared to other states, UNC tuition increases rank among the smallest in the nation, according to the report.

In the report, the Task Force concluded that current policies governing tuition and fees could be improved by adopting a policy framework that:

- increases the role of the Board of Governors in managing tuition and makes them accountable for UNC institution performance.
- announces changes in tuition and fees in advance.
- refines student financial aid programs.
- improves communication between the board and the public concerning cost of education.
- refines the procedures for campuses to initiate and justify tuition and fee changes for board consideration.

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Going substance-free

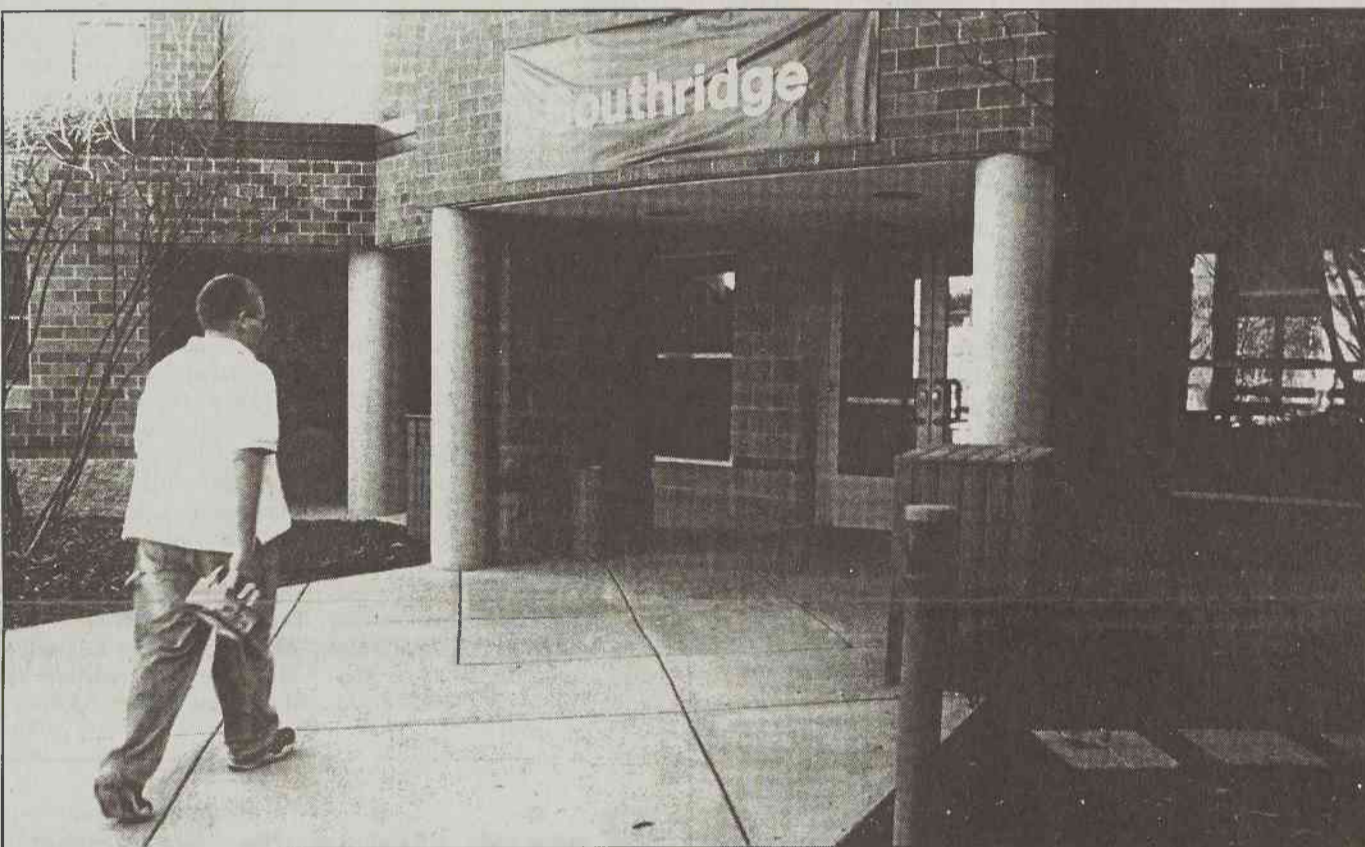


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TRAVIS BARKER/MODEL BEN ERLANDSON

UNCA decided to designate South Ridge Residence Hall a substance-free dormitory starting in the Fall 1999 semester.

SGA tackles substance-free housing, other issues

By Mat Peery
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association continues to pursue several bills and initiatives that have passed this semester and cover a wide range of issues, including substance-free housing, childcare, student fees, and the proposed academic honor policy.

The creation of a substance-free housing program was initiated in SGA after learning that South Ridge Residence Hall will become a substance-free living area next fall, said Alphonso Donaldson, SGA president.

"The university is moving forward with an initiative to make South Ridge a substance-free resi-

dence hall. What we think is that might not be prudent at this point, and what we need to do is make a substance-free hall in South Ridge," said Donaldson.

The SGA resolution affirms a student's right to live in a substance-free area, but on a "per hallway" and "voluntary" basis, according to the bill.

Pete Williams, director of housing and residence life, said that South Ridge will be a completely substance-free dorm beginning in the Fall 1999 semester.

"There is a task force that is working on some of the details. Basically, it will be an alcohol and smoke-free living facility," said Williams. In addition, there are other "wellness" components that are being discussed, Williams said.

The Housing Office anticipates

that it has enough student interest in such an environment to fill the 112-bed facility, Williams said.

SGA is also trying to convince the administration to refund the \$10 that some students paid in order to stay in the dorms during Thanksgiving break. Housing can shut down dorms during any breaks when the school is closed.

Doug Jones, commuter senator, said that he has discussed with the administration a possible refund of that charge to students who can demonstrate that they had no alternative other than staying in the dorms. An appeals process will begin in the near future that will allow students to file those requests.

"I don't believe there was enough prior notice" about the charge,

said Jones. "It wasn't in the residential handbook."

"I don't have a problem if they redid the policy for next year so that it is more fair to the students," said Jones.

In addition to housing concerns, SGA is reorganizing a student referendum on the proposed academic honor code that was scheduled for Nov. 30, but was canceled. Jones said that he lacked sufficient information from faculty members about the proper course for implementation for the proposed honor policy.

"We're not going to do anything without student consent, and that's why we're waiting," Jones said.

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Voice mail conflict resolved, call waiting returns

By John Stanier
Staff Writer

On-campus telephones will have the call waiting feature returned due to complaints and pressure from students. Students will have both call waiting and voice mail available at the same time.

Mike Small, director of university telecommunications, said that a new system has been chosen, and BellSouth is in the process of installing necessary software to enable the campus telephone system

to handle both features.

"As soon as they let us know it is installed, we'll be up and running again," Small said. "If you're on the phone and a call comes in, you'll get the tone that you have an incoming call," said Small. "You can either go to that call right away as you normally would, or you can ignore it. If you ignore it, after four rings it will go into the voice mailbox. 'It's a no-brainer as far as I'm concerned,'" said Small. "I wish someone had pointed this out before we changed the system."

Kenya Smith, a junior management major and resident assistant (R.A.) in Mills Hall, has been working with Small to get

call waiting reactivated. Smith organized a student petition to have call waiting along with voice mail on campus telephones.

"They made me the sponsor person," said Smith.

"I was already working on the problem before the petition came in," Small said. "That made me try a little harder, I guess. I knew how valuable the students thought call waiting was."

Small said students' concerns were taken into consideration, and that it reinforced the need to get call waiting back quickly.

Smith said she was initially bothered by the change in telephone service features

because students were not informed. She felt that the change was made without students' priorities in mind. "They were just going to cut it off and not tell anybody," said Smith.

Small said that this was not the case. He said there was never a decision to remove the call waiting feature from students' phones in favor of the voice mail option. "The reason we had to stumble into this, so to speak, is because no one told us this was going to be a problem," he said.

Small said that when the university decided to add voice mail, BellSouth did not mention any potential conflicts in the cur-

rent system that would have disabled call waiting. "We kept call waiting because we knew the students like it," he said.

Small said the problem was a lack of software from BellSouth. "It was a BellSouth enhancement that had to be on our system that hadn't been installed when we got our basic phone system," he said.

Smith said she circulated her petition as students began to have problems with the services.

Small said he looked at other schools to

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