

Senate committee to consider bill today to abolish dormitory visitation

by Norman Black
Staff Writer

A bill to abolish visitation in the dormitory room of state-supported universities is scheduled for consideration today by the Senate Committee on Higher Education.

"I'm not going to push the bill, but it is possible that some committee member will make a motion," said committee Chairman Russell Kirby when asked if any action would be taken on the bill after the first hearing.

Regardless of the action taken by the committee, the bill must come to the floor of the Senate for a final vote. No

date has yet been set for consideration by the Senate.

No request for a public hearing was made to the Committee on Higher Education, but Sen. Kirby has extended an invitation to anyone who is interested in speaking on the bill to attend the committee hearing at 3 p.m.

The bill was introduced on May 4 by Sen. Jyles Coggins (D-Wake).

Coggins was prompted to submit the legislation because of the "publicity and commotion that has come out in recent weeks from some of these schools."

"These students and some outsiders are using college dormitories for living

together and sleeping together," he said.

Coggins said though some college administrators may not object to it, he believes the general public does.

Presently, the Board of Higher Education permits daily visitation with members of the opposite sex during prescribed hours on all six campuses of the Consolidated University.

Joe Stallings, student body president, is planning to attend the committee hearings.

Stallings said he feels that Sen. Coggins has missed the total perspective of what visitation means to this campus.

"Visitation on this campus has

definitely proved beneficial," Stallings continued. "And besides, all intra-university matters should be handled by the universities involved."

The bill reads in full: "No student enrolled in any state-supported educational institution shall visit in the bedroom or other sleeping quarters maintained by or for a student, who is a member of the opposite sex, upon the campus of any state-supported educational institution. Any violation of the terms of this act shall be grounds for suspension or expulsion. Provided, this act shall not apply to married students visiting in the bedrooms of their spouses.

Deconsolidation

10-year-old battle may rage forever

by Mike Pamell
Editor

The battle for deconsolidating the Consolidated University of North Carolina did not begin in January when Gov. Bob Scott appointed a committee to study the system and offer proposals for change.

The battle did not begin when the Warren Committee made its proposal to the N.C. General Assembly to create a board of regents which would oversee all the state-supported universities and colleges.

The battle did not begin when University administrators and trustees rallied to support the minority report of the Warren Committee, a report which supports changes in the present structure but would retain the Consolidated University as a separate entity from the other state-supported schools.

The battle actually began 10 years ago when the General Assembly took away powers it had given to the state Board of Higher Education in 1959—powers comparable to those proposed for the board of regents.

The 1961 legislature recognized that trouble was brewing from the various state institutions of higher learning, which had all become basically general purpose institutions even though most retained their specific purpose of being teachers colleges or community colleges, etc.

In 1963 the late Irving Carlyle of Winston-Salem headed a commission which was expected to end some of the conflicts.

The system created by the Carlyle Commission gave each school functions of education, i.e. some were designated teachers colleges, some community colleges, some general purpose universities.

The system was heralded as ending the duplication and waste of the institutions in this state and the rivalry and vote-swapping every two years in the Assembly.

Plans were also adopted which would allow other schools to become branches of the University of North Carolina. The powers of the state Board of Higher Education continued to exist but with several changes:

the authority to coordinate the plans of the schools was stripped and thus the Board lost influence with the Assembly.

In 1965 Charlotte became a branch of the Consolidated University. In 1967 East Carolina, Western Carolina, Appalachian and A&T in Greensboro became the first regional universities, with no alignment with the Consolidated University.

That idea had been conceived by former Gov. Terry Sanford, who thought it would help the Democratic nominee for governor in the 1968 elections. Lt. Gov. Bob Scott threw his weight behind the plan. He was the democratic nominee for governor in 1968.

News analysis

In 1969 Asheville and Wilmington became part of the Consolidated University. Every other state-supported school in the state was given university status, with the power to grant doctoral degrees. The Carlyle Committee's plan for functional education had been completely smashed.

The Board of Higher Education was strengthened early in the 1971 legislative session in a surprising move. The Board gained political power as Gov. Bob Scott, the chairmen of the Senate and House finance committees, the chairmen of the Senate and House appropriation committees and higher education committee members were added to the Board.

The battle which had begun so long ago flared anew when Gov. Scott called the University trustees together last year and told them of his proposal to deconsolidate the University.

In January Scott named the Warren Committee, with former state Sen. Lindsay Warren as its chairman. Warren had been a former member of the Board of Higher Education.

At its meeting on April 3 the committee heard a report written by staff members of the University and the

Board of Higher Education. The report would have strengthened the Board by giving it stronger authority over new programs and the universities' budgets.

The plan did not include deconsolidating the University. The committee accepted it for its report to the Governor by a 13-6 vote.

The committee recessed for three weeks to draft its report for the governor. The draft was submitted back to the committee on April 23.

At that time the deconsolidation plan was submitted to the committee. It was written by Wallace Hyde, a representative of Western Carolina, and Watts Hill and W.C. Harris of the Board of Higher Education.

A motion was approved to reconsider the earlier vote. A subcommittee was approved to try to reconcile the differences in the two reports. It failed.

When the final vote was taken there were 13 members supporting deconsolidation, 8 supporting the strengthening of the state Board of Higher Education.

The majority and minority reports were presented by the General Assembly. Gov. Scott supported the majority:

"Most of the damage to higher education is occurring from within," he said, "the wrangling, rivalry, the empire building, the costly overlapping and duplication, the gilding of the lily, the arrogant distrust and suspicion, the holier-than-thou, looking-down-the-nose attitude, the devil-take-the-hindmost, 'I'm getting mine, how are you doing?' philosophy.

"These internal disorders will grow progressively worse if left unchecked. Strong measures are called for."

The plan for the board of regents does not give the board stated powers in the Constitution of the State of North Carolina. The powers in the plan may be taken away at any time by the General Assembly. Witness the fate of the Board of Education.

Gov. Scott has just been one figure in a long battle over higher education in this state.

Other governors in the future will have the same opportunities to "reform" higher education.

The battle rages on.



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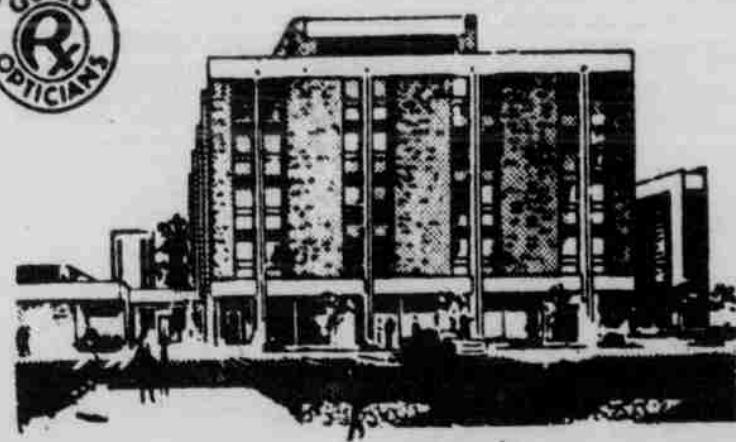


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