

The Blue Banner

"We do not live to extenuate the miseries of the past nor to accept as incurable those of the present." - Fairfield Osborne

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Committee meets to discuss student fee increases for next year Some committee members question increase proposal from health services

Teri Smith
Staff Writer

A committee met for the first time last week to begin the process of deciding student fee increases for next year. Much of the meeting was reportedly spent discussing a proposed fee increase for Student Health Services.

At least one member of the committee wondered if health services was even needed, and another questioned its cost effectiveness, according to Eric Pyeritz, medical director of health services.

"I presented a proposal from health services for a \$2 per year, \$1 per semester, per student fee increase to cover the cost of mandated salary increases," said Eric V. Iovacchini, vice chancellor for student affairs. "I very much supported that proposal."

"I think student health service has a tremendous affect on recruitment and retention of students on this campus," he said. "I feel very strongly that we need a strong health services department on this campus."

Iovacchini said that, without this fee increase, the health services center will have to cut services to offset the cost of salary increases or cut some of its operating costs.

Arthur P. Foley, vice chancellor for financial affairs, would not comment on the meeting except to say that the health service center was "in no danger of

being closed."

Iovacchini said that health services does seem to be in danger of not getting a fee increase.

Gerard Moses, president of the Student Government Association [SGA], and Ryan DeSear, vice president of SGA, are the student representatives on the fee review committee. Moses did not attend the first meeting of the committee, but DeSear was present.

"I haven't had time to think about it [the health services fee increase] yet," said DeSear. "We have to consider all fee proposals. If we give that to the Health Center, then something else may have to be cut."

DeSear said he thinks the health services proposal is "deserving of equal consideration."

DeSear and Moses plan to survey the opinions of SGA senators, conduct door-to-door interviews with resident students, and call or contact commuter students to get their opinions on student fee increases, according to DeSear. DeSear said they plan to do this next week before the majority of students leave for the summer.

The health services center averages 650-700 patient visits per month, according to Linda Roper, nurse at the health services center. "Some months, we see 800-900 patients," she said.

Roper cited several examples of services frequently used by students and the costs that would be incurred if the services were not available on campus.

"Students who receive allergy injections would pay a minimum of \$7 per shot

in a private physicians office," said Roper. "Most students who get allergy shots average two times per week."

Roper said that off-campus students would pay a minimum of \$65-\$85 for a woman's general wellness visit that included a breast and pelvic exam.

"That's for the office visit alone," said Roper. "The lab fees for the pap smear would be an additional \$30."

The health services center conducts the general exam for free and charges \$15 for the pap smear.

Pyeritz said he did not get the sense that health services was "an endangered species," but he was concerned that some members of the committee did not seem to understand the scope of services provided.

Pyeritz said that students "would not receive the close personal support and contact, and would not know their health care provider as well as they do here if they had to seek services off campus."

"Private doctor's offices couldn't care less," he said. "They are in it for the profit."

"College health services have an ear tuned to the special needs of students, much more than a private physician across town," said Iovacchini.

"We are trying to provide a cost-effective way of providing cost effective health care," said Roper.

Roper said that it is often frustrating that they can't be more available, especially for students who attend classes in the evenings.

Graduation fees pay commencement costs

Kevin Ellis
Staff Writer



Dudley Flood

UNCA expects to award degrees to its largest class ever on May 14, and for the first time, those graduates will pay for their commencement, everything from the flowers on the podium to the cost of getting graduation speakers here.

Commencement exercises will begin at 6 p.m. on the terrace of D. Hiden Ramsey Library. In case of rain, graduation will be at the Asheville Civic Center.

In January, college officials decided to increase commencement fees from \$20 to \$50. The college made the change so that the university would not be subsidizing the graduation ceremony, Interim Vice Chancellor Thomas Cochran said.

The college will make about \$16,500 off the 330 students expecting to graduate in May and another \$3,450 from the approximately 170 who finished their coursework in August or December, but are considered part of the 1994 graduating class.

Included in those costs to students is "at least \$1,000" to bring former Ecuadorian President Rodrigo Borja to the commencement.

Borja, who was the Aileen and William Highsmith Distinguished Visiting Professor at UNCA this past fall, will receive an honorary degree from the university at graduation.

The fee increase has drawn few complaints, Cochran said, which he attributed to the relief of getting out of school that most students feel.

"We've gotten three complaints, and those complaints have come from people not planning to march," Cochran said. "Most of the students going through the ceremony are just happy getting through."

"This is the first year the fee has been instituted, and we'll take a close look to see if it's accomplishing what it was intended to accomplish," Cochran added.

The UNCA Alumni Association pays for the reception it holds, and Student Affairs will pay for a breakfast for graduating students prior

See "Commencement," page 8

Awards Presentation



Staff Photo By Lat Ray

The UNCA Academic and Leadership Awards presentation was held at the Grove Park Inn on May 4.

Inside

Opinions 2

Get well, Brenda
Susan Hanley Lane

Perspectives 3

Convent doors
Concerned professor

Features 4

Student exhibit
Elderly sisters

Sports 5

Farewell seniors
Athletes of the year

Comics 6

off the mark
Chaos

Announcements 7

Job opportunities
Events

Weather Report

Friday Saturday



Hi 74 Lo 52 Hi 76 Lo 50

Weather Report courtesy of the National Weather Service

UNCA Atmospheric Science Department offers updated forecasts through the 24 hour Weatherline...251-6435

World Affairs Council holds final lecture of the year

Rebekah Stivers
Staff Writer

The World Affairs Council hosted Bill Sabo, professor of political science, as the guest speaker for its final lecture Monday night in the Owen Hall Conference Center.

Sabo, who has been a member of UNCA's political science department since 1979, spoke on the impact of the Vietnam War on domestic politics from an American perspective.

"The Vietnam War experience, taken as a whole, provoked a lingering public skepticism about the use of military force abroad, reluctance to spend more money on defense, resistance to foreign aid and foreign investment,.... and suspicion of presidential power," said Sabo.

He reviewed how, until the early 1960s, American policy-planners saw the United States as the economic cornerstone of the world. "What was good for America was good for all," said Sabo.

"As the office with the closest connection to the people, the president was seen as having the ability to build popular support for necessary actions." Sabo said John F. Kennedy "was the ideal spokesman for this view." Sabo said Kennedy "incorporated the establishment's aspiration for world leadership, and he possessed the rhetorical skills to link the priorities of the elite with the myths of American greatness."

Sabo said America entered the Vietnam era in an optimistic state, but the economy slowed in the mid-1960s, and inflation rose steadily throughout the war. He said Lyndon B. Johnson struggled with decisions regarding the war. He "could not decide which was more important, the war or the great society," said Sabo.

Though the war "boosted" the business economy, the middle and working classes regressed in the economic state during Vietnam, said Sabo. This led to an overall decrease in the public's confidence of its government's ability to manage the country, he said. The public was often kept in the dark about what was happening with the war, and, as a result, was not very informed on foreign policy, he said.

Technology became the "culprit" to the politics of American foreign policy. The "advent of television" gave less control to the "establishment elites" in forming the public's perceptions, said Sabo.

"In the early days of the war, Washington's interpretations of events

See "Final lecture," page 8

Biology department and Botanical Gardens to sponsor wildlife tours

Alex Eastwood
Staff Writer

The UNCA biology department is sponsoring its 22nd annual Spring Wildflower and Bird Pilgrimage May 6-8. The Botanical Gardens is a co-sponsor of the three-day event and will serve as the gathering center on both Saturday and Sunday.

"We have designed tours that will be informative as well as enjoyable," said James Perry, professor of biology and organizer of the pilgrimage. "You will come away with a fuller appreciation of the beauty of our region's wildflowers and birdlife."

The event is both a university and a community event and costs \$2 per person or \$1 for students for the entire weekend of tours and lectures. Registration for the tours on Saturday and Sunday will be Friday night at 6:30 in Robinson Hall.

At 7:30 p.m. in Robinson Hall, Alan Heilman, associate professor of botany at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, will give a presentation on how plants adapt for pollination. Heilman is known for his dramatic close-up photography of plant life, and will be showing some of his shots during the presentation.

On Saturday, there are 14 tours over the course of the day, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 5 p.m. The tours are guided through various areas off the

Blue Ridge Parkway, and vary in hiking distance.

Both sets of Saturday's tours are half-day events, the morning tours returning for lunch and the evening tours returning for more presentations in Robinson Hall. The Botanical Gardens will be selling lunch in the gardens.

Morning tours begin at different times from 6 to 9:30 a.m. Each person must provide their own transportation to the site, and Perry encourages carpooling.

On Sunday, there are two additional tours. The first begins at 6 a.m. and runs until noon. It is a birding trip and will travel along the Blue Ridge Parkway to Old Fort and back.

The afternoon tour is a wildflower walk through the private gardens on the Thomas S. Shinn property in Leicester. The Shinn will guide the tour of their wildflowers, shrubs, and trees.

The tours will be roughly limited to about 20 persons per tour, and the sponsors would prefer no more than 10 cars per tour. The tours will take place rain or shine.

The Nature Tour for Hikers, on Saturday, will begin at the Folk Art Center and go to Craggy Gardens. It will follow the Carter Creek trail 6.5 miles through several vegetation zones.

A shorter tour will leave from Robinson Hall and drive to the Craggy Mountains in the Barnardville area. This tour for beginners will feature an introduction to flowers, salamanders, and birds of the region.

An afternoon tour titled Wildflower

& Bird Identification for Beginners leaves at 1:30 p.m. from the Folk Art Center and tours the Parkway for about 15 miles with brief walks totaling one to two miles.

All day on Saturday the Botanical Gardens' staff will be featuring tours of the gardens, guided and self-guided, to discover the more than 700 species of wildflowers, shrubs, and trees in the area.

Perry hopes these tours will encourage more people to speak out against the proposed parking lot that will alter the aesthetics of the gardens.

Perry plans to provide opportunity for visitors to sign the petition circulating the campus and community to prevent action being taken by the UNCA administration on paving that area.

Visitors are welcome to bring their children. Some of the shorter tours, or the driving tours, might be better suited for young children. Perry also suggests bringing along a hand-lens, or magnifying glass, and a pair of binoculars.

Perry has organized these tours every year for the past 22 years they have been offered.

"Because of its great age, the Appalachian region has a rich assortment of wildflowers unequalled on the continent, and flowering plants abound along the Blue Ridge Parkway in the spring," he said. "We attract visitors every year from many states, and often see regulars returning to enjoy the tours."