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Informational Meeting  
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Room 103B, University Union

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## Board of Trustees Meeting

HEIDI BING

NEWS EDITOR

The quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees (BOT) last Friday was marked by acknowledgements of the university's continued endowment growth, expansion of off-campus offices and classrooms, and optimism about the impending bond referendum.

### Bond Referendum

Many trustees said that they were optimistic that the bond referendum will be approved during the Nov. 7 election. The bond will grant the public universities and community colleges in North Carolina \$3.1 billion. UNCW alone would receive \$108 million for use to the construction of new academic buildings and the modernization of existing buildings.

The BOT cited the impact of the Bond Issue Media Blitz earlier this month and the Student Government Association's (SGA) voter registration drive on informing students on the bond issue. Mimi Cunningham, assistant vice chancellor for university relations, organized the media blitz along with representatives from Fayetteville State University and UNC Pembroke. Thirteen college presidents and three university chancellors (including Chancellor James R. Leutze) made 12 stops around a 16-county region and spoke to people about the importance of voting in favor of the referendum. 1,330 people attended the event.

The SGA was also acknowledged for registering approximately 650 students during its voter registration drive this month. SGA President Katie Russell, a BOT member, said the SGA's original goal was to register 150 students and that external affairs had set a goal of 500.

"We were thrilled that we surpassed our goal," Russell said, adding that she has heard positive response to the bond issue. "Everybody we talked to seemed very supportive. I haven't encountered any op-

position."

### Construction and Expansion

David Girardot, vice chancellor for business affairs, announced that the General Classroom Building is currently 32 percent complete and that design development has been completed for the new school of education and the 200-student resident hall.

The BOT's business affairs committee announced that two off-campus spaces will soon house university offices. Public Services will occupy a 6,000-sq. ft. space at the county library at Landfall as of January 1, 2001. The university has also leased office space at 5051 New Center Drive to house four Public Service units, the Public History Program and an art studio/classroom.

### Endowment Increase

Timothy Jordan, vice chancellor for business affairs, informed the BOT that UNCW's endowment rate grew by 12.18% to about \$23 million by the June 30, 2000 fiscal year ending. The endowment, which comes from contributions from businesses and individuals, is used to fund scholarships, professorships, and student loans. Jordan noted that the university would not be seeing an enrollment increase as it at maximum capacity.

### Rural Internet Access Authority

Last Wednesday, Chancellor Leutze was appointed by Governor Jim Hunt to chair the North Carolina Rural Internet Access Commission. The 21-member commission will make recommendations to Hunt, the General Assembly and the NC Rural Development Authority regarding efforts to provide economically depressed areas with high-speed Internet access.

Hunt said the goal of this commission is to ensure, "businesses, families and communities have the technology and economic development resources to participate in the economy of the twenty-first century."

## SGA revamps 'Safe Ride'

TODD VOLKSTORF

STAFF WRITER

A revamped "Safe-Ride" program is nearing completion and a new implementation date has been set for this Thursday.

The new program will utilize a contracted taxi service. The service will run from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Due to the changes made to the Safe-Ride Organization's Constitution, the plan is still pending approval by the SGA.

The SGA plans to hold an information session for students to learn about political parties as well as individual candidate platforms. The session is tentatively planned for late October or early November. The purpose of the session is to educate student voters. There are also plans for a Web site containing related information.

A motion was made at the Oct. 17 SGA meeting to cut the Black Student Union bud-

get by 25 percent, which totaled \$192.50. The organization failed to attend an appropriations workshop and therefore money will be returned to the Special Activities Account. A representative from the organization must meet with Peggy Hendrix, university accounting clerk, or SGA Treasurer Kyle Horton by 5 p.m. Nov. 6 or it will lose its entire budget.

The Pep Band also lost 25 percent of their budget in the amount of \$106.30 for failing to attend an appropriations workshop. Those funds were returned to the Special Activities Account.

The Students and Community for Alternative Transportation (SCAT) is no longer active. Its funding, \$200, was returned to the Special Activities Account.

Open SGA meetings are held every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the University Union room 100.