

Sophomores revive UNCW chapter of N.C. student legislature

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STAFF WRITER

After a three-year absence, UNCW is being represented in the North Carolina Student Legislature (NCSL).

The previous UNCW representation suffered a decrease in membership and the group ceased to meet. Sophomores Matt Kunic and Kristin Packard reinstated the group this past semester after hearing about it from their political science professor, Dr. Lee Johnston.

"I would like to see UNCW get involved again and have a really strong delegation," Packard said. "[It's] good experience to debate your views with other people."

The mock assembly meets once a month to write resolutions and pass bills. Many of the bills are passed on to the state legislature and are passed by the state. According to Sophomore Kelly Graham, approximately 70 percent of the bills proposed to the North Carolina General Assembly have been adopted.

UNCW first represented itself at the



Chancellor James Leutze poses with members of the North Carolina Student Legislature. The group writes bills that are often sent to the state legislature.

annual five-day legislative session in Raleigh in March, winning the award for "Most Improved Delegation." Chancellor James Leutze is funding the group until they can get SGA backing next year.

Ten individuals are on the UNCW committee, and Kunic would like to see at least five more join. The group plans

to solicit for membership at the summer orientations.

Students meet twice a week with Johnston to discuss bills and learn how to write resolutions. A one-credit class will be offered next year to teach students about the NCSL.

While the UNCW group has not yet presented any bills, they are interested

in bills concerning bans on cell phones in North Carolina, a cut in gas taxes in the state, welfare taxes, environmental issues, and safety regulations with truck drivers.

"Being a part of the NCSL has been a rewarding experience," said Freshman Lisa Cannizzaro. "All of us on the NCSL have enjoyed our experiences of debating bills and getting the opportunity to meet other students from surrounding North Carolina schools."

The group was founded in 1937 for college students in the state of North Carolina. Past members have included former Governor Jim Hunt and the late Jesse Jackson.

According to Kunic, the NCSL gives political science majors and other students the opportunity to see how government works and how their lives are affected by the political process.

"They seem enthusiastic and willing to develop an on-campus delegation to the legislature," Johnston said. "I'm very proud of them. They're the kind of young people that inspire people to teach."



Crime blotter for April 10-22



April 22

4:42 p.m.—Brandon Burke, 30, UNCW student, charged with failing to display a current inspection sticker on Price Drive.

1:04 p.m.—Report of fire in a trashcan at Warwick Center, no damage caused.

April 20

10:40 p.m.—Alex Dalmas, 21, UNCW student, reported larceny of keys from Suite "Q."

12:07 p.m.—Gene Avery Jr., 38, UNCW employee, reported larceny of a wallet from Dobo Hall.

April 18

5:15 p.m.—Report of stalking a UNCW student.

April 17

9:50 p.m.—Tiffany Brown, 18, UNCW student, reported larceny of shoes, jewelry and perfume from Schwartz Hall.

3:39 p.m.—Heather Murdock, 22, UNCW student, reported larceny of a

bicycle from the bike rack at Belk Hall.

April 16

3:39 p.m.—Jane Garner, of Morehead City, was a victim of a hit and run to her vehicle, which was parked in "C" Lot. Her vehicle sustained \$800 in damage.

1:02 a.m.—Justin Denning, 19, UNCW student, reported breaking and entering and larceny to his vehicle, which was parked in the Honors and International House residency hall parking lot.

April 12

8:20 p.m.—Report of suspicious package at Brooks Field. The package was later discovered to be construction related materials.

2:40 a.m.—Student student referred to the Dean of Residents Office for possession of marijuana in Hewlett Hall.

April 10

8:56 p.m.—Stephen Marshburn and Charlotte Denise Hodge, both 19 and of Wilmington, were involved in a traffic collision on Randall Drive.

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