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school.”

Universities are completely within their legal rights to try to prevent harassment of students,” said George Leef of the Pope Foundation. “But the Supreme Court said that for some conduct to count as harassment, it has to be a pattern of behavior that is pervasive and so offensive that it prevents the person from being able to get an education.”

UNCW does offer students use of free speech zones, which are areas of campus where policies involving student speech do not apply. Students who want to take advantage of these zones must reserve them ahead of time. The school employs the general government idea of reasonable “time, place, and manner” to keep disruptions to a minimum. For example, directly in front of a building’s entrance is not a free speech zone. However, the amphitheatre and the area in front of Randall Library are.

But both FIRE and the Pope Foundation said this is not enough. Both cited a case at UNC-Greensboro, where students held a demonstration outside of free speech zones. When the administration reacted to punish the students, they sued the school for violating their First Amendment rights. The case has not come to a final verdict yet but UNCG did drop charges against the students.

According to Leef, “The courts have found, no, you can’t do that. The entire university is to be a free speech zone and not just some little part of it.”

Both groups said UNCW needs to clarify the existing policy to resolve the problem. “What they need to do is make it clear that the prohibition is against conduct that amounts to harassment, or obviously worse,” Leef said.

Harris said of the change in wording, “This appears to deal with conduct and not speech. It is still somewhat ambiguous, however the university should clarify that the word ‘behavior’ includes only conduct and not any expressive activity that would be protected by the First Amendment.”

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4702 N. MacMillan Ave., which could provide around 175 new parking spaces for UNCW.

University administration that was involved in the development of the new off-campus parking lot was not available for comment at press time. For updates on UNCW’s student parking situation, log on to The Seahawk’s website: www.theseahawk.org.

(right) UNCW Corporation recently bought the Old Cinema 6 on Oleander Drive to make another park and ride lot. The lot is expected to add 337 parking spaces for commuting students.



Roberta Racine | THE SEAHAWK

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Confidentiality a top priority. Health records are kept separate from all other student records.

“HIV is really the only one where there is extensive legislation,” Meyer said. According to the law the Student Health Center must notify the health department, council the person and make sure their partner is informed of the positive test result.

According to Meyer, failure to detect STDs early can have “very devastating results from infertility to death, which is why we are doing this. If you are going to be sexually active, take responsibility and get tested. We want to offer that service to students and to encourage students to come in and to talk to their partner about this,” he said.

According to Canel, regular screenings for sexually active persons is about “more than looking at the student as an individual, but in how their behavior or the way students educate themselves about risk impacts the community locally, nationally, internationally. College students all over the world are very mobile and very bright and really do impact our future, and it is a nice way to impact your environs positively.”

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