

Fla. Legislators, Educators Debate Fate of UF Regents

State lawmakers want to consolidate the Fla. board of education to oversee all levels of public instruction.

By KRISTINA CASTO
Staff Writer

Florida university officials and politicians are wrangling over the authority and structure of the state board of education.

Bills aimed to create an overarching Kindergarten through graduate school administration have been proposed in the Florida House and Senate.

If the bills pass, the Board of Regents, an entity that fulfills the same role as the UNC Board of Governors here, will be replaced by a 'super board' that would oversee all aspects and levels of education.

The new system would create a separate Board of Trustees for each of the universities, which would independently lobby the state legislature on behalf of its university.

Politicians say the new system will increase efficiency and make the governor directly accountable for school performance. But some university officials disagree, saying it would result in a bloated bureaucracy and harmful competition between universities.

Gov. Jeb Bush is expected to sign the bill next week, and the proposed system would be put in place in January 2003.

Travis Ruendl, a public policy analyst for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, said there is a remote nationwide trend toward decentralization among educational administrations. But the proposed legislation in Florida bucks that trend in that it would create a centralized administration, Ruendl said.

Mark Riordan, vice president of public affairs at Florida State University, said the Board of Regents was originally created in 1965 as a slew of new universities were established in Florida.

The Board's function was to equalize the universities and to remove the tensions created by fiscal competition.

Proponents of the bill include Republican Gov. Bush and Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan. They argue that a new 'super board' would administrate a more "efficient and seamless" state education system.

Justin Sayfie, communications director for Gov. Bush's office, said the governor's support of a 'super board' is

based on a holistic educational philosophy. "Education needs to be looked at from a larger perspective and not just from a segmented perspective."

But Riordan said the presidents of the 10 universities have all gone on record against the measure. They argue that the new structure, which would establish a board of trustees for each of the 10 universities, would be inefficient.

They also argue the new system would damage the relationship between the universities because it would lead to increasing competition for funding, a problem that the Board of Regents was created to solve.

Reindl said the move to restructure educational boards was not a national trend.

But he did warn that the consequences of a hasty decision could be disastrous. "I would hate to see Florida do something that is hastily considered and then fell through," said Reindl. "We have to understand, who really gets hurt in the long run is the students."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stnt@unc.edu.

"Education needs to be looked at from a larger perspective and not just from a segmented perspective."

JUSTIN SAYFIE
Spokesman for Florida Gov. Jeb Bush

BUS

From Page 1

The first stops of "Destiny" included Bladenboro High School in southeastern N.C. and Southeast Halifax High School in north-central N.C., where two classes competed to name the bus.

The winning name stands for "Delivering Edge-cutting Science, Technology and Internet across North Carolina for Years to come."

Teachers from schools visited by "Destiny" can select from a set of scientific scenarios for their students to study and test while aboard the bus.

Students from Southeast Halifax and Bladenboro, where the program was tested two weeks ago, participated in the "Mystery of the Crooked Cell" module, in which students were presented with symptoms of a hypothetically sick patient.

Through various tests, students discovered the molecular basis of sickle cell anemia in order to diagnose the patient. Other programs include DNA restriction analysis, HIV screening and determining molecular composition.

Bladenboro High 10th-grader Candice Meadows helped her classmates give tours of "Destiny" to members of the public who attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony, explaining the experiment and the equipment she learned to use in a two-day March seminar aboard "Destiny."

"I learned a lot. I thought it would be boring, but I learned a lot of stuff I didn't know," she said, after surveying the bus' sterile interior cluttered with media and spectators. It was a good experience.

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

LIQUOR LICENSES

From Page 1

doesn't happen again."

Because of the pending investigation, Paschold has had servers and bartenders at Hams attend workshops on ALE policies as a refresher to previous training.

The manager of Pantana Bob's refused to comment Monday on the alcohol violations the restaurant received related to underage alcohol consumption.

Ken Pike, an assistant ALE supervisor in Raleigh, said the charges would vary for the individuals involved.

"Those minors charged with using fake I.D.'s will go to court for misdemeanor charges," he said. "Those underage that possessed alcohol will either face a class three misdemeanor if they're 19- or 20-years-old or a more severe class two misdemeanor for those 18 and under."

Kevin Gunter, the alcohol enforcement officer for the Chapel Hill Police Department, said a majority of the vio-

lators had court dates scheduled for May 22 in Hillsborough.

"If the individual chooses not to go to court, then most have the option to pay the attached fine of \$25 plus court costs," he said. Gunter also said his position was created this month for the primary purpose of investigating underage violations and keeping track of local businesses with ABC permits. His office is located under the Franklin Street post office.

"I'm a liaison between the Chapel Hill Police Department and the state ALE," he said. "We want to make sure that businesses are working in accordance with the laws."

Pike said the ALE's primary focus was alcohol awareness.

"We don't want to only act as enforcement; we want people to be aware that there is a reason for our presence," he said. "We're not saying don't drink; we're just saying wait until you're 21, and then do it responsibly."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

CONGRESS

From Page 1

circulate information among graduate students.

"I really want to fill up Congress," Bell said.

"If we don't fill up the seats, we'll have to have a special election again in mid-September."

Student Body President Brad Matthews said that while he did not hold an official role in running the special election, he also planned to encourage students to run for office and to vote.

"The election was called by Nic (Heinke) and the current Elections

Board is still going to carry it out," Matthews said.

"More or less I'm going to do everything I can to encourage students to run."

Despite being forced to resign from Congress, Brooks said he still planned to be involved in student government.

"I think I'm going to do Elections Board," he said.

Logan said he had not yet decided whether or not to run for the open seat in another district.

"Student Congress is not quite enough to keep someone in Hinton James for another year."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

SPORTS SHORTS

Today at Carolina...

Tuesday, April 11

UNC Baseball vs. UNC-Wilmington
7:00 pm at Boshamer Stadium

COME CHEER ON THE HEELS!

Hardee's Students & Faculty Admitted FREE w/ID!

BIKE-AID 2000-Pedal for the Planet!
A cross-country bicycle ride for Education and Action!

Dates of Ride:
(June 17 - August 20th)

For more info Contact 1-800-RIDE-808 or www.bikeaid.org

Want A Challenge?

OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL

Start your career off on the right foot by enrolling in the Air Force Officer Training School. There you will become a commissioned officer in just 12 weeks. From the start you'll enjoy great pay, complete medical and dental care, 30 days of vacation each year, plus the opportunity to travel and see the world. To discover how high a career in the Air Force can take you, call 1-800-423-USAF, or visit our website at www.airforce.com

AIM HIGH
AIR FORCE

www.airforce.com

Coca-Cola. CAMPUS RECREATION UPDATE

Intramural Sports

Monday, April 24 is the date you can expect the Carmichael Field construction to officially begin with two state-of-the-art artificial fields to be installed and completed 90 days later. Unfortunately the construction will cause a cancelation of summer softball but we're very excited about hosting **Fall Fest '00** on a brand new surface.

ENTRIES DUE: Today: Co-rec Kickball; Thursday: Disc Golf. Don't miss out on a huge Disc Golf Tournament sponsored this year by Discover. T-shirts to everyone who completes the 18-hole tournament.

SPLASH & DASH PLUS TRIATHLON, Sunday, April 30, 9am, co-sponsored by Campus Recreation, UNC Student Stores, Bruegger's Bagels, Clockwork Advertising, and DISCOVER. Only the first 96 entries will be accepted so don't procrastinate! Distances: 500 meter swim, 3.1 mile run and 13.5 mile bike ride.

The Women's Volleyball Club will be hosting a regional tournament this Saturday, April 15 in fetzer gym. Two UNC club teams have qualified to participate and are hoping to advance to national competition. Play starts at 9am and play will continue until 7pm. The women's club will be selling t-shirts and providing great volleyball action to all spectators. Please come out to support Women's Club Volleyball and cheer on the tar heels!

For more information about the tournament or Women's Club Volleyball please contact Khalilah Pitt at k40@email.unc.edu.

There is also a men's tournament the following day on Sunday, April 16.

Other sport clubs action:

Women's Soccer - Sunday, April 16th • Finley Fields • 12:00 & 2pm

Women's Soccer Heels contact: Carolina Hope 933-4876

Women's Soccer Rams contact: Jennifer Cooke 914-2282

Sport Clubs

Carolina Adventures
at the OEC

Carolina Adventures is busy preparing its newest addition, the **Kerr Lake Recreation Area**, for a phenomenal camping season. This beautiful 230 acre, lakeside property is just 90 minutes from Chapel Hill. If you're interested in camping, boating, hiking or a group retreat, contact Campus Recreation ASAP...sites are expected to fill up fast.

ALWAYS COCA-COLA. ALWAYS CAROLINA!!

www.unc.edu/depts/camprec