One of the four education subcommittees will examine

how UNC-system schools

teach foreign languages.

Members of two education oversight

subcommittees met this week to discuss ways to prevent public school violence and how to raise English proficiency among immigrant students. There are two additional subcommit-

tees examining broad issues affecting the public school system – school per-sonnel, teaching and the improvement of school facilities and technologies. The

subcommittees will determine if the N.C. General Assembly should take any

action on these issues when it recon

venes in January. Legislators said the decision to form

the subcommittees was rare and only happened this year because of an unusu-

ally large number of issues facing the

much work to do in the full committee

that more focus was needed on the broader topics," said Rep. Gene Rogers,

D-Washington. Two subcommittees on safe schools

"We discovered that there was so

whole committee.

BY JOSHUA BASSINGER

Staff Wr

MASTER PLAN

From Page 1

FESTIFALL From Page 1

"Even though we're Chapel Hill, we're still Southern," Anderson said. "We have people serving barbecue, pork chops, cole slaw and mashed pota-toes and gravy." Despite the wide variety of food offered on the streets, restaurants along Franklin Street also are preparing for the crowds.

the crowds.

the crowds. "We will be open our normal hours with extra waiters," said Rebecca Cage, associate manager of McAlister's Deli. "We're new, so we don't know what to expect. We're hoping it will be busy." Other Franklin Street stores also are gearing up for the festival. "The vendors of West Franklin Street know the drill," Anderson said. "Some will shut down to allow employees to enjoy the fair, and some will stay open to get business." Anderson said he expects Festifall 2000 to be another in a long line of suc-

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cesses

ss came to hear their class nates' case

And a number of professors came to the hearing to show their support.

than they were supposed to." Some students from Coggins' spring

Chapel Hill Preservation Society, said she is concerned about the historical integrity of many campus buildings that would be affected by the plan. "It's our mission to preserve the char-acter of Chapel Hill – that includes the University," she said. "You can't sepa-rate the town and sown.

hoods," said Anne Seymour, who lives in the Whitehead Circle area. Town Council member Joyce Brown said the council will continue to monitor the progress of the plan. "It does put some of the burden on the council to help protect the neigh-borhoods," she said. "I think there were till commentions in the minds of

University," she said. "You can't sepa-rate the town and gown. "The big thing we all need to be con-cerned with is thousands of new square footage of buildings and thousands of new students and new cars – all of which will affect all the neighborhoods." UNC spokesman Jonathan Howes said all the concerns brought by the residents will be evaluated before a final draft of the Master Plan is sent to the BOT. "We have heard some of these con-cerns in the past and tried to address

out the University, but you can't sepa-rate the University from Chapel Hill either. These old buildings need to be protected and saved.

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struggling students. "I knew that Michael Trinh had volunteered to initi-ate and lead a study group," he said. "I encouraged that to Michael in person. "Voluntary study groups, in this case, went over to the dark side and did more than they user supresed to "

"We were supposed to work in groups, but he didn't specify how," said one student.



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and school personnel and teaching met this week. The two other subcommittees have

Legislators Mull School Policies

The two other subcommittees have yet to meet. The subcommittee for stu-dent performance will research methods to improve student grades and increase their overall performance. The subcommittee for improving facilities and technologies also will dis-cuss new technology that could be implemented in education. Each subcommittee will report back to full committee in December.

to full committee in December. Sen. Howard Lee, D-Orange, said one of the reasons for the foundation of the safe schools subcommittee was a response to the series of bomb threats in public schools last year. "The threats interfered with class

schedules and daily operations,"said Lee, who co-chaired the education oversight committee.

The safe school subcommittee plans to build on the Safe Schools Act of 1998, which established legislation that allowed each public school to design its own safety plan to protect the students and the facilities.

But Lee said North Carolina ranks high in school safety compared to other states

"We have a large number of incidents but not a great number of violent acts," he said. "The goal is to act more in a

preventive way than in a reactive way."

Insko said that to fulfill this plan, the schools will need more funding and resources. "There are 37,000 children across the state with limited English proficiency, Insko said. "The state needs an addi

Lee added that to prevent school vio-lence, officials will be tougher on stu-dents who bring threatening devices to

Rep. Verla Insko, D-Orange, said one of the roles of the school personnel and teaching subcommittee is to focus

on the expansion of the foreign lan-guage curriculum in N.C. public schools, especially for immigrant stu-

void Insko said she wants to move the

Now the focus is in the high school curriculum, she said.

"The best opportunity for students to

The subcommittee focusing on the foreign language curriculum also will discuss the ways UNC-system schools

teach foreign languages. Starting in 2006, the 16 system uni-

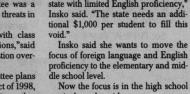
Lee said, "The goal is to make the education experience as seamless as

The State & National Editor can be

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school.

dents.

learn language proficiency is between the ages of 5 and 12," Insko said.

versities will require at least two years of a foreign language to be considered for

possible.

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lem of noise and light pollution in the areas surrounding campus. She said more growth at UNC will add to these problems. "There was still concern about con-(The plan) raises a lot of fears and anxi-eties," she said. Betty Cloutier, co-president of

still some questions in the minds of some citizens."

HEARING From Page 1

Suffering from Empty

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Trinh made little effort to hide his emotions, staring directly at Coggins dur-ing the questioning, throwing his pen and legal pad down with discontent, mum-bling under his breath and even laughing

aloud during Coggins' testimony. Coggins later testified that he knew

Trinh, one of the top students in the class, was leading a help session for

campus, especially Mason Farm and Whitehead Circle," she said. Barney said there is already a prob-

whitehead Circle heightormood, said the plan raises more questions than just those about a transportation corridor. "I think we had several concerns about the Master Plan in general as it of the black of the several discovery discovery discovery discovery about the Master Plan in general as it affects the neighborhoods surrounding

Elaine Barney, who lives in the Whitehead Circle neighborhood, said

"We have heard some of these con-cerns in the past and tried to address them," Howes said. "We have done it in the past and will continue to do it." Cloutier said that while the town relied heavily upon UNC, the University needed to respect the neigh-bors' wishes.

"Chapel Hill wouldn't be here with-

2000 to be another in a long line of suc-

"It's a great family event," he said. "It's a tradition in Chapel Hill."

Sanjoy Baruah, a computer science Sanjoy Baruan, a computer science professor, said many faculty members in the department, including department Chairman Stephen Weiss, were sympa-thetic to the charged students. "It was a very atypical course," Baruah said. "I find it hard to believe many of these students would be dishonest in any way."

> Stacey Geyer and Blake Rosser contributed to this article. The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.



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