

UNC, NCSU Discuss Joint Degree Program

The biomedical engineering degree would join NCSU's engineering resources with UNC's medical school.

By JOELLE RUBEN
Staff Writer

UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University officials say they are looking to form a joint biomedical engineering program linking the state's top research institutions.

The combined department, modeled after a similar venture between Emory University and the Georgia Institute of Technology, would allow students to receive joint biomedical engineering degrees at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Administrators said they hope to issue the formal proposal of the program

by fall 2003.

Officials say researchers in the program would benefit from a free exchange of resources and materials between the campuses.

UNC-CH Provost Robert Shelton said the University's accomplishments in the biomedical arena will complement N.C. State's strong engineering department.

While N.C. State now offers a bachelor's of science degree specifically in biomedical engineering, UNC-CH only offers a biomedical engineering track to undergraduate students in applied science. But UNC-CH offers a biomedical program at the graduate level.

By taking classes at both universities, students could benefit from the best each university has to offer, Shelton said.

The potential joint venture marks yet another collaboration between UNC-CH and other area universities. Last year, Duke University and UNC-CH

initiated the Robertson Scholars Program, which allows selected students to obtain a joint undergraduate degree from both universities.

"This idea is similar to the Robertson Scholars in the sense that it would allow students to take advantage of the wonderful proximity of these campuses," Shelton said.

He said a joint biomedical engineering program would be a large service to the state, especially to the numerous firms found in Research Triangle Park.

N.C. State Provost Stuart Cooper stressed that the program also would extend benefits to researchers in related fields such as chemistry, physics and microbiology.

"In cases where schools do not have medical schools, I think finding a partner is going to be the way of the future," he said. "The full expression of a biomedical engineering program should include a connection with a medical

school for joint experiences in instruction, as well as in research."

Cooper emphasized that recent state budget cuts will present new difficulties in getting the program off the ground.

"I understand that it's not a very great time to be proposing things, so we will have to be extra careful in our priorities," he said. "We have to make sure existing programs run properly and budget carefully so we can devote resources to something new."

But Shelton said that looking into the program is a vital step in linking North Carolina's academic communities and a precursor to future collaborations.

"Even if we decide we can't or shouldn't do this, the exploration process is critical," he said.

"Just thinking about this is going to pay big dividends."

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

Developments in the War on Terrorism

Rumsfeld: U.S. to Help Train New Army

U.S. troops will begin training Afghan army soldiers to bolster security and guard borders in that still-unstable nation, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Monday. The training will begin in four to six weeks.

America Attacks

Guns and Knives Got Through Airport

The Transportation Department inspector general found that airport security screeners on several dozen occasions failed to catch guns and simulated explosives, even after the September terrorist attacks, a person familiar with a report by Inspector General Kenneth Mead said Monday.

Enemies Threaten International Peacekeepers

Suspected al-Qaida and Taliban fighters planned to kill international peacekeepers by setting off car bombs in Afghanistan's capital, authorities said Monday. Six cars were rigged with booby-traps to be detonated, according to Flight Lt. Tony Marshall, a spokesman for the security force.

Bush Attempts to Build Support for Peace Plan

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - President Bush urged Arab nations Monday to approve a Saudi peace offer to Israel and asked Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to let Yasser Arafat join an Arab League summit where the U.S.-backed initiative may be considered.

"The president believes it is time for Arab nations in the region to seize the moment, to create a better environment for peace to take root," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said of the meeting that opens Wednesday in Beirut.

Bush welcomes the proposal by Crown Prince Abdullah, and "he thinks it would be very helpful in the search for peace in the Middle East," Fleischer said.

The Saudi offer to Israel of "full normalization" of relations with Arab governments depends on Israel giving up the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights and accepting a Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem.

Leaning on Israel to drop its confinement of Arafat to his West Bank headquarters in Ramallah, Fleischer said "the president believes that Prime Minister

Sharon and the Israel government should give serious consideration to allowing Arafat to attend."

Secretary of State Colin Powell pressed the point in telephone conversations with Sharon on Saturday and Sunday, saying also that Arafat should be permitted to go back to the West Bank after the Arab League meeting.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who has called Israel's hold on the West Bank and Gaza illegal, also urged Sharon to let Arafat attend the Arab summit.

Annan's spokesman, Fred Eckhard, said at the United Nations that Annan would meet Arafat if the Palestinian leader were to be allowed to go to Beirut.

In Jerusalem, however, Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Sharon, said Israel would not lift its travel ban until the Palestinian leader took decisive steps against militants. Israel will make its decision by Tuesday, Gissin said.

Sharon proposed his own peace plan Monday in three stages that would begin with an Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire, move on to a "long-range interim period" with a partial peace arrangement and then to negotiations for permanent peace.

Pundits: Campaign Finance Bill to Change Little

By NATHAN PEREZ
Staff Writer

The potential benefits of the campaign finance reform bill that passed the Senate last week have not enthused many political experts.

But some pundits say the legislation could indirectly strengthen state and local political parties nationwide.

The bill intends to limit individual campaign contributions, provide for the full declaration of all donations and ban soft money donations from corporations.

Soft money is unregulated donations made to national political parties instead of to individual candidates. Soft money contributions totalled nearly \$500 million for the 2000 elections.

To become law, the bill still needs the signature of President Bush, who has

publicly said he intends to sign it.

But the legislation would not take effect until the day after the 2002 elections.

Despite the hype, political pundits said they believe the bill will have little impact on the political scene.

"I'm inclined to expect a pretty limited positive effect," said UNC political science Professor Jim Stimson. "It's like water flowing down a hill - you can't stop gravity. Money flowing into politics will always keep coming in."

Stimson also noted that the result of campaign finance reform will favor neither Republicans nor Democrats. "The outcome will be relatively neutral in political terms," he said. "People just aren't that consumed by this issue."

But Yale political science Professor Alan Gerber said the bill would certainly affect the manner of garnering dona-

tions. "(There will be) parties stepping up fund raising to get it in before the wire," he said.

UNC political science Professor George Rabinowitz said that regardless of future campaign limitations, remaining funds from the 2002 elections will be allowed to carry over.

"This will be the last big thrusts into the deep pockets, no doubt about it," Rabinowitz said. "The parties will keep the money."

"It will be interesting to see if they have the wherewithal not to spend it."

Some experts noted that the key elements of the bill were the decentralization of the national political parties and the reduction of big donations and the influence they bring.

"Big money will still get into politics, but the channel will be different," Stimson said. "The bill would dry up parties as sources of big time money."

To avoid violating the bill, political parties might have to turn to national advocacy groups for funding and refocus their attentions on state and local elections.

"My hunch is that it will have a negative effect on the parties with a shift to individuals, state and local parties," Gerber said.

Stimson said the bill might finally put to rest campaign finance reform - an issue made prevalent by Sen. John McCain's, R-Ariz., presidential candidacy in 2000 and by the recent Enron Corp. scandal. He said politicians passed the bill largely because they are eager to distance themselves from campaign funding concerns.

"Folks in Washington are clearly nervous about big money and want to be far away from the issue."

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

Request for Nominations

The Class of 2002, The General Alumni Association and The Division of Student Affairs present the

Edward Kidder Graham Awards

In 1917, Graham called for a structure to enhance student life on campus. Now, it's your turn to recognize the individuals who embody that spirit Graham envisioned.

Nominate an outstanding:

- Senior of an officially recognized student organization
- Professors, TA or instructor for work both inside and outside the classroom
- Advisor of an officially recognized student organization

Nomination forms can be picked up at the Union desk.

Nominations are due by 5pm, March 28, Room 201, Carolina Union
Questions? Email seniorweek@unc.edu



Campus Calendar

Today

11 a.m. - The Orange County Chapter of the American Red Cross is holding a blood drive until 4 p.m. in the Great Hall in the Student Union.

1:30 p.m. - N.C. Prevention Partners invite you to attend the Tarheel Tobacco Teen Rally at the State Capitol

Building, 1 Edenton St., Capitol Square. Tar Heel teens, moms, dads and all other supporters - show your support for funding teen tobacco prevention and cessation programs in North Carolina! Contact Melva Fager Okun of N.C. Prevention Partners at 843-4455.

3:30 p.m. - The Carolina Women's Center and IPAS invites you to come hear Anu Kumar speak about

"Mobilizing Women's Rights Internationally" in Union 211 until 5 p.m.

6 p.m. - The Carolina Academic Team will have an informational meeting at in Union 205-206. Anyone interested in quiz bowl, College Bowl, Jeopardy! or trivia in general is welcome to attend.

6:30 p.m. - The Alpha Epsilon Omega Christian Sisterhood invites all interested rising sophomore, junior and senior women to its informal interest meeting in 106 Greenlaw Hall.

7 p.m. - In 104 Howell Hall, Campaign to End the Death Penalty will host a panel discussion on race and the death penalty.

7 p.m. - Can you be religious and

pro-choice? Choice USA and NARAL invite you to come to "Reclaiming the Moral High Ground: Local Religious Leaders Discuss Choice."

8 p.m. - Modernextension will perform in Memorial Hall today and Wednesday. Tickets are on sale at the box office and through company members.

The Daily Tar Heel

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One copy per person; additional copies may be purchased at The Daily Tar Heel for \$.25 each.

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A STUDY OF AN

Investigational Medication

Chapel Hill Obstetrics and Gynecology is participating in a clinical trial for the treatment of bacterial vaginosis, an infection of the vagina that may cause irritation and discharge. If you feel you may have this infection and are 18 years or older, you may be able to participate in a research study to evaluate an investigational medication for bacterial vaginosis. The study drug, study-related procedures and tests, and study visits will be provided free of charge. You will be reimbursed for your time and travel at each of the 3 clinic visits. If you would like more information, call immediately: 919-929-4666, ext. 116.

STUDENTS, FACULTY, TAs

What do you think of the Student Judicial System here at UNC-CH?

The Chancellor's Task Force to review the Student Judicial System wants to hear from you!

Take the ANONYMOUS survey that the Task Force has created.
Visit: www.unc.edu/review

If you have any questions or comments, please email the Task Force at taskforce@unc.edu

UNC
modernextension
DANCE COMPANY

tue mar 26
Wed mar 27

8pm . memorial hall . unc-eh

fix:
students \$6 . general public \$8

carolina union box office
962.1449

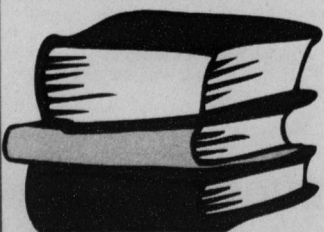
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Major Decisions Dinner
Tuesday, March 26, 5:30-7:30pm
Johnston Center, Commons Room

Unsure of what you'll major in or what to do with your major after graduation? Come meet alumni, faculty, and students from Women's Studies, Anthropology, Philosophy, and Religious Studies. This is a comfortable and casual way to find out if these particular majors are truly for you.

Everything you want...
Nothing you don't

GENERAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Today only

Co-sponsored by University Career Services and the School of Education
University Career Services
Division of Student Affairs
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Education Job Fair

Tuesday, March 26, 2002, from 9am - 12:30pm
Carmichael Auditorium

Many systems are willing to consider non-education majors.



Division of Student Affairs