

Congress Gives Back Administrator Vote

By PHILLISA CRAMER
Staff Writer

A bill passed Tuesday by Student Congress restored voting power to two administrative positions on a committee that oversees student fees.

The Student Fee Audit Committee supervises the Student Activities Fund Office and makes decisions about the distribution of student fees, said Natalie Russell, chairwoman of the Finance Committee.

Russell said that for years, the director of the Student Union and a representative from the Office of Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs sat on SFAC.

But Speaker of Congress Tony Larson said Patrick Frye, student body treasurer in 2000-01, rewrote Title V of the Student Code to remove administrative representatives from SFAC.

"(Frye) felt that the committee should be controlled by students," Larson said.

He said the manner in which representatives were informed that their vote was being removed led to some resentment from Sue Kitchen, vice chancellor for student affairs. "She made it clear to (student leaders) that she wouldn't come if she wasn't wanted," Larson said.

He said these hard feelings were counterproductive to SFAC's goals.

"Not making administrators feel welcome is never a good thing to go about getting anything done," Larson said.

Tuesday's bill, introduced by Student Body Treasurer Michael Vollmer, amended Title V to change the composition of SFAC to include the director of the Student Union and a representative from Kitchen's office as voting members. It was passed unanimously.

The director of the Student Union is Don Luse.

Larson said the student voice will remain dominant on the committee because there are eight to 10 student representatives and only two voting administrators.

The bill stated that the student body would benefit from increased administrative participation with SFAC.

"The idea is just that students aren't at the University for numerous years and don't have the context (that administrators do)," Larson said.

He said the director of the Student Activity Fund Office, Deborah Horne, will maintain her role as a nonvoting member of SFAC, while the two other administrative representatives will have voting rights in all matters except student fee increases. The director of the Student Activity Fund Office has maintained a nonvoting position on the committee for 14 years, Horne said.

Larson said the matters on which the new representatives will have voting rights include SAFO oversight and freezing funds of groups with SAFO accounts. He pointed to SFAC's recent recommendation for the Student Safety and Security Committee to examine whether the Safe Escort program is the most efficient use of the student safety fee as an example of SFAC's responsibilities.

Russell said input from administrators on such matters has been important in the past and will receive weight once again now that Title V has been amended.

"Basically (the bill is) making the committee more like it always has been."

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

STUDENT

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ter is still under investigation. Carrboro Police Capt. Joel Booker said no information is being released at this time.

Waters said EMS officials responded after getting a phone call from someone who identified himself as Borman's roommate.

"We got the call from a roommate

who had come in and said there was something wrong with his roommate, that he was unconscious," Waters said. "When we got there, (Borman) was confirmed to be deceased."

The body was then taken to the medical examiner's office.

Funeral arrangements have yet to be announced.

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

ADMISSIONS

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of the University to put that kind of pressure on students," he said.

Shelton said many other universities are examining their programs, but officials at UNC were the first to take the final step in abolishing the program.

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, in December, Yale University President Richard Levin suggested that Ivy League and other elite institutions consider eliminating early decision programs.

Shelton said he hopes other universities will follow UNC's lead and do away with their programs. "The only advantage (of an early decision program) is that it boosts the school's acceptance rate and makes them look good," he said. "That's unacceptable."

Shelton said the added time will help students make a better informed decision. "It's just so much better to leave the decision in the hands of the student for as long as possible."

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General Counsel Susan Ehringhaus. BOT members said they were pleased that all campus constituencies supported the revised proposal.

"I think we've made a good compromise," said Trustee Richard Stevens, a vocal opponent of the original plan.

Student Body President Jen Daum, at her first BOT meeting as a voting member, said her Cabinet supports the

administration's new proposal. "Students are very happy with it," she said.

BOT Chairman Tim Burnett asked Sutenfield if the committee would begin drafting a more long-term proposal for transportation and parking at UNC.

Sutenfield said the committee will take the lead in drafting a comprehensive plan.

"(The committee's) charge will be to develop a five-year parking package to bring back to the board."

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

NURSING

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Moeser also thanked the school's past and present faculty, staff and students for their dedication. "You have made this school what it is," he said.

Susan Pierce, a professor at the nursing school and president-elect of the N.C. Nurses Association, noted that the state has been and continues to be at the forefront in nursing education.

She said the first registered nurse in the nation graduated from Rex Hospital's program in Raleigh and that North Carolina was home to the first board of nursing. "Nurses and all future patients salute this school and offer our heartiest congratulations today," Pierce said.

Margaret Ferguson Raynor, chairwoman of the School of Nursing Foundation's board of directors, also commended the school for its stellar reputation. "This is an exciting day," she said.

Physically breaking ground were two former deans, Laurel Archer Copp and Cynthia Freund; representatives from students, faculty and staff; members of the foundation's board and major donors to the project.

Speakers at the event said the state will continue to benefit from the new building for years to come.

Moeser said, "Today we break ground on a building that will carry Carolina nursing into the future."

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Republicans Divided Over Amendment

By MIKE GORMAN
Staff Writer

While lawmakers await a verdict from the N.C. Supreme Court over the constitutionality of the state's legislative districts, Republicans are divided in their opinions about an amendment to the N.C. Constitution being discussed by Democratic leaders.

Danny Lineberry, spokesman for House Speaker Jim Black, D-Mecklenburg, said Black is exploring the possibility of asking voters to remove the whole-county provision from the state constitution.

The whole-county provision states that legislative districts cannot split counties.

"At this point no one is trying to amend the constitution," Lineberry said. "It's just one of many possible options being considered if the state loses the

redistricting lawsuit."

Members of the Republican party filed a lawsuit last November challenging the House and Senate redistricting plans, claiming Democrats violated the state constitution by splitting counties and packing voting districts.

Lineberry said Black has not actively discussed the possibility of an amendment yet because he is confident the state will win the redistricting lawsuit.

Amending the state constitution requires a three-fifths majority vote in both the House and Senate, as well as approval by popular vote.

Although the Democratic party holds 70 percent of the seats in the Senate, it would need to sway 10 Republicans in the House in order to win a three-fifths majority.

Senate Minority Leader Patrick Ballantine, R-New Hanover, one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, said there is no

way Democrat leaders will be able to sway enough Republican support to pass the amendment.

"I think they would be ostracized from putting themselves above principle," he said. "I don't think people would appreciate politicians that put themselves above what's right for the state."

Ballantine said attempting to amend the constitution if the Republican lawsuit is successful would be a last-ditch move for state Democrats.

"Desperate measures would require desperate moves," he said. "It would be their leaders trying to hold onto 134 years of uninterrupted power."

He added that the move would likely leave a bad taste in the mouths of the voters, who would see the amendment as a gambit to change the rules of the game at the last minute.

But not all Republicans agree with Ballantine. Rep. David Miner, R-Wake,

said there are a number of House Republicans who are happy with the redistricting plans as passed.

"Some Republicans agree with the idea that smaller districts are better districts," he said. "Some believe that, from a historical perspective, single-member districts have been beneficial for the Republican party."

Miner said it would be possible for House Democrats to woo these Republicans over for a majority vote.

Miner also challenged Ballantine's claim that dissenting Republicans would be ostracized from the party.

"I totally disagree with that," he said. "He needs to represent the views of all Republicans. I'd like to know if he's speaking as (Senate) minority leader or as a plaintiff in a lawsuit."

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System Officials Stand Behind Lab Procedures

By LINDSEY WHITE
Staff Writer

Administrators at UNC-system schools say they are confident that their research procedures are sound and that UNC-Chapel Hill officials are properly dealing with charges of impropriety at the university's research labs.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals accused UNC-CH of misconduct in laboratories after releasing a video last week that was shot by an undercover investigator and showed alleged abuse and neglect of laboratory animals.

But Russ Lea, UNC-system vice president for research, said the video shot by undercover investigator Kate Turlington was of poor quality and was not put into context. Lea said he was especially upset about PETA not allowing scientists at its briefing about the video. "They are shooting themselves in the foot by not allowing us at the briefing and viewing," he said.

Lea said UNC-system officials are concerned about the allegations that animal welfare was threatened in UNC-CH labs but that individuals campuses can best address concerns. He said he thinks UNC-CH is addressing the accusations

properly. "They are meeting the allegations head-on and not hiding," he said.

John Bradfield, chairman of the Department for Comparative Medicine at East Carolina University, said ECU's labs are similar to UNC-CH's because they mostly use rats and mice as test subjects.

But Bradfield said ECU's labs are smaller and contained in a more centralized facility. "It is easier for us to keep track of everything that goes on in the labs," he said.

UNC-CH's labs are located in several campus buildings and even off campus.

Bradfield said ECU labs are reviewed biannually as a requirement of the National Institutes of Health. "In order to keep grant funding, we must follow the guide with set standards," he said.

Bradfield said he is not worried about unethical activities taking place at university labs.

Richard Fish, director of university animal resources at N.C. State University, said UNC-CH is doing the right thing in taking the allegations seriously. But Fish said anybody can make a video with implications.

He said N.C. State officials are confident that they have a high quality pro-

gram and that problems are taken care of according to protocol. Bradfield said they also do a biannual lab reviews.

He said incoming employees are asked basic questions about their involvement in animal rights groups. But Bradfield said if someone wanted to infiltrate and had the experience they most likely would be able to.

When asked to comment on the

PETA video, he said the tape cannot be considered evidence of inappropriate animal testing because the images were not put into context. Bradfield said, "There is no background on the nature of the study and what was approved, therefore its veracity is questioned."

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