

Council Rejects Road Expansion Study Hospitals Reply to List, Pledge More Education

BY ALISON BOARD
Staff Writer

Contrary to the wishes of University administrators, the Chapel Hill Town Council voted Monday night not to request that the N.C. Department of Transportation conduct a study investigating the feasibility of widening a portion of South Columbia Street.

The council heard two residents of the South Columbia Street area speak and considered the information and opinions offered over the course of a three-month debate. Council members then voted unanimously against the request.

On March 1, Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy received a letter from Chancellor James Moser asking the town to consider the transformation of South Columbia into a four-lane road-

way. The town had already approved other structural modifications to the area, including revamping the sidewalks and making way for bicycle lanes.

Moser's request was strongly advocated by UNC Hospitals officials, who believe a four-lane road would significantly improve access to hospital facilities by decreasing traffic congestion in the area.

But students and town residents expressed dissatisfaction with the proposal at public hearings. Concerned that widening South Columbia would attract more traffic, exacerbate parking problems and reduce the aesthetic appeal of the area, they urged the Town Council not to request the study.

Joan Bentelle, one of the residents who spoke, stressed that, "On paper, the east and west sides of South Columbia

look symmetrical, but in reality they are just the opposite. The DOT would be unable to expand to the west side without the use of dynamite.

"Expansion to the east side would involve the removal of a valuable community day care center and the construction of several bridges," she said. "The result would be a half-mile of astronomically expensive roadway that doesn't make much economic sense."

The council did amend its previous resolution by adding more sideway construction.

Plans for a new UNC Facilities Maintenance Complex to be built directly northwest of the Elkin Hills neighborhood also generated criticism of the University by town residents.

Nearly 20 residents of the neighborhood attended Monday night's meeting

in protest of the plan, which includes the construction of a 23-acre complex where chemical waste facilities, gasoline stations, pesticides, fuel containers and other environmentally unfriendly developments could be located.

The residents were especially concerned about waste leakage into Bolin Creek and the adverse effect it could have on the ecosystem there.

The council agreed to engage in talks with the University about the exact plans for the complex.

Council member Jim Ward said the council should "do all we can to have a discussion with the University to see and hear what the situation is and to modify their plans."

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

BY AMA BOATEN
Staff Writer

Officials at the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Facility Services on Monday accepted a response from UNC Hospitals to deficiencies cited by the division earlier this month.

Tom Hughes, a spokesman for UNC Hospitals, said hospital officials sent the response by Federal Express on June 19. The response was due June 14.

The deficiencies cited included failure of staff to keep a current nursing care plan addressing pain management, nursing staff's failure to administer and document certain drugs appropriately, failure of staff to obtain a written order for an adult patient in behavioral restraint not to be restrained for more than four hours, and failure of staff to provide a patient with a written notice regarding the resolution of a grievance in a timely manner.

Karen McCall, vice president of public affairs and marketing for UNC Hospitals, said the "standard deficiencies" do not damage the credibility of the hospitals.

"The standard deficiencies are the least serious, and it is fairly common for hospitals to be cited for these when inspections like these are done," she said. "The hospital can still participate in Medicare and Medicaid."

The hospital administration's plan of action to address deficiencies in pain

management includes assessing pain by auditing documentation on inpatient admission and educating staff regarding pain management policy.

Hospital officials said they also plan to more closely monitor drug documentation and educate staff if the documentation is inadequate or incomplete.

UNC Hospitals officials also said they plan to educate staff regarding restraint order requirements and time limits on restraining patients.

McCall said officials from the Division of Facility Services visited the hospital because the hospital was randomly selected for a review of a survey conducted by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

She said the survey by the commission gave a positive assessment of UNC Hospitals.

Before the commission's survey, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services conducted a survey to determine whether the hospital was in compliance with Medicare standards.

McCall said the goal of inspections from the health department is to help hospitals improve their service.

"They are wonderful people to work with," she said.

"They give us suggestions on what to improve in line with Medicare and Medicaid."

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BUDGET

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less than Gov. Mike Easley's original aim of 5 percent, which would have deprived the education budget of a total of \$92 million.

But some House lawmakers have already expressed dissatisfaction with the Senate plan, which uses more than \$800 million in non-recurring funds to balance the budget.

Some House members have also said the Senate budget proposal cuts too drastically into government programs

such as human services.

Rep. Eugene Rogers, D-Martin, co-chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, said he expects the House to alter the budget but to not forget students' needs.

"The House will certainly alter parts of the Senate budget - as to what specific parts, I'm unsure of," he said. "But we'll be keeping the interests of education in mind throughout this process."

But early indications from the House seem to point to further cuts to the state educational budget.

Jeff Davies, UNC-system vice president for finance, said he expects the House budget proposal to be quite different from the Senate's with regard to education. "Based on what I have been hearing, I would expect the House to propose a significantly different education budget, probably with additional cuts," he said. "However, it is still too early to tell how all this will play out, since (House legislators) have just begun working on it."

The Senate budget approval imple-

mented the tuition increases of 8 percent for in-state students and 12 percent for out-of-state students throughout the UNC system.

Davies said he is not sure what the House has in store for the UNC system in relation to these tuition hikes.

"I have not heard any speculation regarding the alteration of tuition policy by the House," he said.

The UNC-system Board of Governors approved the tuition increases in March to help fund additional enrollment in universities.

Sen. Fountain Odom, D-Mecklenburg, co-chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said he hopes the House will follow the actions of the Senate. "I am hopeful that the House will honor our recommendations on the state budget," he said. "If changes are necessary, hopefully the impact will be as minimal as possible."

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BOG

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board's existing policy on tuition.

"The long-term goal is to make sure the existing tuition policy accurately reflects the board's tuition philosophy," said BOG Vice Chairman and Committee Chairman John Cecil.

Cecil said he does not yet know how many changes the committee will decide to make to the policy or how long the process will take.

He said, "It could be as simple as tweaking what we had ... or looking at some other options."

The policy the board passed in 1998 calls for the BOG to consider two kinds of tuition increases: systemwide increases to deal with inflationary increases in costs and campus-initiated tuition increases to deal with campus-specific needs.

The policy called for campus-specific increases to be approved only if an "exceptional situation" arose. But during the first two years the policy was in effect, the board approved a campus-initiated tuition increase at 11 of the 16 UNC-system schools.

During the summer of 2001, the N.C. General Assembly, after negotiations with UNC-system administrators, removed the clause from the tuition policy. Last year, most of the 16 UNC-system campuses requested and got an additional round of campus-initiated tuition increases.

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

For the Record

The June 20 article "Students by Day, Party Starters by Night," failed to identify Jeffrey Henighan as a cofounder of the 5fters (Five Footers) promotional company.

The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

STUDENT UNION

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contractors," he said.

"As of now we do not know who is responsible for what delays," Runberg said. "Therefore we don't know what additional cost we might incur."

Runberg said there are changes and complications that occur in a project that are acceptable. The contract is altered dur-

ing the construction process to account for these changes. Out of the 13 months the Union project is overdue, 10 of those months have been unadjusted for.

"There will likely be some claims out of these unadjusted months," Runberg said. "These claims may lead to unforeseen costs for the project, but as of right now we really don't know."

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TUITION

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While in previous years the tuition increases kept pace with national trends, Sullivan said a \$4,800 tuition increase this academic year could price Kenan-Flagler out of its market.

"We're about to go down a path that will derail the school," Sullivan said.

With the \$4,800 increase, tuition for the MBA program would reach \$30,430, higher than any public school except the University of Michigan and only \$1,000 less than the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University. Applications for many

of the top-ranked MBA programs increased by about 20 to 30 percent last year, while applications at Kenan-Flagler decreased slightly.

Sullivan said it is important for out-of-state tuition to remain within the lowest tier of the top 20 MBA programs nationwide for the school to be able to recruit the best students from across the country.

Sullivan said, "When industry and others look at us ... they are not just saying they want the best from North Carolina, we want the best from all over the world that come to North Carolina."

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

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