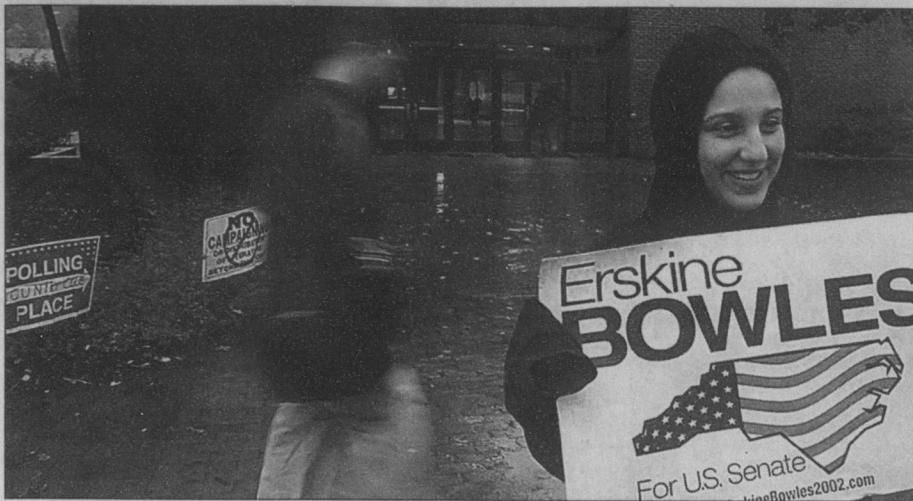


THE HOME STRETCH



Junior Rachel Gurvich, a member of the Young Democrats, campaigns for U.S. Senate candidate Erskine Bowles in front of Fetzer Gym on Tuesday afternoon. UNC students helped campaign for both Bowles and Republican candidate Elizabeth Dole in the election. The gym was the only on-campus polling site for UNC students.

Community Colleges Ask for Raises

By MATT HANSON
Staff Writer

Leaders of the N.C. Community College System submitted a request to the governor Thursday for an additional \$96 million to raise faculty and professional staff salaries to competitive rates.

The average pay for instructors in the NCCCS falls almost \$10,500 behind the national average of \$47,285 for two-year public colleges, according to the 2001-02 Chronicle of Higher Education Almanac.

The requested funds will bring the salaries up to par with the national average, said NCCCS President Martin Lancaster.

But the low pay has not yet affected students' educational experience in the system, which is repeatedly recognized for its quality, said Susan Doody, Faculty Council chairwoman at Durham Technical Community College.

"We know we're supported, and

we're probably on the leading edge," she said.

The system has been able to maintain its quality largely because of dedication from faculty and professors, Lancaster said. "North Carolina cannot expect to forever ride on this dedication," Lancaster said. "If they don't pay for it, they will lose it."

At Wake Technical Community College, at least two chemistry instructors and one biology instructor left because of low salaries, said Don Wildman, who teaches at Wake Tech and is president-elect of the N.C. Community College Faculty Association.

"We have talent leaking out through all the holes," he said.

The N.C. General Assembly began to pay attention to the salary problem during its 2001-02 session but not nearly enough to account for how far the NCCCS is behind compared to the rest of the nation, Wildman said.

But there is only an outside chance of the system getting the entire \$96 million

this year, Lancaster said. He added that he thinks it is possible within five years.

"My role is to lay out the need," he said. "It is then the role of the governor and the legislature to meet that need."

Legislators said the General Assembly recognizes the need for a salary increase but cannot guarantee any increase in funds because of the state's budget crisis.

"With the budget problems we've had, we've been concerned with maintaining the programs we have," said Senate Majority Leader Tony Rand, D-Cumberland.

Increased funding depends on the state's economic status in coming years, said Sen. Jeanne Lucas, D-Durham. "It's certainly one of the top priorities of the General Assembly to keep our education system at its highest potential."

A spokeswoman for Gov. Mike Easley said it would be premature to comment on the request.

But NCCCS officials stressed that additional funding is necessary to ensure that schools maintain enough quality faculty members to meet increasing enrollment demands.

Doody said the recent recession caused a spike in community college enrollment.

"People are out of work, and people need to be trained," she said. "The community colleges are the places for people to go."

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

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author and Director of Creative Writing at UNC

who will read from his new book
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The Bull's Head Bookshop is located in Student Stores. All events are free and open to the public. 962-5060

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ROBERTSON SCHOLARS COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS

Halloween Shuttle System a Success

Officials say it was safer, convenient

By KATHRYN GRIM
Staff Writer

The new shuttle system to transport visitors between parking lots and Franklin Street on Halloween night was a success, say Chapel Hill Transit officials.

As part of the new plan, 40 shuttles transported more than 10,000 people between parking lots and Franklin Street Thursday.

Transportation Director Mary Lou Kuschatka said the shuttles made transportation on Halloween more convenient and safer.

"I think what the town learned more than anything was that it was a good idea," Kuschatka said. "It cleared up the streets so that if there was a medical emergency the vehicles had room to get through."

She said the town will use the shuttle system for future Halloween nights.

Last year about 20 bus drivers signed up for shifts to stand outside and give directions to parking lots, said driver Darren Durdee, who worked until 11 p.m. "Last year our assignment was different because it allowed us to be on Franklin Street," he said.

Durdee said that he enjoyed the opportunity to be close to the action on Franklin Street last year but that many other drivers preferred this year's plan.

"I think the drivers liked it better this year," he said. "Last year it was cold and we were outside, and this year we were nice and cozy on the buses."

Durdee said the bus system was more organized than he expected. "I thought it was going to be more hectic than it actually was," he said. "But in terms of shuttling it was pretty smooth."

Durdee said he enjoyed seeing the shuttle riders' creative costumes.

"The best was the guy who was dressed up as a house maid," he said. "He had a couple of people fooled."

Bus driver Felecia Martin signed up to work the entire Halloween shift. She said she worked from 6 a.m. Thursday until almost 3 a.m. Friday. Her only break lasted a little more than an hour.

Martin said the drivers' volunteer system worked well. "The list didn't fill up, but there were enough people," she said. "By the end of the night there were enough drivers to take folks back to the parking lots and pick up the officers."

Martin said bus drivers took police officers who had finished their duties at the parking lots to the meeting point where the police department picked them up.

Martin drove an officer from the Southern Village lot. "He was cold," she said. "He would step up on the bus just to get warm."

Martin said there were not as many people traveling from the Southern Village lot as she expected. "But the (N.C.) 54 lot and University Mall got slammed," she said.

Martin said the shuttle systems and decreased restrictions improved Halloween this year.

"They tried to make things safe and still allow people to come in and have fun," she said. "Last year they blocked off everything. This year the radius around Franklin Street wasn't as far."

Martin said she enjoyed the costumes, especially the tube of toothpaste. "They got very creative," she said. "I was just floored when I saw that tube of Crest walking down the street."

Martin said Halloween overtime was enjoyable enough that she would do it again.

"It was wild. It was what everybody said it was going to be," she said. "I'd probably drive it again if they set it up like they did."

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

Campus Calendar Today

noon - Always wanted to study abroad? Not sure what to do to make this dream come true?

Come to the Study Abroad Office's "Study Abroad 101!"

We'll go over the different programs, how the credits work, how the money works and how to apply. It will be held in Student Union 2502.

4 p.m. - Carolina Union Activities Board presents Art in the Park, an outdoor exhibit of student artwork, in the Pit until 9 p.m. Art in the Park was previously postponed.

4 p.m. - Relieve stress while discovering deeper personal resources and resilience by learning to meditate. This introduction to meditation will teach the benefits and basic techniques of meditation.

Participants will have the opportunity to practice different forms of meditation, including mindfulness approaches and passage meditation. RSVP at 966-6586.

The session will be held in the Center for Healthy Student Behaviors conference room on the second floor of Student Health.

5 p.m. - Relay for Life will be hosting a team captains interest meeting in Union 209. Relay for Life is the signature fund-raiser for the American Cancer Society. Come learn how you can help fight cancer.

6 p.m. - The Wesley Foundation, UNC's United Methodist campus ministry, will host dinner and a discussion on "God and Suffering." It will be held at the Wesley Foundation on 214 Pittsboro St. across from the Carolina Inn parking lot.

7 p.m. - UNC Rotaract will be having a meeting in Union 211. There will be a short presentation by the president of the Alpha Kappa Psi Coed Professional Business Fraternity followed by a longer presentation on etymology (the study of words) by Rebekah Smith.

7 p.m. - Students United for a Responsible Global Environment presents "The New Patriots" connecting the "School of Assassins" in Fort Benning, Ga., to events of terrorism throughout the hemisphere.

The film lasts less than 20 minutes and will spark great discussion on the issues and what we can do about it. The event will take place in 305 Dey Hall.

8 p.m. - The Orange County Rape Crisis Center and the Women's Affairs Committee of student government will host a discussion on "Communication and Dating" in the lounge at Craige Residence Hall.

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The University and Towns
IN BRIEF

Committee Considers Honor Court Changes

The Committee on Student Conduct discussed Tuesday some recommended changes to the student Honor Court, including the appeals process.

Committee members spoke generally about amendments to both the Honor Court's appeals process and its academic sanctions.

One recommended change calls for the submission of a detailed statement by the defendant outlining the grounds for appeal.

The statement would have to be the accused student's own work - the student's legal counsel would not be permitted to write it.

Committee members also talked about reducing the time limit for filing a detailed statement from 10 days after the initial ruling to five business days.

Appeals based on newly discovered evidence also were discussed. The group considered the possibility of removing the grounds of newly discovered evidence from the appeals process and instead making it a separate process without a time limitation.

Members also discussed the idea of offering a wider menu of sanctions to be handed down by the Honor Court.

New sanctions would be implemented to reinforce the educational aspects of the Honor Code and teach students in violation of the code about their offenses.

Another meeting will be held next week to discuss these issues, as well as the proposed "XF" grade, in greater detail.

GPSF Requests Student Input in Town Decisions

The Graduate and Professional Student Federation Senate unanimously approved a resolution Tuesday calling on the Chapel Hill Town Council, Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy and other town officials to actively pursue greater student inclusion in the decision-making processes, relating to its land-use management ordinance.

The GPSF resolution is particularly concerned with issues of occupancy and parking restrictions that directly affect UNC students.

In other news, Stephanie Schmitt, GPSF vice president of external affairs, brought it to the attention of the Senate that UNC is considering a change to the grading system for graduate students.

The pass/fail system would be replaced by letter grades.

Schmitt suggested the formation of a GPSF committee to get feedback from all departments on the proposed change.

TA Task Force Selects Peer Schools for Study

Teaching assistant compensation at 20 peer institutions will be compared to UNC-Chapel Hill's payment in a study sponsored by the Teaching Assistant Task Force.

Committee members selected the universities Tuesday.

Those selected include Duke University, N.C. State University, the University of Virginia, Cornell University and the University of California-Berkeley.

In a memo sent to the committee after the meeting, Chairman Steve Allred identified five sources of funding used to compensate TAs.

They are state-funded merit awards, state-funded lapsed salaries, campus-based tuition, private external funds and overhead receipts.

The study's results will be discussed at the task force's next meeting, scheduled for Nov. 26.

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