

UNC chancellors might see hefty bonuses

BY LAURA YOUNGS
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

System chancellors could see a one-time bonus this year in a measure approved Friday by the UNC-system Board of Governors. Chancellors systemwide have not had a salary increase since the 2000-01 school year, board member John Davis said.

To remedy the situation, the board voted to give UNC-system President Molly Broad the power

to award a one-time bonus to qualified chancellors based on their performance.

"It has been a long time since chancellors have had any kind of increase at all," said BOG Chairman Brad Wilson.

The bonuses, which will be up to 12 percent of a chancellor's current salary, will apply to those who have been serving the system since at least July 2002, said Wilson.

UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor James Moeser could qualify for a bonus, although receiving it is contingent on his performance, according to the policy.

The money will come from a percentage taken from unused faculty salaries, Wilson said.

He added that the measure was enacted because boards of trustees throughout the system have pointed out that their chancellors are performing well but are not being

recognized for their efforts.

In addition, heavy recruitment from other schools continues. To keep chancellors from leaving, system officials are trying to provide recognition, he said.

Wilson said he realizes that the bonuses could draw criticism in a tight budget year but added that he thinks the measure is something that needs to be done. "I'm sure there will be those that criticize this decision," he said. "But that doesn't

mean it's not a fair or right decision."

Broad also announced Friday the formal resignation of East Carolina University Chancellor William Muse, who will leave officially September 30.

Neither Muse nor any other ECU representative was present at Friday's meeting.

A letter Muse addressed to the BOG stated that he stepped down because of health problems. Muse,

who has served since 2001, will join the faculty at ECU next spring.

The letter stated, "After considerable personal reflection and in light of significant health concerns that have arisen over the past year, I have concluded that it would be in my best interests to step down as chancellor and transition back to a faculty role."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Senate rejects bill to limit overtime

Would hurt workers, opponents say

BY ALEXANDRA DODSON
STAFF WRITER

The U.S. Senate blocked Wednesday a proposal by the Bush administration that could affect millions of Americans who work more than eight hours a day.

The bill would have reconsidered the structure of overtime, which opponents say would mean lower payments for middle-class workers.

In a 54-45 vote, the Senate passed an amendment sponsored by Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, which prevented the administration from taking away overtime pay protections guaranteed under the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act.

The bill passed in the House in July before going to the Senate for approval.

"It's going to affect all working folks in North Carolina in some way," he said.

He added that many corporations do not permit middle-income level employees to work more than 40 hours a week, which means they will not have to pay them for overtime work.

Should they be exempted, these employees could be asked to work more hours without pay, he added.

But no matter what happens in the chambers of the Capitol, Sasser said a new look at overtime pay is greatly needed.

"The rules need to be changed because they're so archaic."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Pay lot increase frustrates arts community

BY NICK PARKER
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Students and community members hoping to catch a play, music recital or art exhibition might end up paying more than the admission cost.

The Swain Hall parking lot, adjacent to the Hanes Arts Center between Cameron Avenue and Franklin Street, will now charge by the hour for the privilege of parking there.

Swain and the Morehead Planetarium lot are charging at a rate of \$1 per hour until midnight on weekdays and until 2 a.m. on weekends.

"The two sites were selected to become pay lots because of their proximity to Franklin Street," said Cheryl Stout, assistant director of parking services at the Department of Public Safety. "On the weekends these lots have a lot of traffic, and we recognized that."

But late-night bar hoppers and Franklin Street shoppers aren't the

only ones feeling the pinch from the extra expense.

Mary Sheriff, chairwoman of art history in the Department of Art, said students from all of the fine art programs are suffering from the change.

"I received a letter from the (Undergraduate Art Association) and have heard complaints from many students about the parking lot," she said. "They are worried about the increased costs, clearly, but also about their safety."

Sheriff said many arts students spend at least 10 out-of-class hours working in the studio on their projects — art majors and graduate art students might have to multiply that extracurricular load by as much as three or four.

Communication studies, dramatic art and music students also feel the repercussions because they also rely on the Swain lot for parking during their late nights in the studio.

"The students' biggest fear is that they will be unable to successfully perform their duties for their classes," Sheriff said. "They might have to carry massive paintings or sculptures all across campus, and then walk back alone at one or two in the morning."

But Stout said the different departments need to understand the difficult budgetary situation that this decision was made in, and explore other parking options.

"Students are still allowed into the lot for loading and unloading

purposes," Stout said. "We have let everyone know of various free parking options across campus that they can use."

"This is a permanent change that we are all going to have to deal with."

Sheriff, however, hopes that some sort of plan or compromise can be worked out with DPS so that already taxed students aren't strapped with unexpected expenses — or fears.

"It compromises the safety and sense of well-being of all arts students," she said. "That level of anxiety is destructive to the creative sense of art."

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

"It makes no sense to cut the paychecks of Americans who work long hours to support their families while handing out tax breaks to wealthy investors," Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., stated in a press release.

Edwards co-sponsored the amendment.

Typically, workers in the United States receive time-and-a-half pay for time spent working more than 40 hours a week. Some states, such as California, have laws that more strongly favor employees working overtime.

But under the unamended plan, Edwards stated, 8 million U.S. workers could lose their eligibility for this sort of overtime pay.

The plan would affect about 211,000 employees in North Carolina.

"It would take money out of the pockets of hard-working people who are trying to feed their families," said Michael Briggs, Edwards' spokesman.

But the proposal does not intend to take overtime pay away from any workers, said Brian Nick, press secretary for Sen. Elizabeth Dole, R-N.C.

Nick said the Senate vote concerned a proposal to appropriate funds to revamp the overtime pay law, which he said has been in place since the 1950s.

"It's very much in need of reform," he said.

By voting for the funds, Nick said, Dole is allowing for new laws to come forward.

There are more than 1.3 million workers in need of overtime pay who should be considered, he said, and the issue of middle-class workers who could become exempt from overtime is still debatable.

It's also a problem that can be fixed by Congress at a later time, he added.

"If it's hurting particular groups, you adjust that when you get to it."

But Rob Black, spokesman for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, a national labor union based in Washington, D.C., said the Senate's rejection of the proposal will benefit workers.

"Clearly, this is a victory for all working families," he said.

The Teamsters, historically a trucking union, now has 1.4 million members, hundreds of thousands of whom would be affected by Bush's overtime pay plan, he said.

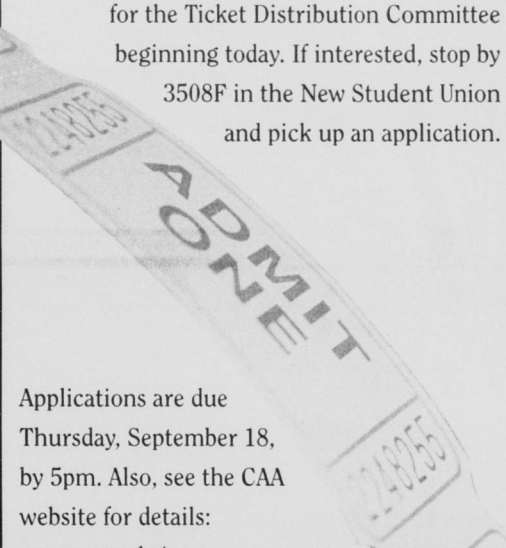
But even after the Senate's vote, Black said the road is not yet clear for the Teamsters or any workers.

Because the two congressional chambers are split on the issue, the bill now will go to a joint conference committee where the House and the Senate will try to resolve the conflicting parts of the two pieces of legislation.

President Bush might also choose to wield his veto power, Black said, although he added that he is hesitant to predict a veto.

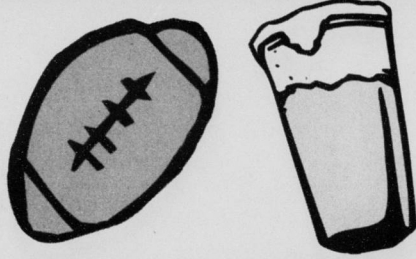
How this proposal or any other change to the overtime pay laws could affect the economy is yet to be seen, said Henry Sasser, deputy administrator at the N.C. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Bureau.

The CAA will be accepting applications for the Ticket Distribution Committee beginning today. If interested, stop by 3508F in the New Student Union and pick up an application.




Applications are due Thursday, September 18, by 5pm. Also, see the CAA website for details: www.unc.edu/caa

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