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www.dthonline.com

Committee approaches tuition talks

BY MEGAN MCSWAIN
STAFF WRITER

Tuition talks will kick off today during a meeting of a committee of the UNC system's governing body.

Although tuition has been raised during the past few years at the 16 system schools, some members of the Board of Governors' Budget and Finance Committee hope to end that trend.

In March, the board asked the N.C. General Assembly to raise tuition anywhere from 7 percent to 17 percent at individual system schools to maintain the quality of the campuses.

The legislature did not raise tuition systemwide but did pass the campus-initiated increases, which give individual universities more control over revenue.

Among these campus-initiated increases was a landmark \$1,500 hike for out-of-state students at UNC-Chapel Hill. In-state tuition was raised by \$250.

BOG member Ben Ruffin, who sits on the Budget and Finance Committee, said it's not consistent with the mission of the public university system to put such a heavy financial burden on its students.

The committee will begin debate today about when it will make a tuition proposal to the General

Assembly, said Claudia Odom, UNC-system assistant vice president for finance.

During the coming months, committee members will examine alternatives to raising tuition that might still properly fund the system's needs.

The BOG typically makes its final decision about tuition increases in February or March.

In years when the full board has not suggested tuition increases, the General Assembly has imposed them to fund enrollment growth and other expenses.

"We hope to have a better option than 'raise tuition,'" said Ruffin, adding that he hopes state legislators will look at other options.

At today's meeting, the committee also will review the funding given to capital improvement projects within the system.

Normally, the BOG makes suggestions to the legislature about funding and then the money is allotted to the universities.

But in July, the General Assembly broke that pattern, designating the money for a massive capital projects package that mandated several projects greenlighted by the board.

"The legislature took the role

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DTH PHOTOS/JUSTIN SMITH

Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., reaches out to supporters at a rally at N.C. Agricultural & Technical State University on Wednesday. Edwards offered strong critiques of the war in Iraq similar to the ones he delivered during his Tuesday debate with Vice President Dick Cheney.

EDWARDS EMERGES FROM FIERCE FIGHT

BY ERIC JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

GREENSBORO — The drumbeat built steadily on the parade ground of N.C. Agricultural & Technical State University as the Aggie marching band warmed up an eagerly waiting crowd of several hundred Democratic supporters Wednesday night. Shouts of "We want Edwards!" rang out between songs.

After a brief introduction by his wife, Elizabeth, and daughter Cate, vice presidential hopeful John Edwards bounded onto the outdoor stage, telling the crowd that he was "so glad to be home in North Carolina."

Edwards arrived, belated but buoyant, in Greensboro, less than 24 hours after facing off against Vice President Dick Cheney, and he stuck to many of the key themes from Tuesday night's debate as he addressed the crowd.

"They can't face the truth," Edwards said of President Bush and Cheney. "They are unwilling to level with the American people, and let me tell you what's going to happen come November: The American people are going to level with them."

Edwards accused the administration of dishonesty in its explanations of the war in Iraq, citing Cheney's insinuation of a connection between Iraq and al-Qaida. He also said his opponents were in denial about the security situation in the country.

"The last two people in America that think things are going well in Iraq are George Bush and Dick Cheney," Edwards said.

He also seized on a misstep by Cheney, who attacked Edwards' attendance record during Tuesday's debate by asserting that he had never met the N.C. senator prior to walking on stage that night.



"Three years ago, I sat at a table with Dick Cheney," Edwards said. "We shook hands. We had a chance to talk to each other."

"Last night, I had a chance to sit at a table with Dick Cheney. I'll make a prediction for you: I bet he won't forget that he was there last night."

The senator spent much of the evening on familiar territory, attacking the Bush administration's record on jobs and health care. He accused the administration of hurting workers by supporting the outsourcing of jobs and failing to enforce trade agreements.

Edwards also charged Bush and Cheney with siding with the pharmaceutical industry against the interests of patients and consumers.

Criticizing the amount of money that drug companies spend on advertising, he drew

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Senator unable to capture South

BY SHERRI ENGEL
STAFF WRITER

A charming personality and good looks are attributes that would enhance any politician's popularity — unless that politician is a Democrat campaigning in the South.

Vice presidential candidate Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., possesses these qualities as well as rural roots, but many pundits say the qualities have not achieved their desired effect on Southern voters.

"All signs point to (President) Bush winning most of the votes in the South regardless of Edwards," said Ferrel Guillory, director of UNC's Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life.

When John Kerry chose Edwards as his running mate in early July, party leaders hoped the Southerner's charm would help bring in votes south of the Mason-Dixon Line.

But Edwards instead has been campaigning in rural areas, often outside the South, and most poll numbers suggest that he has not had a strong pull with Southern voters.

In a poll released Tuesday by Survey USA, Bush garnered 52 percent of the vote in North Carolina to Kerry's 45 percent. The president leads by similar or larger margins in most other Southern states.

Guillory said part of Bush's success is due to the fact that Southern states are traditional

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UNC trails state in minority presence

Myriad factors affect demographics

BY MARK PUENTE
STAFF WRITER

For many top universities, which historically have faced difficulty recruiting minority students, a report like one issued Sept. 7 at UNC might be a cause for celebration.

Issued by the Office of Institutional Research, the report states that the number of minorities enrolled at the University jumped to 19.1 percent between 2003 and 2004.

But advocacy groups and top officials say that's not good enough for UNC. The numbers, they say, are still not indicative of North Carolina's population as a whole.

Minorities accounted for 28.9 percent of the state's population in 2003, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Steve Farmer, senior associate

director of undergraduate admissions at UNC, said the University is aware of the discrepancies in enrollment figures.

"The numbers don't match overall percentages," he said. "But the University is working hard to enroll the best and most diverse classes that we possibly can."

An official at the Office for Minority Affairs said the office is not going to create programs to address the numbers every time they are released.

"We don't stop and celebrate," said Terri Houston, director of recruitment and support programs for the office. "Our actions are not reactionary."

Houston said the office works closely with different groups to make sure people know the University is diverse.

"We are consistently proactive in making our minority programs better," she said. "We want to

SEE MINORITIES, PAGE 4

DEFINING DIVERSITY
A five-part series examining the state of race relations at UNC.
Today: Measuring up

CLOWNING AROUND



DTH/WHITNEY SHEPTE

Madeline Creatore, 5, gets her face painted by Jane "Sparkles" Mitchell at Lickity Split on Wednesday evening while Logan "Me Too" Teachey waits for more children. Lickity Split was holding a fund raiser from which 15 percent of all profits from the day went to the kids of the Ronald McDonald House. For the full story, visit www.dthonline.com.

"We used it as a learning experience and were definitely more prepared this time around." LINDSAY STRUNK, CAROLINA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION VICE PRESIDENT

R&B balladeer to play Homecoming

BY ERIN ZUREICK
STAFF WRITER

After weeks of uncertainty, officials announced that singer, songwriter and keyboardist John Legend will perform at UNC's Homecoming concert Oct. 24.

Legend recently entered the national radar with his radio hit "Used to Love U," which led to an appearance on MTV's "Total Request Live." His debut album, "Get Lifted," is set for release Oct. 26.

The Carolina Athletic Association and the Carolina Union Activities Board invited Legend to make an appearance at UNC after a failed attempt to recruit rock band Sister Hazel to perform.

CAA's efforts to attract Sister Hazel were questioned after the cancellation of the group's booking for the Homecoming concert.

Plans for the concert were canceled after sound and security fees added an extra \$8,000 to the \$20,000 the group already wanted for its performance.

"We used (the Sister Hazel attempt) as

a learning experience and were definitely more prepared this time around," said Lindsay Strunk, vice president of CAA.

Homecoming Chairwoman Bayley Crane also said students knew what to expect during this round of negotiations. "We were more careful about evaluating venues, ticket pricing and the artist's fee this time around," she said.

Negotiations began soon after a member of CUAB's Performing Arts Committee suggested inviting Legend, said T.J. Abrams, committee chairman.

While officials still are working to finalize the details of Legend's contract, Crane said the University received both written and verbal confirmation from the artist.

Legend will receive \$5,000 as an artist's fee, said Don Luse, director of the Carolina Union. Luse estimated that an extra \$10,000 will be needed to cover the costs of advertising and production.

He added that the contract is fairly standard in that the UNC will provide a piano, a sound system and a venue.

Strunk said Legend's music, a mix of soul and romantic rhythm and blues, will appeal to the UNC's diverse campus.

The songwriter now is touring with hip-hop artist Kanye West and R&B crooner Usher.

According to a CAA press release Legend has "the sensuality of Marvin Gaye and the sincerity of Stevie Wonder merging with the directness of Snoop Dogg and the wit of Kanye West."

The Homecoming concert will take place at 8 p.m. Oct. 24 at the George Watts Hill Alumni Center. About 500 to 600 tickets are available, according to the estimates of both Crane and Strunk.

Tickets can be purchased for \$5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Student Union Box Office. Starting Monday, students can purchase as many as two tickets at once but must present a UNC ONE Card for each ticket.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

2 DAYS LEFT TO REGISTER TO VOTE

ONLINE
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Music festival offers grassroots appeal
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SPORTS
BACK ON TRACK
North Carolina overcomes a sluggish start to defeat Asheville, 3-0, at Fetzer Field on Wednesday PAGE 13

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FRIDAY Sunny, H 79, L 49
SATURDAY Partly cloudy, H 79, L 51