

Congress to review energy fee Day to offer appreciation for University employees

BY KRISTLE SPELLMAN
STAFF WRITER

The Rules and Judiciary Committee of Student Congress passed a resolution onto the full body Thursday that says the group should hold a referendum to renew the student fee for renewable energy.

The fee, which costs full-time students \$4 each semester, is set to expire without student approval.

"A lot of students want to see it continued, and if not, they should be given the chance to say so," said Speaker Pro Tem Jennifer Orr.

If Congress passes the resolution, students will have a chance to vote in February on whether to continue the \$4 fee, which funds projects initiated in student government's renewable energy committee.

Two years ago, 75 percent of the student body approved the fee.

Congress Speaker Charlie Anderson, who formerly served as chairman of the committee, introduced the resolution and gave an account of the success he said the committee already has seen.

The committee has begun several programs and formed plans for installing solar panels on the roof of the soon-to-be-renovated Morrison Residence Hall.

Anderson said the University has been leading the way in the Southeast for utilizing alternatives to nonrenewable energy sources.

"We were the first of its kind in the Southeast, and as a result, three other schools in the South have initiated programs," he said.

While members of the committee debated the legislation, the biggest issue that arose was the amount of money the \$4 fee has given the committee.

Although the fee was passed two years ago, Anderson said that this was the first semester that the fee was collected, and that it produced about \$185,000. It is projected to bring in that amount in subsequent years.

In addition to the seven students who serve on the committee, four administrators also work to further its goals. Anderson said their input helps to provide over-

sight of the funds.

Luke Farley, chairman of the Rules and Judiciary Committee, expressed concern about the referendum. He said that the fee provides a lot of money and that he would like to see how those funds have been spent.

Anderson told Congress members that this year's fee is in a bank account and will not be used until the solar panels are purchased and placed on the roof of Morrison, a project expected to be complete by 2007.

"A lot of things came up tonight, like where the money is, what kind of account it is in — if it's earning interest, then the fee could go down and the interest could be used," Farley said.

Despite Farley's concerns, the committee voted in favor of the referendum.

Congress will take on the issue during its full meeting Tuesday night.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Task force asks for event's revival

BY AL KILLEFFER
STAFF WRITER

Campus employees work for the University every day, but today UNC will work for them.

Employee leaders said they are eagerly anticipating what they hope will be one of the biggest and most successful Employee Appreciation Days in recent years.

"We're hoping for a great turnout," said Katherine Graves, vice chairwoman of the Employee Forum. "We hope to create a lot of interest among employees."

The initiative grew out of recommendations from the Chancellor's Task Force for a Better Workplace.

The appreciation day is part of the task force's overarching goals to improve the overall working environment for employees.

As a result of budget cuts, the event has shrunk in size in recent years, said Tommy Griffin, co-chairman of the task force and chairman of the Employee Forum.

An employee survey conducted by the task force revealed that workers wanted to revitalize the day.

Shelly Green, a member of the appreciation day committee, said even the day's theme, "Always Forward: Educational and Advancement Opportunities at UNC-Chapel Hill," came out of the task force's questionnaire, as did many of the day's programs.

Event organizers also have set up an entire morning of educational classes and lectures led by senior campus administrators.

Three different types of classes are being held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. throughout the morning. There will be financial education sessions in Dey Hall, professional development sessions in the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History and leadership sessions in Fetzer Gym.

Event planners noted that the day won't just be about education — fun and relaxation will figure prominently as well.

At the main event, which will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the courtyard between the old and new

Student Unions, employees will be able to enjoy the bluegrass band SunnySide and win door prizes.

They also will have the opportunity to listen to a host of guest speakers, including Chancellor James Moeser, Board of Trustees Chairman Richard "Suck" Williams and 2004 Miss North Carolina USA Ashley Puleo, who is also a student in the dental school.

All faculty and staff also will receive a 20 percent discount on the full price of the breakfast and lunch hot bar at Lenoir Dining Hall and a 35 percent discount at the Bull's Head Bookshop until 8 p.m.

In addition, campus departments and benefits vendors will have information booths from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Fetzer Gym. Representatives from a number of organizations, including Employee Health, Information Technology Services and Dell Computers, will be present.

Griffin said the day will be full of "food, fun, education and door prizes."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Meeting set to discuss noisy issue

BY BRIANNA BISHOP
STAFF WRITER

Orange County residents will have a chance this month to discuss their complaints about the area's noise ordinance.

The Nov. 22 meeting of the Orange County Board of Commissioners will feature a public hearing during which commissioners will hear concerns about noise and consider amending the county's ordinance.

The board will consider changes to the maximum frequency and intensity standards, as well as means of enforcement and measuring violations.

Under current legislation, the county limits noise at 60 decibels during daylight hours and 50 at night, according to Craig Benedict, county planning director, who said he sees problems with how to measure a noise violation.

"An intermittent loud noise may not meet the standards of being in

violation of our noise ordinance because of our duration criteria," Benedict said. He explained that the current ordinance doesn't have strict standards regulating short bursts of noise.

The decision to hold a public hearing stems from noise complaints among county residents, said Commissioner Margaret Brown. She added that the ordinance has not been reviewed in a long time.

At the hearing, specific amendments will not be suggested, Benedict said.

Rather, the hearing will provide a forum for discussing various options. Afterward, potential revisions to the ordinance will be written up in preparation for another hearing.

"(The ordinance) needs to be revisited to see if we need to change anything," said Orange County Sheriff Lindy Pendergrass.

He added that the ordinance must

be studied to see if its standards are sufficient or if commissioners should change it.

Benedict said that only residents of Orange County living outside municipal areas will be affected by changes to the ordinance. The towns set their own standards.

"I think Orange County is in transition between urban noises and rural noises," he said.

Carrboro's noise ordinance does not state specific limits, but it addresses noise related to loud music, parties, construction, motor vehicles and firearms. Violators can be charged a fine.

The noise ordinance for Chapel Hill sets limits of 60 decibels during the day and 50 decibels at night.

"We certainly have a lot of problems with noise," said Gregg Jarvis, Chapel Hill police chief.

Many issues arise from late-night parties and neighborhood noise problems, he said.

Orange County responded to about 186 complaints dealing with loud music, and roughly 120 other noise problems — including fireworks, loud mufflers and barking dogs — from November 2003 to October 2004, Pendergrass said.

Jarvis said police responded to about 1,200 noise complaints last year in Chapel Hill, particularly in University communities.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

County to eye homelessness

BY ADAM W. RHEW
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 18, members of the Orange County community — including area politicians — will meet to discuss the problem of homelessness.

But a controversy over the date of the meeting will leave some of those local leaders unable to participate.

The Orange County Roundtable Discussion on Homelessness scheduled for a Thursday — a day that concerns many Carrboro aldermen.

They said the meeting should be held on a Saturday, when more community members could attend.

Alderman Jackie Gist was the first member of the Board of Aldermen to raise concern about the date of the roundtable.

"I don't believe you can have a community roundtable when members of the community can't attend," she said.

Carrboro Mayor Pro Tem Diana McDuffee also was concerned. She said Thursday that the town did not have a say in setting the date.

"We really knew nothing about

this until we were asked to vote to spend money on one-third of the cost," she said.

But Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy said Carrboro town staff members were consulted before a committee charged with organizing the project set the meeting date.

"It is up to each town's staff to communicate information to their elected officials," he said.

In a letter sent to Carrboro Mayor Mike Nelson on Wednesday, Foy states that he hopes Carrboro will be represented at the discussion.

"We believe that this work could lead to development of a plan to end homelessness in Orange County," the letter states.

Nelson said he had not received that letter as of early Thursday afternoon.

On Oct. 11, the event's planning committee sent a letter to the Orange County Board of Commissioners requesting that the county pay one-third of a \$1,000 facilitator fee.

The Board of Aldermen and the Chapel Hill Town Council both received similar requests.

On Wednesday, commissioners approved a recommendation from

"There is a commitment to addressing this problem as a whole community."

JACKIE GIST, ALDERMAN

County Manager John Link to allot the funds.

Foy said the town of Chapel Hill would most likely pay for Carrboro's portion of the fee. All parties agreed that the issue of homelessness needs to be addressed.

"This issue is of utmost importance to us," Nelson said.

Gist shared similar sentiments. "There is a commitment to addressing this problem as a whole community," she said.

The roundtable discussion remains scheduled for Nov. 18 from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

It will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, located at 1050 Airport Road.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

BLANK CANVAS DANCE GROUP

Sunday, Nov. 7
Hill Hall Auditorium
Show starts at 7 PM

Tickets \$2.00 at the door
Come early - seating is limited.

YARD SALE November 3-5
11:00-3:00PM
Chapel of the Cross dining room (beside the Pantry)

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TODAY AT CAROLINA

Friday, November 5

Men's & Women's Swimming vs. Virginia Tech
11am - Koury Natatorium
Students & Faculty Admitted FREE w/ID!

Men's Swimming vs. Minnesota
5pm - Koury Natatorium
Students & Faculty Admitted FREE w/ID!

Women's Tennis
UNC Kitty Harrison Invitational
All Day - Cone Kenfield Tennis Center
Students & Faculty Admitted FREE w/ID!

Men's Basketball vs. Winston-Salem State
7:30pm - Dean Smith Center

AVODART (dutasteride) Soft Gelatin Capsules 0.5 mg

SPORTS SHORTS

'Election 2004: What Role Did the Media Play?'

Sam Donaldson
Famed television journalist

6 p.m. Wednesday, November 10
Carroll Hall Auditorium

Free and open to the public.
Part of the Nelson Benton Lecture Series.

For details, visit www.jomc.unc.edu.

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