

RHA surveys student feeling

Smoking policies on group's docket

BY RACHEL BROCK
STAFF WRITER

Smoking policies, printing stations and the recontracting process are just a few of the issues on the minds of students living on campus.

In an attempt to gauge student sentiment on these and other concerns, the Residence Hall Association is now in the process of conducting an online survey.

RHA President Colin Scott said many students have expressed concern about the reinstatement of printing stations in residence halls, which would amount to a fee increase.

Colin Mutter, RHA executive assistant for external affairs, said the survey attempts to gauge reaction to this issue.

Teresa Lee, a resident in Carmichael Residence Hall who recently completed the survey, said she supports the addition of printing stations.

"I thought that was a good idea," she said. "I think it definitely would be worth the pay increase."

Jonathan Kite, a resident of Ehringhaus Residence Hall, said the printers currently in place in his residence hall are of poor quality.

Scott said he also hopes the survey will give the RHA a better understanding of residents' responses to initiatives put in place last year, such as the nonsmoking policy recommended that began this semester.

The policy, which originated from an RHA survey conducted last fall of all students living on campus, bans smoking in almost all residence hall rooms.

About one-third of residents responded to the survey, with 69 percent of the respondents saying smoking should never be allowed in residence halls.

Students who wish to have smoking rooms, which are located on the ground floors of Ehringhaus and Craige residence halls, must submit a written request to the Department of Housing and Residential Education.

Lee said she understands the frustrations felt by smokers on campus, though she's not a smoker. "I think it's a little too stringent, especially compared to last year."

Scott said the survey is just one way the association is trying to reach out to students.

He said that because officers in RHA are elected by students, they try to schedule regular open forums and have rolled out a revamped Web site that will enable students' voices to be heard about housing issues.

"Since we are here for the students, we want to make sure we are listening to their concerns," Scott said.

Students can access the survey on the RHA Web site at www.unc.edu/rha. Participants are entered in a contest for one of two MP3 players.

Mutter said RHA had intended to end the survey today but is planning to extend it for a few more days.

"We've gotten about a 20 percent sample size, but we're looking for a larger size," he said. "It's really important that a lot of residents fill out the survey."

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VOTING

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tentional malfunctioning of the machines," Allran said.

Voter confusion about the new technology also could be responsible for missing votes.

Kinnaird said many people are uneasy about using unfamiliar technology. "We also found that the elderly were very frightened about using a touch-screen," she said.

Insko said another solution could be more training for voting officials and making sure there are enough workers at polling sites.

While the faulty voting machines affected the races for state superintendent and agricultural commissioner, Allran said bigger problems were possible. "It could have been the president."

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SYSTEM TUITION

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for reducing class size and adding course sections for core curricula.

"When the campus-based increases were approved last year, the Budget and Finance Committee stated explicitly that was a priority they wanted to see addressed," said BOG Chairman Brad Wilson.

In considering this year's proposals, the board will closely examine how effectively campuses have used last year's funding.

"They'll provide supporting data with their request," Wilson said. "That data is evaluated, veri-

fied and validated by the staff at General Administration before it comes to Budget and Finance Committee."

The committee also can question campus administrators before making final decisions, and board members last year held lengthy meetings with chancellors and finance officers before approving the scaled-back requests.

"It's a very intense examination and undertaking," Wilson said.

Campus officials across the UNC system are hoping to persuade the BOG that another round of increases would be well-spent.

"It's all earmarked for the academic area," said Jane Helm, vice

chancellor for business affairs at Appalachian State University. "It's either for faculty salaries, additional faculty or some form of academic support."

Without an increase, she said, "We would have to delay certain things that would affect academic programs."

Roger Killian, director of financial planning and budgets at UNC-Pembroke, said a tuition increase is needed to maintain the quality of the classroom experience.

"The number of our adjuncts and part-time faculty keeps increasing," he said. "We've been having double-digit enrollment growth for the last five years, and

it reaches a point where there are simply not adequate funds to cover what needs to be covered."

Wilson said the board should be cautious in considering any tuition hikes this year but added that all proposals will receive a thorough hearing.

BOG member Brent Barringer described the difficulty of balancing university needs with a rising financial burden.

"It's much easier to ask than to say 'yes' or 'no,'" he said. "The hard part is, will you say 'yes' or 'no' or somewhere in between?"

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EAST

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Services, merging them into one unit: ITS.

Although Reed introduced the reorganization, the impetus for it came from members of the search committee that recommended him for his position, he said.

"There really was no integration of the technology base to support those two activities," Reed said, explaining that ATN and AIS used many of the same underlying computing technologies.

"The way it was set up, it made it a little difficult to be a very flexible organization," Bell added.

In place of the two departments, information technology houses 12 new divisions, many of which employ people from the former groups working side by side.

Except for Human Resources and Financial Planning, each is manned by an acting assistant vice chancellor, Bell said. Permanent assistant vice chancellors will be selected by search committees that have yet to be formed.

The reorganization was one of

the first steps toward executing the mandate Chancellor James Moeser handed Reed on Sept. 29 during the State of the University Address.

"I have also asked Vice Chancellor Reed to lead a major strategic planning effort for information technology," Moeser said during the speech. "The leading public university must lead in technology."

As part of that process, ITS will continue internal evaluations and solicit campus feedback through advisory committees.

Reed said it's impossible to target an exact date to complete Moeser's charge, as technology is an ever-changing field and change in ITS will mirror its progression.

He nonetheless underscored the need for technology officials to be nimble during the transformation.

"The notion that there is a reorganization and that things are frozen again for many, many years is really not the right way to look at it," Reed said.

"We will be in a continued evolution phase indefinitely."

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ZONING

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wouldn't maximize participation or include much citizen input.

The most contentious point in Monday's discussion occurred when Mayor Kevin Foy asked council members if they wanted to vote on one of the eight recommended changes before meeting with University officials.

The potential measure would require the University to submit a concept plan before a development plan is presented.

"There are some things that the University has no objection to,

Foy said. "If everyone believes a concept plan is a good thing, then why not vote on it now?"

But council member Jim Ward opposed Foy's suggestion to vote without a University representative present at the meeting.

"It is important for us to be sure that we treat our partner the way we would like to be treated," he said.

The council did not vote on any of the eight measures, and Horton said he will present members with a new proposal for the meeting in December.

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DOULAS

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Effects extend from a lowered risk of needing a Caesarean section to less post-partum depression, she said.

Ballen attributes the benefits to the hard work of doulas, whose job description calls for them to comfort and encourage women in labor. Doulas provide quality support with no agenda. "Whatever the woman wants, the doula will see what she can do to create that kind of situation."

BirthPartners' volunteer doulas are ordinary members of the community, retired nurses and graduate and undergraduate students who have undergone rigorous training: required reading, childbirth classes and 18 hours of doula training.

Junior Janaka Lagoo did just that and now signs on for the 12-hour commitment whenever she has the opportunity.

"When you do commit your time, it's a huge amount of time," she said. "You come in with a patient, and you want to be there for the whole delivery. It'll be six hours or 20 hours, you want to stay."

Since she finished her training at the end of her sophomore year, Lagoo has worked with nearly a dozen mothers and has fallen more and more in love with her work. "I really feel that doulas empower women in birthing situations to be able to voice their concerns," she said.

Nicole Fouche is a graduate student who is 33 weeks pregnant. At the moment, she is more concerned about getting help in the delivery room than getting her doctorate in biochemistry and biophysics.

"(Women who have doulas) use less pain medicine because they don't seem to need it."

LOIS BALLEEN, UNC BIRTHPARTNERS

"I think my decision (to get a doula) was based on the fact that I want a natural birth and that I'm pretty much doing it alone," Fouche said.

With no older parent figure to walk her through the birth, she's grateful for the company.

"I know that they're considered volunteers," Fouche said. "I know volunteers don't just have the expertise but also the enthusiasm, which also makes a difference because they're choosing to be there."

And Young says they've always been there.

"Doulas have always been around, but not with that formal name," she said. Young said that traditionally, there always has been an extra pair of hands at birth. "(She) may have been a mother or sister or wisewoman — it wasn't just a midwife, it was another woman there for comfort."

Young said that after birth began to be commonly practiced in hospitals, women lost that social and emotional connection.

"Women were taken and kept in fairly good isolation ... but what they didn't understand was that women were also being separated from their social net."

"Women only recently are starting to reclaim that."

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