BOG continues tuition program

NCSSM students to keep waivers

BY HALLEY KUEFFER

The UNC-system Board of Governors decided last week to continue the program that gives free tuition at system schools to graduates of the N.C. School of Science and Math.

System officials think the program will improve the quality of students who graduate from state universities by keeping graduates of the Durham magnet school, which attracts some of the state's brightest students, in North Carolina.

The goal is to keep more bright students here," said Gretchen Bataille, UNC-system senior vice president for academic affairs.

Bataille said the merit-based tuition waivers also encourage more competition among prospective NCSSM students.

Applications to NCSSM increased by 43 percent from 2004 to 2005, an increase that could stem from the tuition grant program, according to a report by the UNC-system Office of the

In fall 2004, 190 graduates from NCSSM enrolled in UNC-system schools. And 121 of these students benefit from the NCSSM Tuition Grant Program.

The reason for the discrepancy is that the state's 2004 Technical Corrections Act limits the amount of grant money students can get if the funding they receive from other sources exceeds the overall cost of

The BOG said last week that it would like to reform this aspect of "Students with the greatest leave their homes at a younger age financial need don't benefit because and enter a strenuous academic the grant is only for tuition," Bataille said.

"If they get a Pell Grant, they cannot benefit from this grant."

The policy also does not benefit lower-income graduates, who can-not afford the costs of a college edu-

cation, according to the report. But the program is not without

The whole thing is a bad idea," said George Leef, executive director of the John William Pope Center for Higher Education Policy. "It cannot be improved; it needs to

simply be dropped."

Leef helped author a report from the Pope Center on Jan. 26 that called the grant program unfair.

He added that the program

offers no benefits to the economy or the labor market of North Carolina.

But NCSSM officials say students

and enter a strenuous academic environment — making them valid targets of a tuition waiver.

Students make a lot of sacrifices," said Craig Rowe, director for communications for NCSSM. "I see these tuition programs as UNCsystem talent identification."

Proponents of the program also argue that after graduating from a UNC-system school, a majority of Science and Math will remain in North Carolina to pursue a job.

Students meet connections instate, and this helps you decide where to get a job," Rowe said. But Leef said students won't

turn away jobs from outside the state because they graduated from a system school.

The top students are unlikely to want to stay in North Carolina.

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ing to town, but they were very

tinues to span generations.

They still appear at the occasional fraternity party, but more recently,

"We play for people who remembered us from years past,"

during the party."

The band also has a scholarship

named in its honor.

After Doug Clark's passing in 2002, University alumnus Mike Haley gave \$25,000 to the University to create the Doug Clark "Thouke for the Morestic" seekels. Thanks for the Memories" scholarship fund to honor Clark's legend-

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GPSF

the past few years but that there still is room for improvement.

"I think we've made great strides over the last two years," he said. "We're positioned to improve next year."

Bushman's initiatives for sparking the growth of the GPSF included paying attention to parking on campus, tuition and teaching assistant stipends, along with sending newsletters and fostering

conversation in online forums.

"The GPSF is here to help," she said. "We've started something

that can only get bigger."
Parker Wiseman, GPSF vice

president for internal affairs, praised the group, calling his time with the organization "an absolute

joy."
"I was so pleased ... to find this great community of students," he

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GRADES

gested creating a mean grade point average of 2.7 for all departments. As enforcement, those that failed to maintain this average would receive budget sanctions.

Gordon said the committee never gave the suggestion serious consideration, and is now focusing on indepth methods of evaluation.

This year, we are focusing not on whether grades are getting higher - they have been increasing slowly but not dramatically over the years — but on some disparities in grading practices," he said.

Gordon said differences in grading practices are obvious. The issue, he said, is determining whether these disparities breed inequality.

Judith Wegner, chairwoman of the faculty, said she recognizes the difficulty of creating a Universitywide solution.

"There are different faculty, different courses, different studies and different scenarios, so it's hard

to create uniformity," she said.

Wegner said the Faculty Council continues to discuss other means of measuring academic progress and accomplishment by evaluating students on what they have learned and what skills they have mastered.

The policy committee suggested a grade-ranking system to aug-ment the current grading system. Similar to the Ratings Percentage Index used in college sports, this system would rank student performance against classmates to get a better performance assessment.

Gordon said students should not be penalized for taking classes with chers who grade more harshly. "If you want to extend the met-

aphor, students should be judged not just by wins and losses, but also by the strength of their schedule, he said. "We're just trying to find ways of evening the playing field."

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MUSIC

"Before the band started, Doug worked for a fraternity and heard Willie Hargraves' band play," said his brother John Clark, the band's saxophonist.

There, Doug Clark first heard the song that would become his band's name and trademark

"He heard the song 'Hot Nuts,'" John Clark said. "Everywhere we go people ask for that song, and they add verses

Fellow band member Prince Taylor began singing for the group in 1959 and continued on and off for 28 years.

"The real song is called 'Jada,"
Taylor said of "Hot Nuts." "We made up some verses, just suggestive stuff, nothing rough.
"Then the students would add

verses, and the song got rougher." The band developed a repertoire of popular R&B tunes and humorous musical sketches, which it adapted according to its musical

Wednesdays and Thursdays were for the clubs, Fridays and Saturdays

NUMBERS

T-SHIRTS

SMEATS

were for the college," John Clark said. "We did R&B at the clubs and more comedy at the colleges."

The band's style and history

helped give it a unique place in the community. "I believe there weren't any

other black bands around here that I know of," Taylor said.

Battle said he remembers the band well. "Everyone knew them."

Though the band's rise to prominence coincided with the beginning of the integration movement, John Clark recalls the band being well-received locally and in other

colleges throughout the South.
"We probably played at 200 colleges and universities before the movement even started." John Clark said. "We played colleges in Mississippi, Alabama, all over Colleges were fine.

"Travel situations and places to eat outside the colleges were a

When segregation closed doors, many fraternities were happy to help the band out. Members helped find black families to board the band, or even hosted the band

in their fraternity houses "We didn't consider it trouble because it was all we knew," Taylor said. "Doug wouldn't take a whole lot of junk back then."

Battle said he saw the band perform at his alma mater, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University.

"I think they preferred playing at the fraternities," Battle said.
"The fraternities got more into the

dialogue and the lyrics."

And these lyrics helped contribute to the band's reputation.

"'Hot Nuts' was very risqué at the time," John Clark said. "What we did was before its time. "People who have seen the movie

'Animal House' say we should have been in the movie 'Animal House." Taylor said the students' energy

added to the tone of the shows. "You know, it was the sorority girls who added the dirtiest jokes to 'Hot Nuts," he said.

The band recorded nine albums, but some radio stations and record labels would not play their music

Their albums, released on the independent Gross Records label, sold entirely by word of mouth.
"They never had any major top

10 records or anything," Battle said. "But we'd see a lot of them. "It wasn't like Ray Charles com-

LOW FAT . NO MEG

NUMBERS

popular."
The Hot Nuts' popularity con-

their main gigs have been weddings and reunions, John Clark said.

Clark said. "Now when we play for kids, they tell us their mom and dad loved us, and they'll call them

ary place in campus history.

Haley noted Doug Clark's leg-

end in a spring 2003 edition of Carolina Connections, a newsletter of the Office of University Development.

"Doug Clark and the Hot Nuts are as much a part of Chapel Hill as Frank McGuire and Dean Smith."

FREE DELIVERY

HEALTH CARE

state but does not include deductibles and other out-of-pocket

If employees want coverage for their spouses and/or families, they pay about \$428 a month.

Nothing is finalized, Landry said, but task force members are looking at several options. Among them are plans for employees to continue to pay no premium and be covered by the state. But they also could have the option of paying from \$30 to \$50 a month for greater coverage, with a zero deductible.

Another option could be family plans, which Landry said could potentially be in the range of \$350

per month.

Perhaps the biggest differences would come with one plan that would offer coverage for single-parent families, and another that would cover only employees and their spouses. Neither plan is now offered by the state.

In addition, the task force is looking at basing payments on a

sliding scale based on salary. The idea is to take the money spent by the state on university employees and redirect it to the new plan. Landry said a consul-tant to the task force estimated that pulling out of the system could save an estimated \$30 million, which could be reinvested to improve health care.

Laurie Charest, associate vice chancellor for human resources at UNC-Chapel Hill, added that problems such as high deductibles, out-of-pocket costs and a lack of choices are hurting faculty and staff recruitment and retainment.

She cited examples of prospective employees turning down jobs because of the health plans offered.

"We're very concerned about the coverage that our employees have for health insurance," she said.

Some have expressed concern as to how the logistics of the new plan would be worked out. Dr. Jack Walker, executive

dministrator for the State Health Plan, said he isn't sure if the university plan would be able to keep administrative costs as low as the state, which runs things at 3 cents on the dollar. He also said he is concerned

about where employees will go after they retire and whether they will have to return to the state Landry said system officials

have not reached an answer for that. But he said that their consul-

tants had been talking with legislators and that they seem supportive of the idea

They've been receptive. I believe the (General Assembly) will get behind this idea."

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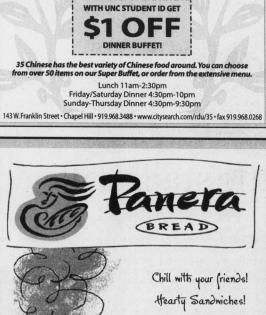
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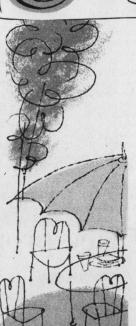


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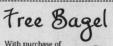


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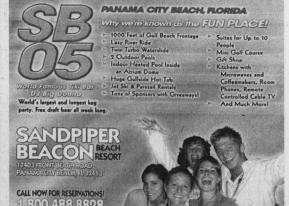
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