

# Rules decry discrimination

UNC's policies include sexual identity

BY KATHERINE EVANS  
STAFF WRITER

Officials are underscoring the University's stance against all discrimination based on sexual orientation in the wake of a hate crime committed against a UNC junior Friday. The University's nondiscrimination policy and the Code of Student Conduct both specifically address sexual orientation, and officials said students must make it their responsibility to comply. The nondiscrimination policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and the Code of Student Conduct similarly distinguishes discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender expression as a punishable offense. "You can live, work and study in this community without fear of

harm," said Margaret Jablonski, vice chancellor for student affairs, during a speak-out Tuesday night to display the community's outrage. The policies are strictly internal, which means they apply to cases within the University but not to its relationships with outside organizations, such as the federal government and private employers. Neither document provides a concrete definition of hate crimes. But officials said such crimes can fall under a range of Honor Code violations — from the use of discriminatory language to physical violence. "Hate crimes are not expressly addressed," said Melinda Manning, assistant dean of students. "But a student could be charged with a regular assault, threats or anything else."

Honor Court sanctions for such violations can run the gamut from censure to expulsion, even if the student also faces pending state or federal action. Officials said that while much has been done to make these policies known to the student body, administrators always can work to further publicize UNC's ethos of nondiscrimination. "I think we can always be doing more to educate people on issues that LGBTQ students confront on a regular basis," Jablonski said. Jon Curtis, assistant director for student activities and organizations, said he meets with the leadership of every student organization and makes sure they sign on to the nondiscrimination policy. Student groups also must agree to conform to the policy when they sign for official recognition. "The University makes very rea-

sonable efforts to communicate its policies," Curtis said. "The piece that could perhaps be better is the understanding as citizens of this campus that students need to educate themselves as well. These are Carolina students — they're not stupid." Dean of Students Melissa Exum said that if a need for policy change arises, the administration will respond with appropriate action. But education seems to be the next step in prevention, not a revision of policy. "I don't know if the answer is in policy," Manning said. "It may lay in education, in helping students to advocate better for themselves, like offering self-defense classes, and letting students know the avenues of support. Policy is not necessarily the only avenue."

## ADDRESS

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not only initiated early work on the Tuition Task force, but that they also shaped the tuition debate. Speaker of Student Congress Charlie Anderson used his address to speak out against tuition increases for out-of-state students. "Free as practicable" has been perverted way out of proportion by placing the burden on out-of-state students," he said. Anderson said UNC must strive for improvements while keeping its ideals at the core — an approach that would improve the

tuition situation and further new projects such as the soon-to-be-constructed Arts Common. Craig Schauer, chairman of the undergraduate Honor Court, emphasized working to streamline hearings in the face of an increased case load. He also noted the successful implementation of the new outreach branch that is helping publicize the honor system. Schauer reminded the crowd that the honor system is run by students for students, a rarity on today's college campuses. Graduate and Professional Student Federation President Jen

Bushman highlighted ways in which graduate students contribute to the University's research and public service communities. She also noted that the graduate and professional community is far from connected to the larger student population. Bushman, who recently presented the first State of the GPSF Address, invited the crowd to attend University Research Day on March 31, which will showcase graduate students' research. While she said she is pleased that graduate students have a permanent office, they often do not have contact with students

outside their departments. She also noted that graduate students often are left out of discussions on tuition, particularly because 37 percent of them are out-of-state students. Margaret Jablonski, vice chancellor for student affairs, said that she was pleased with the speeches and that the programs started under Calabria should continue. The Student Code requires the student body president to address the University at least four times during a full term of office.

## RALLY

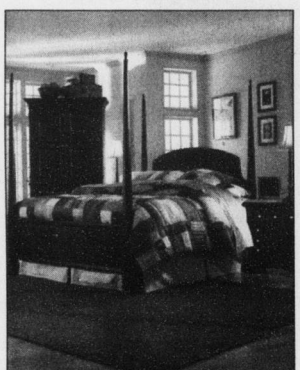
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affirming the University's commitment to tolerance and inclusion. He said the response to the attack reminds him of how the people of Copenhagen, Denmark, accepted the Jews in desperate times under the Nazi regime. "We are all in this together," he said. "This is one great family of Carolina; let us stay here together." The theme of togetherness came up several times during the evening,

as speakers encouraged audience members to realize that, combined, they might be able to change the state's hate crime statutes, which do not include attacks related to sexual orientation and gender identity. "Take a look around you, realize all the energy that's here, and don't let that die out tonight," said Ben Brown, a sophomore who spoke last during the open mic session. Event organizers circulated two petitions: one to change the N.C. law and another to create a nondiscrimination policy at all UNC-

*"It was unprovoked, and I did fight back. There's only so long that you can fight off a pack of wolves."*

THOMAS STOCKWELL, UNC STUDENT ATTACKED IN HATE CRIME  
system schools. Win Chesson, co-chairman of the GLBTSA and moderator for the event, said it's troubling that bills to change the state's hate crimes law have failed three times. "It's just incomprehensible to me that bill hasn't passed," he said. "That outrages me just as much as the attack that happened." In a speech at the event, Chapel Hill Town Council member Mark Kleinschmidt stressed the importance of changing the law. Kleinschmidt, who is openly gay, said numerous people have approached him to express concerns about the attack. "Without exception, they all say something like 'I'm so shocked it's Chapel Hill. We're so tolerant here,'" he said. "And I ask them where the hell they think they are." Event organizers said they hope the words shared by officials and students will prevent further violence and will spur the community to activism. They were overwhelmed by the number of participants in the event, which they had only two days to plan. David Ruskey, an executive board member of the GLBTSA, said the group originally gathered 100 candles but soon realized that that was a gross underestimate. "The size of this crowd and the unity displayed... has surpassed all expectations."

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## CHANGE

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at the University. While resources and visibility have increased, he said, the climate that welcomes LGBTQ students when they step onto UNC's soil is not ideal. "I think any time you put a University-supported endeavor like the office, there's going to be a marked change in the climate," Caldwell said. But, he added, "Climate is not something that can just be fixed." Caldwell also said UNC administrators must address their lack of involvement with the LGBTQ community to improve the campus climate. "It's easy for the University to hide behind the (LGBTQ) office," he said. "(But) nothing says more

to the students than having high-ranking administrators supporting us constantly. And I think that might be what's missing." Caldwell added that there is a false sense of security among community members at UNC. "People are quick to say UNC's tolerant and acceptable — even people within the LGBTQ community — and that just gives us a false sense of security," he said. "I am appreciative of all the resources here for LGBTQ-identified students. However, a friend was just attacked because of his sexual identity, so it's hard for me to reconcile the two." For more information about the resources provided at UNC, visit <http://lgbt.unc.edu>.

## OPEN LETTER

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Chancellor James Moeser. The open letter, signed by 71 faculty members, has re-energized the debate over donations from the Pope Foundation that would create a program in Western cultures. The organization helps fund the John William Pope Center for Higher Education Policy, which has openly criticized the University and its faculty. Sue Estroff, professor of social medicine and former chairwoman of the Faculty Council, said the letter came about because the University has moved ahead with plans to take the donation. "Some lines got crossed that hadn't been an issue before," Estroff said. "So (the letter is) a call for exploration, collaboration and, ultimately, clarification." The petition highlights controversies regarding the amount of donor influence over the curriculum; the image of the Pope Foundation; and the contingency built into the proposal, by which the donors can withdraw funding after several years. Signatories called for increased faculty involvement in the program's creation. They also said administrators should appoint a faculty committee to set guidelines for accepting money that would go toward creating classes, create an intellectually diverse faculty committee to clarify the direction of the program, and establish a clear policy for what would happen in the event that the funding were cut off. Bernadette Gray-Little, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said she thinks the recommendations stem from a concern that the University would make concessions to donors and contaminate its integrity. But she said this fear is unwarranted. "What we have to make sure is what we offer that is funded by private donations is the same quality as those that are not," she said. "We do not compromise on quality or content in order to receive funding." Moeser said he is comfortable receiving private donations as long as donors do not make inappropriate demands. In the case of the

Western cultures program, he said, the Pope Foundation has made no such demands. Provost Robert Shelton echoed that sentiment. "The bottom line is that nobody in this administration is going to accept funds that compromise academic freedom or undermine the faculty's responsibility and authority to design the curriculum," he said. Moeser added that refusing donations because of ideological difference violates academic freedom. "Freedom of speech means allowing people with whom we disagree to speak," Moeser said. "To say we're not going to accept their gift because we don't agree with them is a denial of free speech." Faculty members who signed the letter said they aren't sure administrators' attitudes are on target. "It's not that we shouldn't be offering classes that deal with Western civilization, but we also need to be concerned about other perspectives and other cultures," said Dwight Rogers, professor in the School of Education. "The Pope Foundation's lens is very much a Euro-centric, Western civilization focus, and they don't seem to be open to other ways of knowing." Journalism professor Chuck Stone said he signed the letter to the administration because he supports transparent decision processes. He said his philosophy refers back to former President Woodrow Wilson's "Fourteen Points," one of which promotes open policy-making. "If it's good enough for President Wilson, it's good enough for the University of North Carolina." Gray-Little said she is sending an open letter today responding to these and other concerns. "I have openly repeated my firm support of academic freedom and made it clear that private funders will not be allowed to control or direct the content of our academic programs," Gray-Little wrote. "Claims that the proposal has been developed in a clandestine manner to promote a particular political agenda are demonstrably false."

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