

LEGISLATIVE

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"We will be looking at the new proposal."

According to this fiscal year's budget, University contracts account for 42 percent of transportation revenues, or about \$4.8 million.

"I've always supported the luxury tax idea," said Rep. Verla Insko, D-Orange. "It's hard for me to see the impact the tax could have on rising ticket prices."

Council members also proposed a short list of alternative fiscal options — a "tax menu" — that would raise the motor vehicle registration, sales and gasoline taxes if passed.

Legislators agreed that the vehicle registration tax idea has a better chance of getting passed than the sales and gasoline tax hikes.

The town levies the fee annually on automobile owners, and the proposal would raise annual costs by \$15.

The town of Carrboro has issued a similar request. Both Chapel Hill and Carrboro would direct the extra funds to transportation.

Another request discussed Friday came in light of the Feb. 25 attack on a University student on Franklin Street.

Council members have asked that the legislature include sexual orientation as a protected category in the state's hate-crimes law.

"There is mobilization on this issue at the state level. A high percentage of bias crimes are based on sexual orientation. The hate crime statute should definitely include sexual orientation," said council member Mark Kleinschmidt.

Lawmakers showed support for the plan but said they weren't sure that it could pass.

"We definitely support it, but we don't know if it will go far in the General Assembly," Kinnaid said.

Opposition to a proposed state constitutional amendment that would deny recognition of same-sex marriages was also a request of council members.

The state already has a "defense of marriage" act on the books that bans same-sex marriages in the state.

"There is strong opposition in the community, and we hope you hold firm on this request to kill (the amendment)," Kleinschmidt said.

Equality NC, a gay-rights group, encourages any opponents of the amendment to attend tonight's

council meeting to show support.

Council members also discussed their endorsement of some of Gov. Mike Easley's 2005-07 budget proposals.

One such proposal would provide grants-in-aid of \$1 million to needy fire departments across the state. Chapel Hill would receive \$221,000.

Foy said the area's department is underfunded by \$500,000.

"The cost of our fire department is unaffordable, and we don't want the service to deteriorate," he said.

Chapel Hill Fire Chief Dan Jones said the new funding would allow the department to hire four additional firefighters within a year.

Another of Easley's proposals supported by the council aims to increase statewide law-enforcement communications funding by \$15 million.

Jones said local systems need an upgrade. "We deal with an antiquated radio system."

Ellis Hankins, executive director of the N.C. League of Municipalities, said the upgrade is feasible since law enforcement communication is linked with federal homeland security funding.

Other requests were mostly identified as being less feasible this session.

Council member Sally Greene proposed a repeal of a state law that denies collective bargaining rights to public employees.

But delegates advised against pushing the issue this year.

"You've got a hurdle that's going to take years to overcome," Kinnaid said.

Council member Jim Ward's proposal to create a statewide keg registration policy was discussed but legislators said it would lack the pull to pass through the assembly this year.

A repeal of the town's authority to operate traffic light cameras was dismissed as a technical issue that could be worked out later.

A range of other potential initiatives were presented, including regulation of electric personal vehicles, limiting involuntary annexation rights by municipalities and an adjustment in law enforcement benefits programs.

The council will finalize its official legislative agenda tonight at its business meeting, beginning at 7 p.m.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

FACULTY

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in Western Cultures minor that would include two introductory classes covering cultures from antiquity through the 20th century.

A student then would take three additional courses, one of which would be an advanced seminar that would cover two broad categories: "Literature and the Arts" and "History/History of Ideas."

Some faculty expressed concern about the courses being offered.

Dominguez said he is disappointed that the list of proposed authors does not include writers of Spanish influence, and Estroff said she is surprised that some of the proposed courses are now taught by faculty opposed to the curriculum.

"These concerns need to be addressed," Dominguez said.

But Gray-Little said the minor is a good step for the college.

"All of the programs are consistent with the goals of the college," Gray-Little said during the meeting.

Salaries and administrative costs related to the minor would cost \$880,000 for its first five years — a little less than one-fifth of the total \$4,882,000 requested for the entire program. Faculty members said this is an acceptable amount.

"I think if you are going to advance a curriculum, you at least

STUDIES IN WESTERN CULTURES

Administrators released a revised budget proposal for a proposed undergraduate curriculum, funded by the John William Pope Foundation. The following breaks down the funding during the next five years.

Studies in Western Cultures Minor	\$880,000
First Year Seminars	\$880,000
Honors Foundations	\$920,000
Undergraduate Research	\$250,000
Study Abroad	\$250,000
Fellowships in the Institute for Arts and Humanities	\$500,000
Distinguished Scholar in Residence	\$325,000
Distinguished Visiting Professor	\$450,000
Administration	\$427,000
Total Project Costs	\$4,882,000

SOURCE: COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

DTH/MARY JANE KAT.

have to do it with adequate funding," Estroff said.

The proposal also calls for the addition of 10 first-year seminars at a cost of \$880,000. Gray-Little said the seminars are necessary to accommodate growing student demand. The draft also proposes an "honors foundation" in Western cultures — a four-course sequence offered to freshmen and sophomores. The foundation would cost \$920,000 for its first five years.

The remainder of the proposal outlines faculty fellowships, summer research awards, study abroad schol-

arships, a distinguished scholar in residence and a distinguished visiting professor — all supported by the funding from the Pope Foundation. Estroff said the plan leaves questions unanswered, but that it is a step toward bridging the gap between faculty and administrators.

"I think it's fortunate that the document is out for review," Estroff said. "It's good that the faculty at least have a feeling that they know what's going on."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

PETITION

FROM PAGE 3
it has a different status than fraternities and other groups," Kinnaid said to UNC officials.

Still, administrators expressed satisfaction with the measures in place and suggested that any push for change be left to the next wave of student officials.

To quell students' concerns, Christopher Payne — associate vice chancellor for student services — recounted the measures UNC took last fall to ensure that students were aware of elections. The University set up bulletin boards and voter registration tables in the lobbies of campus housing areas.

Administrators suggested that UNC hold a one-day event in which all groups would be allowed to visit students' rooms, but Calabria met the proposal with little enthusiasm.

Near the end of the meeting, Kinnaid expressed doubt that anything will change.

"This is probably not going to go through the legislature without a legal challenge," Kinnaid said.

Calabria also conceded that the petition will not succeed.

"There's not really anything we can do about it."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

PASTRIES

FROM PAGE 3
who you're talking to, he said, speaking of his own interview with former first lady Rosalynn Carter in 1979.

"She asked one very clever question," he said, "What will you do for us?"

"I knew I was talking to a lady, so I said I would make low-calorie desserts with a lot of fresh fruit."

"If it were the president I would have said 'Lots of chocolate cake!'"

"So you see, I was ready for the White House."

Mesnier made his White House debut with yogurt tarts, which quickly became a Carter favorite. Ronald Reagan became a chocolate.

Ronald Reagan ate chocolate mousse, while George Bush savored chocolate cream pie, and his son prefers crème brûlée, Mesnier said.

Former first families can't quite forget Mesnier's culinary creations.

He was called on to make

fruit cobblers for opening of Clinton's presidential library last November.

"I tell you, nobody there knew that George (W.) Bush was president," he joked.

Nancy Reagan invited Mesnier to her husband's funeral last June. He spoke more of her than of anyone else.

She was "very demanding, very fussy," and molded him into the pastry chef he is today, he said.

Mesnier recalled a time when Nancy Reagan shot down idea after idea of his for a dessert fit for the Queen of the Netherlands.

"Even the president said, 'Honey, leave the chef alone,'" Mesnier said.

"She said, 'Nevermind. It's

none of your business.'

"And that was it."

Later, the first lady called and suggested he make baskets of sugar filled with six sugar tulips each. He protested — he had no assistants and only two days left.

Mesnier recalled that Nancy Reagan cocked her head to the side, saying, "Roland, you have two days and two nights."

"This is the life at the White House. Even now when I see her on TV," he said, tilting his head in imitation, "I get the chills."

But Mesnier said he makes sure he never loses sight of the fun.

He tries to keep things simple, forgoing cake flour and bread

flour for the all-purpose variety.

His favorite dessert is the humble apple pie, which he said he likes for its "American simplicity."

Ray Porter of Chapel Hill said it was the most enjoyable class he's ever had at A Southern Season.

"A lot of desserts are challenging, but he made it fun," he said. "But maybe there is such a thing as too much dessert."

At home, Mesnier tries to stay away from pastry, because he tastes enough on the job, he said.

His choice — fresh fruit.

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.


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PROGRAMS

HOW TO FIND A JOB AFTER GRADUATION: Learn how UCS can assist you with your job search. In this session, students will learn how to search for job leads, search alumni and employer research databases, and learn how to participate in on-campus interviews. Mon. Mar. 7 3p 239B Hanes

HOW TO WRITE AN EFFECTIVE RESUME: Construct a draft of your resume with instruction from a UCS counselor. Please bring your laptop. Mon. Mar. 7 4p 239B Hanes

SUMMER INTERNSHIP STIPENDS FOR NON PROFITS AND THE ARTS: UCS is offering stipends of up to \$1,000 to support undergraduates who will be performing unpaid internships in Non Profits or the arts this summer. Students must be returning to UNC in the fall. Further information and applications are available at the UCS front desk. Applications are due by 5 pm on March 31, 2005.

COMING SOON!
SPRING JOB FAIR. WED. MAR. 30 1-4P GREAT HALL

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for Employers Interviewing Apr. 4–Apr. 8

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Cintas Corporation (Rental), position details not yet available
Youth Villages, position details not yet available
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