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Board to decide tuition in a week



BOG Chairman Brad Wilson anticipates nonresident tuition hikes.

NONRESIDENT HIKES ARE LIKELY THROUGHOUT THE UNC SYSTEM

STAFF REPORT

The UNC governing body will finalize tuition plans for the 2005-06 academic year during its meeting next week, ending what has been a struggle for several system schools to ensure that they can make ends meet next year.

The Board of Governors will vote

one week from today on out-of-state and graduate tuition hikes after the Budget and Finance Committee meets Thursday to draft its proposal.

Several schools — including UNC-Chapel Hill — have said the revenue from tuition hikes is crucial in retaining faculty and funding enrollment growth.

The conclusion of tuition talks was

pushed back until March because members met in Wilmington last month. Chairman Brad Wilson promised student leaders that the board would wait to make any final decisions until the full board met in Chapel Hill, a more central location in the state.

In Wilmington, despite hearing pleas from 13 of the 16 UNC-system chancellors, the board unanimously decided to halt in-state tuition increases.

"The significant needs of the university cannot be met and solved by tuition alone," Wilson said during the meeting.

"We need to continue to work hard and partner with the General Assembly ... to solve the root causes of the problems."

This decision puts more pressure on nonresident students in the system to provide tuition revenue for universities.

"I have not had any expressions of opposition (to nonresident increases)," Wilson told The Daily Tar Heel on March 1. "It wouldn't surprise me if out-of-state (tuition) is ... approved in some amount at all the schools."

UNC-CH said it would not drop its proposals for nonresident and gradu-

ate hikes, which are \$950 and \$200, respectively.

University officials said in November that they're looking to tuition for \$5.4 million to \$5.6 million in revenue to pay for need-based aid, teaching assistant stipends, a merit-based salary increase for existing faculty and decreased class sizes.

Since the BOG dismissed resident tuition hikes, UNC-CH administrators aren't sure if they will have enough money to fund each of these areas fully.



"It was really up to the Student Supreme Court to decide what the intent of the Student Code is."

DOMENICK GRASSO, PLAINTIFF

Hate crime bill in Senate

BY LAURA YOUNGS
SENIOR WRITER

A bill introduced in the N.C. Senate on Thursday could expand the reach of hate crime statutes to include sexual orientation, but some say such a move would be a step in the wrong direction.

Sen. Jeanne Lucas, D-Durham, introduced a bill that would add age, gender, disability and sexual orientation to N.C. statutes on intimidation.

Such changes are essential for dealing with crimes based on sexual orientation, said Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange.

"It's very important for us to make sure that these crimes, which are over and above a simple assault, are dealt with in a way that sends a message that this conduct is not tolerated."

Kinnaird, who co-sponsored the bill, added that expanded statutes



N.C. Sen. Jeanne Lucas is the primary sponsor of the hate crime bill.

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Presiding Chief Justice Drew Erteschik (center) speaks with Student Congress member Domenick Grasso at a pretrial hearing Thursday. The Student Supreme Court threw out Grasso's case.

COURT DISMISSES CHARGES AGAINST CAA

BY JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

The Student Supreme Court took prompt and decisive action Thursday night, dismissing the case against the Carolina Athletic Association at a pretrial hearing.

Although Presiding Chief Justice Drew Erteschik said all four justices were in unanimous agreement in the decision, he declined to reveal the reasoning for granting the defense's motion to dismiss. Citing the Student Code, he said the court has until April 1 to release its rationale.

The court will not rehear the case, and there is no appeal process.

Domenick Grasso, a member of Student Congress and the plaintiff in the case, alleged that the CAA violated Title VII of the Code by retaining more than 40 men's basketball tickets for its members' use.

Although he said he will accept the court's ruling, Grasso still believes CAA is in the wrong.

"The CAA consistently and blatantly violated the Code, regardless of whatever the judgment might be by the Student Supreme Court,"

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Case adds to storied history

BY SHARI FELD
STAFF WRITER

Outspoken members of Carolina Review, the University's conservative student-run publication, sued top student government officials 10 years ago when their funding request was denied.

The suit called into action the Student Supreme Court, a once-thriving component of student government. It's responsible for interpreting the Student Code — the document outlining the rules for the branches of student government and some groups that receive funding from Student Congress.

The Court ruled that the politically partisan magazine could not receive University funding — a decision later changed after a ruling in a U.S. Supreme Court case.

"It represented a very sophisticated use of the Student Supreme Court," said Cal

Cunningham, who served as chief justice of the court from 1997 until 1999.

During the next four years, at least 12 cases were brought before the Student Supreme Court. But the body hasn't made a decision since 1999, when it took on a dispute about graduate student votes in Residence Hall Association elections.

Often, the threat of taking a case to the court is enough for the defendant to settle — which might have contributed to the court's downtime.

"I hope that it's indicative of students resolving their conflicts without needing to resort to the courts," Cunningham said.

When a Congress member sued the Carolina Athletic Association this week, student government officials were

SEE COURT, PAGE 4

Debate on kegs to land on floor

BY KAVITA PILLAI
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Chapel Hill Town Council members aren't the only ones hoping to curb underage drinking through a law implementing a statewide keg registration policy.

A bill proposed by Sen. Malcolm Graham, D-Mecklenburg, would require the purchaser of a keg to provide information including his name, address, telephone number, birth date, the keg's identification number and the address where the alcohol will be consumed.

The proposal was born from a legislative request by the Charlotte City Council.

But when members of Chapel

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ONLINE

Colleges aim to ease transition into teaching
Look to www.dthonline.com for the paper's complete coverage of the ACC Tournament during Spring Break.

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DIRTY WORK
Officials look through commercial trash for spare change PAGE 3



INSIDE

MOMENT OF SILENCE
Community members gather to meditate on life of man slated for execution PAGE 4

WEATHER

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SATURDAY A.M. rain, snow, H 45, L 28
SUNDAY Partly cloudy, H 56, L 29

