

Coalition can do more

BY KELLI BORBET
STAFF WRITER

Several student leaders, both the old guard and new blood, highlighted the importance of reaching beyond campus boundaries at last week's student government inauguration.

Yet some of those same leaders are questioning recent student efforts to form relationships with members of the state legislature.

Former Student Body President Matt Calabria created an advocacy group last year to engage students beyond student government in lobbying efforts. The Student University Advocacy Coalition, originally and informally still referred to as the Carolina Lobby Corps, emerged from student government to become a separate entity.

Students in SUAC took to Raleigh to lobby last summer. But as the year progressed, student government found itself responsible for more and more of the group's advocacy duties.

"It definitely took a different course than we expected, but ultimately SUAC's role went back to the student government," Calabria said.

The Calabria administration chose to make SUAC an independent entity in order to separate student government from particular stances on political or educational issues.

This separation allowed student government the appearance of objectivity, but it also left the coalition with less guidance from the start, causing some student officials to become dissatisfied with the group's efforts.

While the group did not accomplish all of its tasks, including scheduling a seminar on lobbying this semester, it effectively complemented the UNC Association of Student Governments' efforts to increase student presence in Raleigh, said Charlie Anderson, former speaker of Student Congress.

Ashley Castevens, chairwoman of the coalition, said the organization had some successes during its first year.

"With anything, it's hard to start something new and ambitious like this because its hard to accomplish everything," she said in response to criticism of the group. "It has definitely been a learning process."

Castevens noted that students

made a point to first work with UNC's allies in the legislature when lobbying issues and that they went to bat on important University issues — including tuition increases, the enrollment cap and budget cuts.

"Our lobbying has definitely been beneficial in trying to keep tuition low," she said.

Castevens noted that the coalition can tackle more issues next year through improved communication, especially with other executive branch officials.

Student Body President Seth Dearmin said the organization needs passionate students to serve as liaisons. Applications to lead SUAC, along with those to sit on Dearmin's Cabinet, are due April 15.

The student leaders questioning efforts the coalition made this year still agree on the group's importance and the possibilities it could access.

"It's important to have a group of students to make sure people in Raleigh are focused and know about issues that students at UNC feel are important," Dearmin said.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

ASG sees tweaks to budget

BY VICTORIA WILSON
STAFF WRITER

The 2005-06 budget for the UNC-system Association of Student Governments represents the new administration's goal for stronger leadership and more influence in national higher education issues.

President-elect Zach Wynne proposed a working budget Saturday during the last full ASG meeting of the year with several distinct changes from last year's budget. The association's \$170,000 budget comes from a \$1 student fee imposed at all 16 system schools.

The changes include increased money for executive cell phones, vice president stipends and federal campaigning.

Wynne, who will attend graduate school at Appalachian State University next year, is the first ASG president in seven years to come from a school outside of the Triangle.

For this reason, his budget sets aside \$1,200 for cell phone use. This past year, the two leading ASG officers — from N.C. State and Fayetteville State universities — spent about \$1,000 on cell phone plans.

"Being so far away, I'm going to be on the phone more than other presidents," Wynne said. "I can't afford a large cell phone bill."

The new budget also will increase monthly stipends for student officers from \$100 to \$150, though the increase does not apply to the president and senior vice president.



ASG President Zach Wynne stressed that he wants student feedback on the group's budget for 2005-06.

Wynne said the motive for the increase is to attract a wider range of students to the position and to make compensation proportional to the work involved.

"I have seen the amount of work they've done," he said. "The ASG can be a very rigorous job and demanding. I believe \$150 is fair compensation."

Jud Watkins, vice president of academic and student affairs said he thinks increasing stipends is fair because of the cost of attending meetings and the workload.

"I lost a whole lot of money this year because the stipend is so small, and I attended all the meetings," he said. "If people come in and see the work the officers do, people would understand the increase."

In addition to raising stipends, Wynne originally set aside \$10,000 for federal advocacy and \$8,000 to be used for state-level advocacy. But the Council of Student Body Presidents switched the amounts.

Wynne said that while he understands the change, he thinks the association's trip to Washington, D.C., ensures system students a voice at the federal level.

"The Congress does take up issues that affect our students," he

said. "We needed to make sure our voice is heard so that (the representatives) can support minimal cuts."

Jamen Miller, ASG senior vice president-elect, said money for sending delegates to the nation's capitol, communication with other states' student organizations and contact with the U.S. Students Association were taken into consideration when creating the budget.

If the trip to Capitol Hill does not happen, Wynne said the money will fund state-level activities.

Because the N.C. General Assembly will not be in session for most of the next academic year, Wynne plans to spend money on improving student voter guides and establishing a task force of students who will review the ASG's budget.

Victor Landry, senior vice president of the association, said that even though there will be a short session, efforts should be made to influence the system's Board of Governors because they determine tuition along with the General Assembly.

The budget will not be finalized until the association's first meeting of the 2005-06 academic year.

Wynne stressed that even after the budget is finalized, he still wants student opinion.

"(Miller and I) want people's input," he said. "I would welcome any kind of comments."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

THE Daily Crossword

By Victor Fleming

©2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

ACROSS

- 1 Engaged in battle
- 6 Railroad hitchhiker
- 10 Gillette razor
- 14 Alan Ladd classic
- 15 Author Haley
- 16 Unflappable
- 17 Tarnish
- 18 Last breath
- 19 Encryption
- 20 Double-play precluder
- 23 Deal in used goods
- 24 Salty seven
- 25 Quench
- 28 Intervene
- 32 Jolson and Hirt
- 35 Yup's antonym
- 37 Drunkard
- 38 Double jeopardy precluder
- 42 White poplar
- 43 Preliminary race
- 44 Neg. opposite
- 45 Fix potholes
- 47 Strainer
- 50 Former small import car
- 52 Exodus pharaoh
- 56 Double promotion precluder
- 60 Actress Gilpin
- 61 Winchester rival
- 62 Ouzo flavoring
- 63 Pathogenic

DOWN

- 1 Buzzing with activity
- 2 Clan chief
- 3 Homeless children
- 4 Potts and Lennox
- 5 Pass gossip
- 6 Arduous
- 7 Norwegian king
- 8 Poe poem, with "The"
- 9 Some daisies
- 10 Charge with
- 11 Chisel or hammer
- 12 Went for a spin
- 13 "Cakes and "
- 21 Argentine plain

CAMPS DOOM ERST
 ABORT IRMA RITE
 LUNAR ORBIT ANON
 LOCKSTEP GAS
 SCRIP T ORNATE
 ELON OPUS AIL
 ROUE PENT THING
 USN CIRCUIT EAU
 MEDIA LAPP IVAN
 OCT EPEE NICK
 DEIFIED CANOPY
 HAG SELFSAME
 ATOM FULLCIRCLE
 BELLA AREA SLOAN
 INFO TEAM SYNCS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20				21					22			
23								24				
25					26	27	28		29	30	31	
32	33	34			35			36		37		
38			39	40				41				
42					43				44			
45					46			47	48	49		
50					51			52		53	54	55
56	57				58	59						
60					61			62				
63					64			65				
66					67			68				

Congress unites sides of the aisle

BY ERIN ZUREICK
STAFF WRITER

When Student Congress representatives emerged from their first meeting Wednesday, they left with new leadership in place — and a more politically divided body.

Congress members elected Luke Farley, an outspoken Republican, to speaker and appointed Kris Gould, co-president of the Young Democrats, to speaker pro tempore. The two will work closely to determine Congress' agenda during the upcoming term.

Although Farley and Gould might represent two extremes of the political spectrum, both said their personal beliefs will not affect their objectivity. "No matter who you voted for in November, we want a better, stronger, more active Congress," Farley said.

Gould also said political differences won't create a divide between him and Farley.

"It'll be a lot of fun this way," he

said. "If anything, it will help us look at things from different angles."

Jennifer Orr, this year's speaker pro tempore, said Farley and Gould won't run into too many obstacles as long as they communicate well.

Farley said the majority of Congress' dealings are devoid of politics and that he does not anticipate any kind of rift developing between himself and Gould.

"Ninety-five percent of what we do is apolitical," Farley said. "That stuff doesn't factor in to what we do."

Orr said partisan topics do arise on occasion. During debates last session, Congress sometimes revealed a conservative-liberal split. Two resolutions — one condemning the selection of a speaker with ties to Planned Parenthood and another resolution denouncing flag burning on campus — ignited heated debate.

Yet, politics in Congress are limited to specific instances and should not harm daily operations, Orr said.

"Politics are usually confined to a single issue, and there is no long-term harm," she said.

While Congress officially is a nonpartisan organization, College Republicans and Young Democrats both endorsed candidates during February's student election. Eight endorsees from each group now are congressional representatives — about 40 percent of the body.

Megan Paul, a representative endorsed by College Republicans, said some members of Congress were concerned about the possible effects of a divided leadership.

Ultimately, Congress members were swayed by the commitment of Farley and Gould, she said.

"They are the two people who love Congress the most," she said.

"There's always a chance that something could come up, but they are working for the same things."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

ADHD/Ritalin Nation



A free lunch discussion sponsored by the UNC-Duke Health Policy Forum

Thursday, April 14, 12:30-1:45 pm
 Room 3209 of the Franklin Porter
 Graham Student Union

This presentation and discussion will trace the social, clinical, and political trends that led to the total number of ADHD diagnoses in the United States, focusing on three primary questions:

1. Why did the "ADHD/Ritalin" phenomenon take off in the early 1990's with millions of children newly diagnosed with the disorder and using psychostimulant drugs for the first time?
2. Second, why didn't it occur before then?
3. How did it occur at all?

The presentation concludes by examining the characteristics of both the childhood population in the U.S. diagnosed with AD/HD and the significant variability in psychostimulant consumption across the country.

The first 40 people to RSVP via email (mckethan@unc.edu) will receive a free boxed lunch from Foster's Market.

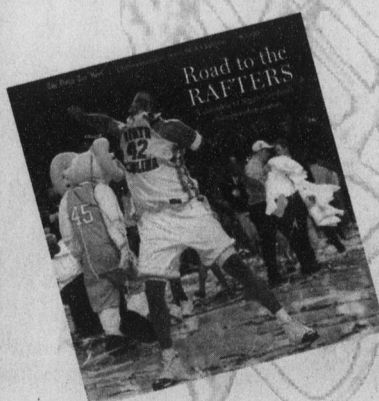
Diamond Shopping? Do it Right!!

Free 10x loupe (while supplies last)

BAUM DIAMONDS

400-B S. Elliott Rd., Chapel Hill, (919) 929-2286

The award-winning DTH sports staff will commemorate the road to the final 4 in a special magazine style format.



Available starting Tuesday at Bull's Head in Student Stores, Johnny T-shirt - the Carolina Store (mail orders too!), Tarheel Bookstore & Whole Foods for only \$5