THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2005

PRECINCT

ern Orange County would have had problems if the superprecincts had been implemented.

"Each place needed to be handicap accessible, have a real-time computer and be available for a week, she said. "There was no way we could have done it this November." The Internet was included

in superprecinct voting so that election officials could check an online database to prevent voting fraud.

Rep. Bill Faison, D-Orange, said superprecincts are advantageous in an urban setting like Chapel Hill but would hurt voter turnout in

coming from arts and humani-

ties, may not know her, ... but I

think they'll be very glad to hear

early this summer to speak at Fall

Commencement on Dec. 18 in the

"Of course I was very honored, pleased, and flattered that the

committee thought that I was an appropriate choice to speak at

Whisnant said the committee

is still working to select a speaker

for Spring Commencement, but

he declined to provide further

Last year, the speaker commit-

tee revealed its choice for Spring

Commencement – Harvard University professor and chap-

lain Peter Gomes - just days after making its choice for Fall

Commencement public. Pisano said she is thinking

about speaking about the balance

between family and work - an issue that she believes is of inter-

"I'm very active in the community

and I have my work, so that's very

George Lensing, an English pro-

fessor and director of the Office of

Distinguished Scholarships, gave

Pisano received her undergrad-

\$7.77 Student Value Menu

Medium 1 Topping Pizza

Large Cheese Pizza

"I have four children," she said.

est to graduates

important for me."

2.

the fall address last year.

aduation," she said.

Pisano said she was invited

SPEAKER

from her.

details.

Smith Center.

rural communities like northern Orange County.

"In most of northern Orange County there is no high-speed

Internet," he said. The plan as presented gave (northern Orange County) voters ewer places to vote."

The benefits of superprecinct voting might have been more obvious on campus. Kinnaird said students often are confused and frustrated by the current voting recincts.

"They came to me and said they still didn't know where their pre-

cincts were," she said. Student Body Vice President Adrian Johnston said he is disappointed the measure won't come

uate degree in philosophy from Dartmouth College and attended medical school at Duke University. She completed her medical resi-

"I was inspired to go into wom-en's health research because of

the death of my own mother," she said. "She died when I was in high

school, so I wanted to do some-

thing to help other families who

Pisano has been a member of

"I love being at a public univer-y," she said. "The fact that we

teach students from all over the

state, take care of patients from

all over the state, the fact that we

serve the state - that's very impor-

Pisano also said the accessibility

to education is an element of the

"If you can apply and be accept-ed, you can study here, whether or not you can pay," Pisano said. She has heard a number of

commencement and special event

speakers, she said, and she hopes she will be able to leave a lasting

something that means something to the graduates and their fami-lies," Pisano said. "I don't want to

be meaningless or forgotten, which

I've seen happen to speakers many

"If anything, I just want to say

impression on her audience.

University that she loves.

face those same difficulties."

the UNC faculty for 16 years.

sity,

times.

dency at Harvard University.

to fruition.

"It's a good thing all around," he said. "It's a good thing for students of all political colors.

Seth Dearmin, student body president, said voter identification became a sticking point for Republicans while the bill was discussed.

"It became a partisan issue in the House," he said. "It throws a huge wrench in the plans."

Dearmin said he plans on following up on the superprecinct issue by talking to the members of the board of elections and Kinnaird to find a compromise.

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

TUITION

able increase for UNC-Chapel Hill next fiscal year would be \$465.05,

Under the same calculation, N.C. State University officials could ask for a hike of up to \$437.65.

"Planned increases in North Carolina that would be consistent with peer increases nationwide would be less erratic and would keep North Carolina's schools in approximately the same relative position to our peers over time," said the proposal prepared for Friday's meeting, the first sched-

During the past five years, UNC-system tuition hikes have fluctuated between 2.5 and 16.5 percent of tuition costs, while national peer schools have stayed between 6.5 and 11.2 percent during the past four years.

The program - which Gage said is one of several ideas up for debate — aims to keep tuition for system schools within the bottom 25 percent of comparable schools.

measure of predictability when making requests to the board.

can, in good faith, anticipate approval," the proposal states. "Are they comfortable with

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu. "Are they comfortable with us finding a range of operation,

based on a comparison to increases at other public universities.

uled for the task force.

The new policy would be designed to give each campus a

"If campuses adhere to the guidelines and the policy ... the campuses

From Page One

TASK FORCE

of the meeting debating how the money should be distributed to University needs. Shelton encouraged this approach, because the numerical details of a tuition proposal prob-ably will be revised before they go

through the stages of approval. "Because whatever comes out of this group I can guarantee will not be put into effect," he said.

"I don't say this in any critical sort of way. There are too many layers of governance. ... They bring their own perspective."

whether it's looking at the bottom quartile or bottom third of public institutions?" Gage said. "I think that's what we want to hear from the committee members." UNC Association of Student

Governments President Zack Wynne, who is serving on the task force, said he has concerns about the examination of hard tuition figures so early in the process.

"If it starts going in that direction. I might raise a flag or two," he said. But Gage said any numbers to be examined are not set in stone and should be considered merely as an early-stage proposal.

"We've got some ideas we're going to throw out to get it started, just to give it some form," she said. "We're not starting this meeting with a particular destination in mind"

The task force was formed after a legislative battle this summer in the N.C. General Assembly spotlighted the possibility of tuition autonomy for UNC-CH and NCSU.

Though full tuition autonomy for the system's flagship schools failed to gain enough support, board members pledged to exam-ine new tuition policies to meet their unique needs.

Steve Bowden, a member of the task force, said the group will work toward making a decision on tuition policy relatively soon.

"We'd like to do this by Christmas," he said.

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During the task force's final meeting, set for Oct. 10, the group will finalize plans for a recommendation to Moeser

From there, the proposal is set go before the University Board to of Trustees in November and on to the UNC-system Board of

Governors in early 2006. Although the task force has largely avoided solidifying any plans, members overwhelmingly supported putting tuition revenue toward increasing the minimum ching assistant stipend.

Most agreed that the money should raise the minimum teaching assistant salary \$1,000, to \$7,000. Increasing the campus's mini-

mum TA salary would require almost \$1.1 million in tuition revenue, according to information presented to the task force at the

meeting. The University must put resources to improving gradu-ate students' benefits, task force members say, or it risks losing top

EDWARDS

sible for everyone. He is working on a program in North Carolina to make that a reality.

"We're working to put a model program in place here in North Carolina so kids who are willing to work during college can go their first year tuition free," he said. These are all ideas to try to give kids from families that have been in the cycle of poverty a real chance

a chance to do better." During the election season Edwards often spoke of two Americas - the haves and the have-nots — and has since continued to work at closing the gap.

He met with victims of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana on Sept. 12 to get a sense of who was hit the hardest by the storm and to assess the situation, he said. "In the centers where the evacu-

ees were located, it was almost all black," he said. "I think it's just a typical example of what I did talk about with the two Americas."

Edwards said that his efforts to end and raise awareness of poverty across the country such as his trip to the Gulf Coast and the college tour are separate from his work at UNC.

He said he will be working with everyone at the center to find out what is causing poverty in the coun-

students to other institutions. Most graduate students are financially independent, members

say, and they rely on assistantship positions to ease tuition costs. Faculty members on the task force said raising stipends would

be popular among their peers. Dearmin told task force members that most undergraduates would support raising stipends, because they realize how beneficial TAs are in the classroom.

He said he would not oppose easonable tuition increases long as they went to real needs on campus

campus. "By golly, they gotta be priorities and things that we need, not just things we want," he said. Dearmin will hold a forum

tonight to relay his position to the student body and to gauge their concerns. The forum will be at 8 p.m. tonight in Murphy 116.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

ON THE AGENDA

is working to provide aid to low-income state students

Is launching nationwide tour to raise awareness of poverty

Is co-chairman of the U.S.-Russian relations task force

try and to develop creative ideas about how to end it. "Our job here is to focus on the causes of poverty and to come up with serious solutions about how to eliminate pov-

erty in this country," he said. He stressed the importance of having community members and students as well as faculty and staff at the University involved in the center and its activities.

He and his family are moving to Chapel Hill when their house is finished this spring, he said. His children already are in school in Chapel Hill at Frank Porter raham Elementary School. G

At 52 years old, Edwards still has time to return to his career as a politician. But he said he does not plan to run for office at this time.

"I have a campaign now - it's to do something about poverty in the country," he said. "And that's where I'm going to stay focused right now."

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should go. Members spent a large part