

Proposed fees increase rejected by committee

BY SHANNON CONNELL
STAFF WRITER

The student fee audit committee voted down a proposed \$50 hike in student fees Monday evening that sought to enhance UNC's Olympic sports program — specifically through the renovation of Carmichael Auditorium.

The proposed allocation follows a previously approved \$100 increase passed by the UNC Board of Governors in March.

Athletic Director Dick Baddour told committee members the proposal is the final phase of a 15- to 20-year Olympic sports program to generate approximately \$1.2 million annually.

The program seeks to support nonrevenue sports by increasing coach salaries, covering operating costs and improving the condition of existing facilities.

But students in the committee were hesitant to approve the proposal.

Anisa Mohanty, chairwoman of Student Congress's finance committee, expressed concern that

students would not see a change in facilities while at UNC.

"I am extremely uncomfortable with this fee increase," she said. "I am worried students won't see the benefits."

The renovation of Carmichael Auditorium was the focus of the projected plan Monday, specifically the need to provide air conditioning, enhance the sound system and improve conditions of the gym on the whole for the UNC women's basketball team.

"I believe that Carmichael is a tremendous venue for women's basketball," Baddour said.

The renovations are projected to take place next fall and are estimated to continue for a two-and-a-half-year period.

During the meeting, Baddour said officials have experienced difficulties raising money for the auditorium.

"Sometimes we've been able to completely fundraise a project," he said. "We've tried to raise the money for Carmichael. We've not been successful."

Martina Ballen, senior associate

athletic director for business and finance, pointed out to the committee that it is often difficult to raise funds for women's sports.

"Unfortunately it is more likely to happen on men's side than women's," she said.

The proposed increase in student fees also does not meet the needs of many other sports at UNC.

"We still have issues with gymnastics, volleyball, fencing and wrestling," Baddour said.

Other programs excluded are baseball, rowing and sports medicine. The necessity for renovations at the Smith Center is another problematic area that remains unaddressed, Baddour said.

During the meeting, the committee also threw its support behind the creation of a \$50 administrative computing fee.

The need for technological improvement of the Student Information System was a major goal of the proposal.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Unions concern lawmakers

Plan a move to ban recognition

BY RICHARD M. COE III
STAFF WRITER

Some N.C. legislators are hoping a new Connecticut statute will not become the basis for challenging the state's laws against same-sex marriage.

A bill approved in April in the Conn. legislature became active last weekend, allowing civil unions between same-sex couples.

The new Conn. law is likely to have an effect on the N.C. General Assembly when it reconvenes next May.

Republican lawmakers — along with at least a few Democrats — will push an amendment to North Carolina's Constitution to ban any recognition of same-sex marriages or unions, said Kevin Howell, spokesman for the N.C. Republican Party.

The Defense of Marriage bill, introduced during the regular 2005 session, would "amend the Constitution to provide that marriage is the union of one man and one woman at one time, and this is the only marriage that is recognized as valid in this state."

"This law in Connecticut is alarming, which makes it more important that we see something

done in North Carolina," Howell said.

North Carolina has already adopted a "Defense of Marriage Act," which stipulates that the state does not have to recognize same-sex marriages, including those performed in other states.

House Majority Leader Joe Hackney, D-Orange, said the law is fine as it is.

"It's all just Republican politics," he said. "Most people don't see the point in (an amendment) except as a political exercise for the Republican party."

But some lawmakers insist that an amendment is needed because they fear that same-sex couples legally joined in Vermont and Connecticut will move to North Carolina and challenge state laws.

A similar bill was proposed in 2004, but it was never brought to a vote.

"We're very pleased that the legislature did not spend time writing discrimination into our constitution and focused on issues that really mattered to North Carolinians," said Ian Palmquist, executive director for programs at Equality N.C.

In order for the legislature to pass the amendment proposal, a three-fifths majority is necessary in both the House and Senate.

If both the House and Senate approve the bill, then a referendum would be placed on the next election

"If an amendment was proposed, it would pass overwhelmingly."

KEVIN HOWELL,
SPOKESMAN, N.C. REPUBLICAN PARTY

ballot, giving N.C. citizens the final say about altering the Constitution.

Howell said he is confident that an amendment would clear that hurdle, if allowed to come to a vote.

Last session, the proposal remained stuck in the Senate rules committee, which is led by Sen. Majority Leader Tony Rand, D-Cumberland.

"If an amendment was proposed, it would pass overwhelmingly in both the Senate and the House," Howell said. "Why are a few key Democrats blocking it, one must wonder."

A Civitas Institute poll conducted in June found that 71 percent of North Carolinians were more inclined to vote for the amendment.

When asked about the likelihood of convincing lawmakers to vote down an amendment, Palmquist was far from optimistic. "It would certainly be an uphill battle for us."

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

POLICE LOG

■ A UNC-Wilmington student was cited early Saturday morning for possession of marijuana, Chapel Hill police reports state.

James Vincent Knight, 19, of 1660 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., was arrested at 1:07 a.m. at Mary Scroggs Elementary School, 501 Kildaire Road, according to reports.

Officers approached Knight's car after they detected a strong odor of marijuana and asked him to hand them the drugs, reports state.

Knight was in possession of 29.75 grams of marijuana, according to reports.

He was cited and released, reports state. He is scheduled to appear in District Criminal Court on Nov. 7, according to reports.

■ A 19-year-old student received a citation for urinating in public early Saturday morning, Chapel Hill police reports state.

Andrew J. Seymour, of Huntersville, was cited at 1:58 a.m. at

316 W. Rosemary St. after an officer observed him urinating on a public sidewalk, according to reports.

Seymour is set to appear in District Criminal Court on Nov. 7, reports state.

■ A Tar Heel Temps employee was arrested Saturday on charges of impaired driving and speeding, according to Chapel Hill police reports.

Kathryn Hast, 26, of 303 Crest Drive, was stopped at 2:01 a.m. at 100 W. Rosemary St. after an officer saw she was speeding, reports state. According to reports, during a traffic stop the officer found Hast had been driving while impaired.

Hast was released on written promise to appear in District Criminal Court on Nov. 8, reports state.

■ Two vehicles in the Manning S-11 parking lot were broken into Saturday, according to police reports.

The front passenger window of a 2004 Acura MDX was broken sometime between 12:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., reports state. A purse containing \$500 dollars in cash, four credit cards each valued at \$500 and two checkbooks was stolen from inside the vehicle, according to reports.

A gray 1999 GMC Suburban parked across from the Acura also was subject to larceny Saturday, reports state. A Valentine radar detector valued at \$600 along with a purple change pouch and \$20 in cash were taken. The owner of the vehicle said she locked the doors before she left, according to reports.

■ A car belonging to a UNC student was broken into between 1:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Saturday, according to police reports.

The right front window was shattered and various cassette discs and rented movies, totaling \$120, were taken, reports state.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

■ The N.C. Botanical Garden's exhibition of sculptures by artists with state ties will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today. The 18th-annual event began Sept. 17 and will last until Nov. 18. The exhibit includes stainless steel, stone and ceramic pieces.

■ "Jack Kerouac: The Road Revisited" will be exhibited from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today at Wilson Library in the Rare Book Collection in the Melba Remig Saltarelli Room. To arrange gallery talks or class visits, call 962-1143.

■ The Sonja Haynes Stone Center will host a lunch and movie showing — as part of the Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Films — at noon today in the Hitchcock Multipurpose Room. The film short, "I Know What you Did Last Semester," is by Tameka Wilson. Call 962-9001 to reserve a free lunch.

■ The faculty athletics committee will meet from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. today in South Building 105. The group discusses academics for varsity athletes and oppor-

tunities for faculty to be more involved with athletics, among other issues.

■ "The Untold Story: The 19 Year War of Abduction and Child Soldiering in Uganda," featuring Arthur Serota, executive director of the United Movement to End Child Soldiering, and Kahlil Almustafa, critically acclaimed "people's poet" and 2002 Nuyorican Grand Slam Champion, will be shown at 6 p.m. today in the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History's Cobb Theater.

■ The Robertson Scholars Program will present its third seminar from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. today at Duke University's physics building, room 114. David Pimentel of Cornell University will discuss the status and potential of biofuel production in the United States.

■ "Artist's Books & Other Ephemera," an exhibit that opened Sept. 19 at the John and June Allcott Gallery of the Hanes Art Center, runs through Oct. 27.

■ Somerhill Gallery in Chapel Hill is running an exhibit featuring abstract oil paintings by Millie Jarrett and stone sculpture by Dean Leary. The exhibit, which opened Sept. 25, is scheduled to run through Oct. 20.

■ The Chapel Hill Town Council committee on communications will meet at 8 a.m. Wednesday in the second floor conference room of Town Hall to discuss the 2005-06 Communications Plan and to consider a request from the greenways commission for use of a pine cone logo.

To make a calendar submission, visit www.dailytarheel.com for a list of submission policies and contacts. Events must be sent in by noon the preceding publication date.

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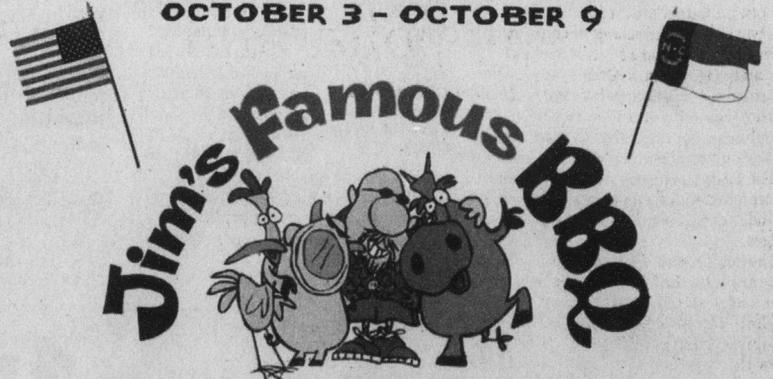
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