

HOOPS LEAGUE

FROM PAGE 1

New to Chapel Hill and eager to join the league, Beever volunteered as a captain and put together his team.

"I thought it would be a great chance to meet people," he said.

Although Beever joined the league as a free agent, most returning teams are made up of members who have worked together.

"Consistent teams tend to come from specific departments," Van Sloten said.

Although the games are com-

"Usually employees have a strong desire to play."

DUSTIN VAN SLOTEN, DIRECTOR OF INTRAMURAL AND RECREATIONAL SPORTS

petitive, players have varying levels of experience. Beever said no one on his team played in college.

The games consist of two 20-minute halves and are officiated by student referees.

In order to officiate, students must participate in a training program.

The faculty league has existed for about 10 years, Pomerantz

said.

Despite Van Sloten's insistence on the intensity of the games, busy schedules and time constraints sometimes can pose problems.

"I volunteered to be the captain," Beever said, "and I just hope everybody shows up."

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DISTANCE

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ence to people who could never take time off to return to campus," she said.

Spieler said overall online enrollment grew nationwide by more than 18 percent to 2.35 million students in 2004.

"The distance education program is thriving at UNC," said Linda Carl, the head of the office of education and e-learning policy in the William and Ida Friday Center at UNC-CH.

In addition to offering online courses that students can take from their homes, UNC-CH's distance education program offers on-site courses in which professors travel to meet with students at an off-campus site, Carl said.

This adds the element of face-to-face communication that is often missing from distance education programs.

But a lack of personal interaction, typical of distance education programs, has not inhibited their statewide growth.

"We're making real progress in meeting the distance education needs of people in North Carolina," said James Sadler, associate vice president for academic planning in the UNC system.

North Carolina offers 234 distance learning programs in 83 content areas, Sadler said. Online degree programs also have

increased from six in 2000 to 89 in 2006.

But this growth might not be as much as other states are experiencing, Carl said.

Sadler explained the gap in growth as a reflection of other states' need to accommodate larger populations.

"A state like Texas that has a lot more people might have a lot more programs," he said.

UNC-system President Erskine Bowles has said expanding distance learning initiatives statewide would be a university priority to educate as many North Carolinians as possible and keep the state competitive.

But there are also some downsides to distance education, including the longer preparation time required of professors and high costs, Carl said.

In addition, professors frequently are not given any special incentives to take on the extra work load.

"Funding is an issue because it takes a lot of money to get funding established for an online course," Carl said. "For quality, it almost always takes a lot of money up front."

Paul B. Mohr, director of special programs for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, said the Southern Regional Education Board, a 16-state organization of which North Carolina is a member, is undergoing a col-

"We're making real progress in meeting the distance education needs of ... North Carolina."

JAMES SADLER, ACADEMIC PLANNING laborative effort to minimize these costs.

"We make available courses and programs through the electronic campus," Mohr said.

"That increases accessibility and affordability for our constituencies."

Bill Gentry, director of the Community Preparedness and Disaster Management Program at UNC-CH, said it can be stressful not having the luxury of adding material during his lectures. He has to ensure that the information students download is correct and complete the first time.

But he added that teaching such courses also offers its rewards.

For instance, his students are more willing to express themselves in writing than participate in normal face-to-face class discussions.

"I enjoy it because you really can get more unabashed opinions," he said.

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REGISTRATION

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Before a merit-based system can be put in place, Cathcart said his committee is working on extending the advising period from one week to two weeks, further spreading registration times between seniors and the rest of undergraduates.

Other proposed changes on the survey included slotting students randomly into registration times and slotting students according to total credit hours. But both were unpopular, Cathcart said.

A conditional add/drop option — which would allow students to

waitlist an excess of courses and drop classes accordingly once a full schedule is attained — and a book bag approach, similar to a "shopping cart" found at online retailers, were other ideas floated by Poehls and student government.

"These ideas are all kind of lofty and not happening this year," Cathcart said.

The current system is decades old and will only allow 100 students on the server at a time when there may be as many as 2,000 students attempting to log on, he said.

The mainframe limits the amount of students capable of logging on, and there currently is no

way to correct it, she said.

"This is more complicated than a server issue," said Poehls, who is serving her first year as University registrar.

She served as registrar at the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign for six years before being tapped for the post.

Both Poehls and Cathcart said they will continue investigating possible improvements — but nothing major is in the works.

"Right now, the next best thing is the current system," Cathcart said.

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SBP RACE

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— often in an attempt to reach more potential voters early on in the campaign.

UNC law student Matt Liles, a former student body president candidate, said the petition process allowed him to meet many voters.

"I got a majority of signatures myself, and it really helped me," Liles said.

The number of signatures a candidate collects can also be an indication of their success in the general election.

Matt Calabria, who beat out seven competitors to become student body president in 2004, gathered 1,438 names — more than any of the other candidates.

The ability to garner a substantial number of signatures also can be a not-so-subtle way at revealing the size of a campaign staff, said Tom Jensen, who ran for student body president last year.

He said candidates with more signatures often translates into more successful campaigns.

Holloway said members of his campaign each have pledged to collect a set number of signatures, and he expects the total number will be much more than 800.

"It's a sign of strength, and we're actively working to get as many as possible," Holloway said.

But Allred, who also expects to go beyond 800 signatures, said he thinks there is not always a relationship between number of signatures and success on election day.

"That correlation is not necessarily true," Allred said, adding that factors which can't so easily be counted often come into play.

As the campaign season swings into high gear at 5 p.m. today in the Class of 2000 Lounge with the Campus Y's candidates forum, numbers also will play a role for the two candidates as they compete for endorsements from various campus groups.

Endorsements can be a sign of a candidate's ability to reach to a broad demographic of students — although the person with the most endorsements doesn't necessarily win the election.

Jensen garnered the most

endorsements last year — six from politically active groups such as the Black Student Movement, Young Democrats, College Republicans — yet he finished a distant third in the election.

"I don't think it helps much," he said.

But Holloway said he saw the endorsement process as a way to demonstrate the popularity of one's platform. "Endorsements reflect bases of support."

Allred said he also is looking to the forums as an effective way to broadcast his message.

"It's a great way to reach many students at once," he said.

Allred said he has been involved with numerous campus organizations and believes his platform is likely to reflect the positions of Young Democrats, which may help him in their forum.

Holloway said he hopes to receive endorsements from the Campus Y and the Black Student Movement, both groups with which he is involved.

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TUITION

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before it goes to the UNC-system Board of Governors.

Dearmin said he and student leaders at other system schools realized that money from the state is declining slowly, and that tuition increases are needed to maintain quality.

Most campuses have voted on this year's recommendations and have approved increases within the cap set by the BOG last semester.

Calabria said he supported judicious increases and working with the administration, instead of voting against them.

"I think we set the model for other student governments because we took on a collaborative approach," Calabria said. "It's very difficult to get your way through by strong arming."

Bradley Ballou, student body president at UNC-Wilmington, said he voted for the tuition increase this year.

"I'm sending a more powerful message by voting for it," he said. "You should not look to the UNC system as somewhere to cut money."

The UNC-W tuition task force included seven student members out of 14.

The group approved a \$322 increase in tuition and fees for students. But, with extra fees such as one parking on campus, students could expect prices to reach \$803.

He said that while he understood that the increases would be going toward worthwhile causes such as

retaining professors at the campus, he lamented the increases for students across the system campuses.

"We've gone from second to 18th in affordability," he said.

Ballou said that while N.C. higher education is becoming more expensive, he is encouraged by the high level of involvement from the student presidents.

"I think they were involved in the process more this year than in years past," he said.

He said he expects that Erskine Bowles, the new UNC-system president, will bring a practical outlook to the tuition increases and will attempt to cut costs for students, noting efforts to create a textbook rental policy.

A few student presidents still found the tuition increases unacceptable and voted against them at BOT meetings.

The students at Appalachian State University are facing the largest tuition increases in the UNC system, a \$1,053 increase for on-campus students and a \$740 increase for off-campus students.

Jud Watkins, ASU student body president, said his student government created an internal task force to monitor the tuition debate and organized a "speak-out" for students to voice opposition to the proposed increases.

When these tactics did not work, Watkins made a personal plea to the board, said Susie Greene, dean of students and associate vice chancellor for student development.

"He made a plea to the Board of Trustees that there are other places to find funds," she said. "It was still passed by the board."

Watkins said there were several factors leading to the large increase, including a lack of adequate state funding and alumni who were not able to financially donate as much as other schools.

"Historically, we're a teaching school," he said. "It's not the most affluent group."

Watkins said that ASU is currently 15th in the UNC system for state funding, and that he anticipates they will drop to 16th this year.

"The only solution is putting it on the backs of the students," he said.

Whil Piavis, of N.C. State University, is another student body president who voted against tuition increases.

NCSU students organized a "Chained by Tuition" protest at a BOT meeting, presenting a paper chain protesting the recommended increases.

"It was the result of a lot of hard work for our students," said Tom Stafford, vice chancellor for student affairs at NCSU. But, he added, the action seems to have been in vain.

"It had no impact on the Board of Trustees," he said. "They had pretty much made up their minds."

Piavis said the students did make an impact on the meeting because more money is now going to financial aid. He said he encourages all UNC-system students to speak out if they disagree with hikes.

"The students need to do all that they can do to express their discontent with tuition increases."

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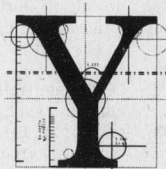
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