

BOG will name new leader

Tuition group could present updates

BY STEPHEN MOORE
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

The first item on the docket for the UNC-system Board of Governors on Thursday will be replacing current Chairman Brad Wilson.

Wilson will be stepping down after four years at the post.

"My guess is (BOG member) Jim Phillips is going to be the next chair," said emeritus BOG member Benjamin Ruffin.

"Jim will follow Brad's work and will do an excellent job."

Wilson said that Phillips is the only person he knew of vying for the position, noting that he would be a good fit to lead the board.

"He's well prepared for this service," Wilson said. "He will bring a lot of energy and vision to the board leadership."

Phillips, who has served on the board since 1997, including two terms as chairman of the budget and finance committee, and who

previously served as UNC-Chapel Hill student body president, said he was excited about the opportunities and challenges he could face as chairman.

"We have the challenge of trying to make the (system) more relevant or as relevant as it can be in the lives of every North Carolinian," he said.

"Focusing on how to do that with each school, which has different strengths and serves different constituencies in the state, is something that we desperately need to focus on."

Jonathan Ducoite, president of the Association of Student Governments from 2002 to 2004, said that with the shift in leadership could come a basic shift in system policy.

"With the new president and with the new board chairman, there are going to be new ideas that are put on the table," he said.

"I imagine that there could be a

few fundamental changes."

Among those changes could be a comprehensive tuition policy, Ducoite said.

"I think there might be discussions to find value in a low cost education," he said.

The board's tuition task force has been examining that issue since they released an initial report last February suggesting a campus-based tuition increase format that would look to peer institutes for economic guidance.

New information could come forward during the upcoming board meeting, said committee Chairwoman Hannah Gage.

"We hope to update the board on where the president is with his tuition proposal at this week's meeting," Gage said.

"I think that (UNC-system) President Erskine Bowles has been working hard on that, but at the same time he has had a whole lot of other things on his plate."

"I think that we will get some idea from him this week about what a

reasonable timeline is for us to draw the committee's work to a close."

But Jeff Davies, Bowles' chief of staff, said he did not anticipate such an update.

"We want to make sure that as the president makes his recommendations to the task force that it has the collective will of the president and the chancellors," Davies said.

"I think that by the time the August meeting comes around we will see ... that the task force has completed its work and will report to the board."

Also prior to the full board meeting Friday, presenters from both East Carolina University and UNC-Greensboro will explain their work with online education courses.

"President Bowles is having a workshop on Friday morning," Wilson said. "He is very interested in accelerating our long distance education."

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

County schools shuffle students

BY GRAY CALDWELL
CITY EDITOR

There have been mixed reactions from parents regarding news of Gravelly Hill Middle School's delayed opening.

But from the few responses Orange County Schools has received, it seems most parents accept the Board of Education's plan.

"It's one of those things that was not foreseen," said board chairman Randy Copeland. "Most parents have been understanding."

Gravelly Hill, the district's third middle school, will open more than a month later than expected, forcing students assigned to the school to attend C. W. Stanford Middle School until Gravelly Hill is completed.

Stanford principal Richard Kozak said many of the students zoned for Gravelly Hill currently attend Stanford, so they will simply remain there until the new middle school is ready.

Forty students will move from the A.L. Stanback Middle School district to Stanford for the first part of the school year before moving on to Gravelly Hill.

Gayane Chambless, president of the Stanback PTSA, said she might have preferred a different plan but added that she hasn't heard much reaction from other parents.

Chambless said one parent wondered why students couldn't stay at Stanback until Gravelly Hill opened.

"She didn't understand why the kids would have to be moved twice," she said. "I have talked to one other

parent, and that child actually wanted to go ahead and move with her friends over to Stanford."

"We do what we have to do to make our kids comfortable in a school setting, and you kind of move forward."

Kozak said the 40-student enrollment increase at Stanford will be very manageable for the school and administration.

"It won't really be a major impact on us," he said.

The 40 students will be rising sixth- and seventh-graders. Eighth-graders will be allowed to stay at Stanback.

Gravelly Hill's delay is caused by an issue with water and sewer installation, but the school board hopes Gravelly Hill students will only attend Stanford for 25 school days.

"The contractors are telling us that their deadline is Aug. 1," Copeland said. "Hopefully we can get in a little sooner."

School board member Libbie Hough said Gravelly Hill students at Stanford will have separate buses, teachers and rooms from other students so that they can be in the same classes when they move to the new middle school.

"The only difference is going to be on day 26, ideally, they'll be doing everything they've been doing at Stanford at Gravelly Hill," she said.

"This is not something that we wanted to have happen, but I'm not sure that we have really another option before us."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Newly annexed residents pen worries

BY TOM HARTWELL
STAFF WRITER

Some of Carrboro's newest residents, many of whom are still sore about being annexed into the town, have been given a chance to sound off.

A town advisory board is tallying the results of a survey asking residents of neighborhoods annexed in January what issues are most important to them.

"We're hoping to have the results before the next meeting," said Peggy Vincent, a member of the New Horizons Task Force — the group that issued the survey and distributed it door to door to about 300 new residents.

The one-page surveys ask residents to rank issues such as bus service, road maintenance and school overcrowding. They will be presented to the Board of Aldermen after the task force reviews them.

The deadline to return the survey, which is also posted on the town Web site, is today.

Richard Goldberg, assistant department chairman of biomedical engineering at the University,

lives in the annexed Fox Meadow neighborhood. He said his two biggest concerns were new development and a bike path connecting his neighborhood to downtown Carrboro to make for an easier commute to the University.

Goldberg said that his taxes are more than \$1,000 higher now that he is a Carrboro resident but that the only service he has received is trash pickup. On Tuesday, he said that he hadn't filled out his survey but that he planned to.

Laura Van Sant, a member of the task force, shared Goldberg's sentiments about property development.

"There's a lot of vacant tracts of land near the annexed areas that people are looking at for possible development, and I think people are concerned about that," she said.

Alderman Randee Haven-O'Donnell, who came up with the idea for the group and is one of its two liaisons to the town, said the surveys were important to fostering trust between the town and its newest residents.

"I think it's very important for the health of the community," she

said. "I certainly hope they got some good responses."

Van Sant said that she delivered about 50 surveys around her neighborhood and that many people were still upset about being annexed.

Katrina Ryan, an outspoken opponent of annexation who ran for the Board of Aldermen last year, said she was not confident that the town would listen to the concerns identified by the survey.

"Do I think the concerns of newly

annexed residents will be taken into consideration and influence their decisions on these issues? No."

Ryan said she did not fill out a survey.

The annexation task force will hold its next meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at the Homestead Community Center. The meeting is open to the public.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Black's position could be up for grabs in fall

BY STEPHEN MOORE
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

As North Carolina legislators struggle to finalize the budget, a single question hovers above them, lingering in the not-so-distant future.

Allegations against House Speaker Jim Black, D-Mecklenburg, and a few of his aides pertaining to campaign ethics have left open the possibility for a change in the leadership in the House.

Just how likely such a shift could be remains uncertain.

"Each year when we start a new session, it actually starts a new ballgame as far as who the players may be," said House Majority Whip Larry Bell, D-Sampson. "(Speaker Black) would not automatically go into the speaker position."

Bell noted that the Democratic party must win a majority in the November elections to maintain the ability to choose the speaker.

While the players haven't offi-

cially announced their candidacies, several names have been floating around, including that of House Majority Leader Joe Hackney, D-Orange.

When asked if he was actively seeking the speakership, Hackney declined to comment.

Yet support for Black still exists within the House, and with his declaration last month that he indeed would run again for the post, a changing of the guards might not come to pass.

"I like what Speaker Black has

done," said Rep. Joe Tolson, D-Edgecombe. "He has been a strong supporter of the eastern part of the state. I can't turn my back on somebody that has been that supportive of me."

In a meeting held before the legislative session started this summer, the House Democratic Caucus also decided to stick with Black, at least for the remainder of the session.

In order to remove Black from office, the N.C. House would need to impeach him upon grounds of maladministration, corruption or unconstitutional acts.

The Senate would then be required to try the impeachment, and if two-thirds of senators present voted for conviction, Black could be removed from his position, as well as from office.

Rep. Ray Rapp, D-Haywood, said that, as with every year, he expects a battle over the speaker position.

However, with the proposal for the House budget slated to emerge from committee next week, Rapp said such worries seem too distant for concern.

"That seems light-years away given what we've got on our plate right now."

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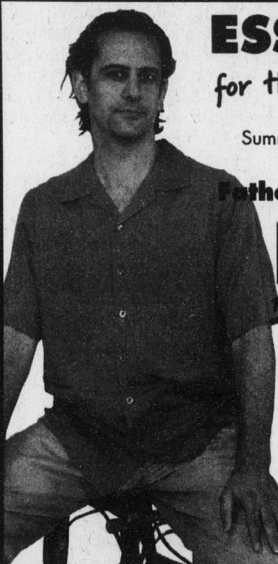
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