

TOWN-GOWN

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on the hinge of plan approvals and core promises.

Building a relationship

When Roger Perry took over as chairman of the Board of Trustees in July, the University was setting itself up with an experienced developer at the helm of the research satellite campus project.

Perry, president of Chapel Hill development firm East West Partners, has successfully moved two large projects through the town's approval process during the past decade.

His experience, which includes the years he spent turning plans for Meadowmont — a mixed-use development off N.C. 54 — into physical buildings, could prove valuable to the University.

The Meadowmont project encountered obstacles that turned into lawsuits. But Perry helped steer them through.

"The University has an advocate for their interests who understands Chapel Hill's process," council member Mark Kleinschmidt said. "Even if there are points of disagreement, I think Roger has an understanding and appreciation for our process."

Last year was used for community meetings, and from these talks, Moeser said two things are set in stone: only develop on 250 acres and make the project sustainable.

Kleinschmidt said he hopes that at each step in the town approval process, evidence of the University's prior conversations with community members will surface.

And with Jack Evans now serving as executive director of the Carolina North project for more than a year, he said he's gaining the trust of council members.

That trust was built upon at last week's meeting of town and University leaders.

"I felt really good after meeting with the trustees," Easthom said. "We discussed mutual concerns in a cordial manner. Hopefully it will proceed in the way we discussed."

"We're on our third mulligan for Carolina North. I don't think it's typical to go through four cycles."

JACK EVANS, CAROLINA NORTH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

'A long, long time'

It was nearly impossible to formulate concrete plans because there were so many uncertainties about land use — such as whether an airport on the land would stay open.

Officials had to first determine if they would be building around an existing structure or on top of it. "It's taken a long, long time," Perry said. "But a lot of that's been the University's starts and stops along the way."

In fact, leaders scrapped conceptual plans three times, and the version that trustees approved in September was the fourth draft.

"We're on our third mulligan for Carolina North," Evans said. "I don't think it's typical to go through four cycles."

Tensions escalated when University officials submitted an application for a special-use permit to build the Innovation Center on Carolina North land.

The University wants to get plans approved for the center, which will aim to grow young businesses, before the rest of the Carolina North project is submitted. The council wanted to see the campus plan submitted as a whole.

"It was kind of uncomfortable for us the way the (Innovation Center) process started," Kleinschmidt said. "That was a source of conflict."

But at last week's meeting, Moeser told council members that it's unlikely the University will submit any more individual applications for Carolina North projects. Moeser wants the University to submit one 50-year master plan for the site.

His unofficial agreement soothed council members for now. "There's always going to be friction, and there should be," said Linda Convisser, UNC's director of local relations. "We just need to be able to sit down and talk them through."

Open communication

With such a loaded history, the town-gown relationship still requires nurturing.

A task at hand is defining the process of how Carolina North plans will adjust — if need be — as talks continue with town officials.

"If the town wants to change the plans too much, I would feel honor-bound to go back to the trustees," Evans said.

The exact process for this communication chain has yet to be established.

Kleinschmidt said a major point of frustration for the council is University staff who present plans but don't have the authority to approve changes.

"They have a boss they have to report to — the Board of Trustees and the chancellor," Kleinschmidt said.

Council members are encouraging that a mechanism be put in place to ensure trustees and the chancellor receive council feedback in real time — something University officials still need to work out.

As the relationship grows, it might not equate to future collaboration.

Moeser will step down this summer, and the town council is a board that evolves every two years as elections come and go.

But as the major players change during the planning process of Carolina North, officials from both sides say they want to work to create a vision around which everyone can rally.

Town Manager Roger Stancil said maintaining the relationship depends on connections at all levels.

"Our responsibility is to develop a working relationship throughout the University staff so those relationships continue throughout terms of office."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

RESEARCH

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opment have been declining since 2003 and are projected to keep declining.

"Those budgets have flattened out, and it's become increasingly competitive to get the dollars," Carolina North Executive Director Jack Evans said.

To fill in the gap, UNC has to turn to private partnerships to fund its research endeavors. But there are obstacles, University officials in charge of research said.

Less than 2.5 percent of the University's research is corporate-supported, ranking it 118th among universities for 2005, according to the annual survey by the Association of University Technology Managers.

"We're lagging behind some of our peers," said Neil Caudle, associate vice chancellor for research.

UNC has "strict limits" to the amount of industry-funded research it can conduct on campus because of the tax-exempt bonds used to build parts of main campus, Evans said.

Those limitations will not apply to many buildings in Carolina North because they are expected to be built by corporations.

"We'll be creating space that will specifically enable that kind of research," said Cathy Innes, director of the Office of Technology Development. "It will be very beneficial because of the types of collaboration our faculty are interested in."

UNC also is at a disadvantage because it does not have engineering or textile schools, which lend themselves toward industry partnerships, Caudle said.

"Traditionally at UNC, we've been stronger in the basic sciences," he said. "And that's a great thing. We're proud of that."

"But increasingly, even in the basic sciences, it's become important to work with industry because of the need for very high-tech tools and the power to test lots of different compounds or the kinds of labs that would require industrial partners."

A 'necessary thing'

Chancellor James Moeser set last year a goal to have \$1 billion in externally funded research in the year 2015 — a goal he called "hairy" and "ambitious" at the time.

UNC probably will not reach that goal without adding faculty and researchers, said Jim Peterson, associate vice chancellor for the Office of Sponsored Research. Such additions could be difficult to attract with UNC's lack of corporate sponsorships.

Carolina North is not expected to start construction until 2010 and the project has no concrete plan for completion. "If you don't have something like this, people will take important research projects to other research universities," Innes said. "You're going to start losing great researchers."

Faculty and researchers also said the lack of corporate partnerships makes UNC lose out to peers.

"You can see at the other universities, those partnerships have been beneficial to them," said Joan Taylor, an associate professor and cardiovascular researcher.

"Money ends up flowing in. You also tend to get more researchers with a lot of energy and enthu-

asm that want to start up their own biotech."

N.C. State University's 1,334-acre Centennial Campus Research Park, which began development in 1985, lets the school engage in corporate partnerships.

Other schools with top-ranked corporate research, such as the University of Wisconsin-Madison, also have their own research parks.

"It's becoming a common and necessary thing," Evans said.

Getting money back

After Carolina North gets up and running, the satellite campus could rope in money for the University and jobs for the state.

"Carolina North will help the University grow and expand its resources, which will always help funding for the University," Caudle said.

He said the longer it takes Carolina North to be built, the more the University will fall behind in research.

"We will be mostly losing opportunities," he said.

"We'll lose the opportunity to expand in new areas. We'll lose the opportunity to attract some students and faculty members who would bring a lot of intellectual strength to the University."

Contact the Investigative Editor at iteam@unc.edu.

National and World News

FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Fred Thompson drops out of race

NAPLES, Fla. (AP) — Republican Fred Thompson, the actor-politician who attracted more attention as a potential presidential candidate than as a real one, quit the race for the White House on Tuesday after a string of poor finishes.

Thompson's fate was sealed last Saturday in the South Carolina primary, when he finished third in a state that he had said he needed to win. Thompson did not say whether he would endorse any of his former rivals.

Money tight for Mike Huckabee

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee acknowledged Tuesday that money is tight, as some staffers are working without pay and others have left, but he pledged to remain in the race through next week's Florida primary.

Speaking to about 50 people, mostly University of Florida fraternity members, at a rally at the Gainesville airport, the former Arkansas governor said his campaign had cut back and was being frugal.

'Dirty bomb' charges discredited; Padilla sentenced for conspiracy

MIAMI (AP) — Jose Padilla, once accused of plotting with al-Qaida to blow up a radioactive "dirty bomb," was sentenced Tuesday to 17 years and four months on terrorism conspiracy charges that don't mention those initial allegations.

The sentence imposed by U.S. District Judge Marcia Cooke marks another step in the extraordinary personal and legal odyssey for the 37-year-old Muslim convert, a U.S. citizen who was held for 3½ years as an enemy combatant after his 2002 arrest.

Prosecutors had sought a

life sentence, but Cook said she arrived at the 17-year sentence after considering the "harsh conditions" during Padilla's lengthy military detention at a Navy brig in South Carolina. Padilla's lawyers claimed his treatment amounted to torture, which U.S. officials have repeatedly denied.

Padilla and two other men were part of a North American support cell for al-Qaida, prosecutors said. Cooke said that as serious as the conspiracy was, there was no evidence linking the men to specific acts of terrorism anywhere.

Heath Ledger found dead Tues.

NEW YORK (AP) — Actor Heath Ledger was found dead Tuesday at a downtown Manhattan residence in a possible drug-related death, police said. He was 28.

NYPD spokesman Paul Browne said Ledger had an appointment for a massage at the Manhattan apartment believed to be his home. The housekeeper who went to let Ledger know the masseuse was there found him dead at 3:26 p.m.

The Australian-born actor was an Oscar nominee for his role in "Brokeback Mountain" and has numerous other screen credits.

Suicide bombers hit Iraqi schools

BAGHDAD (AP) — A suicide bomber pushing an electric heater atop a cart packed with hidden explosives attacked a high school north of Baghdad on Tuesday, leaving students and teachers bloodied and bewildered as insurgents appeared to be expanding their list of targets.

The bombing — one of two attacks near Iraqi schools on the same day — follows a wave of recent blasts blamed on al-Qaida in Iraq against funerals and social gatherings. The trend points to the possibility that al-Qaida has shifted tactics to focus increasingly on so-called soft targets.

ATHLETIC PERKS

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class, May said. Student athletes also can remove themselves from their lottery to join the regular student lottery.

Athletic apparel

During a normal season, student athletes receive only practice apparel that must be returned, unless it is too worn for reuse.

"Most of the time when you see a student athlete on campus wearing their apparel, it's because they are either going to or coming from practice," Gallo said.

The NCAA gives student athletes apparel if they win a post-season tournament or exhibition — but that has limits, too. "The price limit is around \$325 per individual on the team," Gallo said.

Students can be given additional apparel at the discretion of their coaching staff, May said.

"It is up to the coaches on how they want to spend the budget," May

said. "Every athletic team has a different budget, so that is a factor."

Additional benefits

Starting next semester, priority registration will affect several groups of students who need to register early, and student athletes are one of the main groups.

"We need to make certain progresses toward our degree to make sure we keep our eligibility; otherwise, we will not be allowed to play," May said.

Students with priority registration still register with their class but in an early time slot, said Steve Reznick, chairman of the priority registration task force.

And athletes' training and conditioning also require a separate dining facility, Gallo said.

"We have a nutritionist-dietitian that sets the dinner meals to ensure they eat a balanced diet," he said.

May said many student athletes only have a few minutes to eat and don't have time to wait in lines. The dining hall, located in the Kenan

Football Center, opens for breakfast to students with One Cards.

"Generally speaking, these athletes work hard on and off the field and are very deserving of the benefits they receive," Gallo said.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

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