

Trustees withhold drafts of campus plans; reporters claim rights to public records

By JAY JENNINGS
Staff Writer

When the UNC Board of Trustees refused to release a draft of the latest five-year plan for the Chapel Hill campus at its most recent meeting, the action sparked a controversy on the definition of a public record.

University officials contend that the draft is not a public record until it has been discussed and finalized by the trustees; members of the press argue that any document becomes public record when it is prepared and received by a public office, as this one has been.

The draft of the five-year plan, updated annually, was submitted by the UNC Planning Council to the Board of Trustees for consideration at its Sept. 16 meeting.

The plan includes definitions of the role and mission of the University, projections for the physical development of the campus, plans for library services and enrollment statistics and projections.

But discussion of the draft was postponed until Oct. 3 at the request of several board members, who said they had not had a chance to read it. A reporter at the meeting asked for a copy of the draft, but the request was denied on the grounds that the draft does not become a public record until the board has a chance to discuss and revise it.

Tom Lambeth, chairperson of the Board of Trustees, said last week that he has been advised by the N.C. attorney general's office, which serves as lawyer for the University, that a draft is not a public record. Lambeth said he did not intend to release the draft until it had been discussed by the Board of Trustees.

Andrew Vanore, deputy attorney general in charge of University affairs, said the document "is nothing more than a draft. Unless and until it gains status as a final document, I don't believe it's a public record."

N.C. General Statutes 132-1 defines public records as "all written or printed books, papers, letters, documents and maps made or received pursuant to law by the public offices of the State and its counties, municipalities and other subdivisions of government in the transaction of public business."

"You've got it both going and coming," said William C. Lassiter, attorney for the N.C. Press Association. "It's been both made by a public office (the UNC Planning Council) and received by a public office (the UNC Board of Trustees)."

When pressed on the wording of the general statute, Vanore said, "I just don't believe that (drafts should be public records) is what the legislature intended. This was material for in-house consideration. I simply don't agree with the interpretation that others give."

C. Hugh Holman, chairperson of the UNC Planning Council, which compiled the draft, said the draft was

the product of an exchange of ideas and letters between the Planning Council and University officials and faculty on the future of the University at Chapel Hill.

The Board of Trustees "may turn down everything we propose," Holman said. "Plans of this sort involve policy decisions. Only the board has the right to make them."

"If these policy decisions are published before discussion and later changed, it would confuse the public instead of enlighten them."

Lassiter, however, disagreed. "That's his opinion, but the legislature writes the laws, and they don't have anything to say about revision," Lassiter said.

General Statutes 132-6 states, "Every person having custody of public records shall permit them to be inspected and examined at reasonable times and under his supervision by any person..."

"There's absolutely no question about it," Lassiter said. "The Board of Trustees are public officials, and they have a legal duty to supply the draft."

Both Lassiter and Vanore said a law suit may be necessary to finally resolve the wording of the public records statute.

Orville Campbell, publisher of the *Chapel Hill Newspaper*, said last week that he had contacted a lawyer who had advised him that the University was in violation of the public records statute. Campbell said a suit by the *Chapel Hill Newspaper* was a possibility.



Clarastine Evans (left) and Susan Delany, both RNs, care for a burned patient at the NCMH burn unit. Most of the proceeds of the Derby Week activities will be going to help fund the new Jaycee Burn Center. The present facility is located on the third floor of Memorial Hospital and consists mainly of six beds and a treatment room. The new burn center will have approximately 16,000 square feet of floor space and will be able to aid burn victims with greater efficiency. Staff photo by Joseph Thomas.

Durham water costly; OWASA wants surcharge

The Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA), anticipating a \$266,000 deficit due to the cost of buying Durham water, is discussing plans to levy a temporary surcharge on water bills.

The surcharge would add 30 cents to the price of every 1000 gallons of water used and would apply uniformly to all levels of consumption. The surcharge would add \$36,000 per month in revenue.

Everett Billingsley, executive director of OWASA, said that the surcharge would apply to this fiscal year and that it would be discontinued as soon as the expected deficits are recovered.

The OWASA Board of Directors met Thursday and discussed the surcharge but withheld approval. Billingsley said, however, that they hoped to get approval within the next few weeks after the board holds a public hearing.

Billingsley said that OWASA could not handle the large amount of money being spent on Durham water because it was not originally included in the budget.

OWASA has asked for \$1.8 million in federal aid through a grant application, but the expected return in grant money is only 20 per cent of the original request, with the rest coming in the form of a loan.

Billingsley has expressed disappointment with the ratio saying that OWASA had been given an "unequivocal statement" that it would receive 50 per cent grant and 50 per cent loan.

OWASA officials are trying to arrange a meeting about the grant with the federal officials as soon as possible. The amount of money OWASA receives from the grant could determine how long the surcharge will last.

— GEORGE SHADROU

Hospital burn center stresses complete effort

Continued from page 1

Part of this adjustment is eased by letting the patients have contact with their families while in the unit.

"We think it's especially important for children whose parents have been burned to see them and to become accustomed to their scars," said Landis.

"We talk to family members and encourage them to give the patient support, but at the same time let the patient be independent," she added.

Additional support is given by social

workers at the hospital. Fred Forehand, a pediatric social worker, deals with financial, emotional and physical problems of burn patients and their families.

Guilt feelings are common among parents of children who have been burned at home, Forehand said. They feel "that maybe they could have prevented the accident. I try to help them deal with that emotion."

Another problem that children especially face is the taunts of other children.

"Children can be especially cruel," said Forehand. "Often the first day back at school is a traumatic experience. In the past, I have talked to teachers and encouraged them to pave the way for the returning student. Often a teacher will turn the whole experience into a lesson in fire prevention and safety."

Medical and support personnel alike are enthusiastic about the new burn center.

Salisbury said it will include the latest medical equipment and will also allow clinical research on patients who now have 100 per cent mortality rate.

Most importantly, all the services for burn victims will be centrally located, with room for everyone to work together. And this is necessary for the team concept that Salisbury so firmly espouses.

The dedication of Salisbury and his staff shows when asked how they felt about their jobs.

"Although there can be a lot of stress at times," said Landis, "on the whole, it's very rewarding. It's the only place where you can stay with a patient through all the phases — acute, intermediate and rehabilitative. You can see your progress."

For Salisbury, the greatest reward is "seeing a little child like Yancey walk out that door and know you have given it your all. It's not just your success; it's everyone's."

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7:30
9:30
3:15
5:15
7:15
9:15
3:00 **Cousin Cousine**
5:00
7:00
9:00

2:10
4:35
7:00
9:20
3 Women
Robert Altmans
Shelley Duwall
Sissy Spacek
Janice Rule
PG-13
Carolina Twin
CHapel Hill

3:30
5:20
7:10
9:05
Ends
Thurs
You Light Up My Life
A Columbia Pictures Release
PG

CHapel Hill
Plaza 1 HELD OVER
SORRY — NO
PASSES
SHOWS
2:20 **JAMES BOND 007**
4:45
7:10
9:35
"THE SPY WHO LOVED ME"
PG

CHapel Hill
Plaza 2 HELD OVER
2ND WEEK
SHOWS
2:20 **WHAT THE PRINCE SLIPPED CINDERELLA WAS NOT A SLIPPER.**
4:10
6:00
7:50
9:40
ADULTS ONLY
X
Cinderella
A GROUP 1 PRESENTATION

CHapel Hill
Plaza 3 NOW SHOWING
SHOWS
3:00
5:00
7:00
9:00
CHARLES BRONSON "THE WHITE BUFFALO"
PG United Artists

Varsity HELD OVER
13th WEEK
SORRY — NO
PASSES
SHOWS
2:30 A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.
4:45
7:00
9:15
STAR WARS PG

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