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Administrators not to present trustees with fee increases

By Peter Wallsten
Editor

UNC-Chapel Hill officials will not propose new student fee increases at the Board of Trustees meeting Friday, said Donald Boulton, vice chancellor for student affairs.

"I was told the whole issue is dead," he said this week. "All we can say is we're going to regroup and cut back to get through another year."

Meanwhile, Boulton suggested that the UNC-system create a plan for student fees using UNC-Chapel Hill's methods as a model. "It seems to me we ought to make a plea for a plan that involves constituents at each institu-

tion," he said.

UNC-CH administrators made their decision to withhold their fee proposals after learning that a bill in the state legislature that would place a moratorium on student fees this year at UNC-system schools passed through the state House and probably will get final approval this week in the Senate.

At presstime Wednesday, the Senate had not voted on the measure.

The bill states that the Board of Governors "may not increase any required fees at the constituent institutions until the board adopts rules to limit the amount of student fees that may be charged to retire debt at each institution."

State legislators have said they were

not convinced that BOG was committed to keeping student fees low at its member schools and that UNC-system officials pressured them to approve a fee-supported athletic complex at UNC-Charlotte.

"There's no one really to advocate for the students but us," said Rep. Martin Nesbitt, D-Asheville.

The BOG would not be allowed to adopt the rules before April 1, 1993, and the UNC system would have to send the rules to every legislator before the moratorium is dropped.

UNC-CH students and administrators had hoped to increase student fees at the University by \$57, for programs such as APPLÉS (a service learning

program), intramural sports and a technology fee (for new computer labs).

In response to legislators' calls for a student fee plan, Boulton proposed forming a committee of vice chancellors from the 16 campuses to study student involvement in decision making.

"It seems to me the consumer who pays the bill has to have some role," he said. "We have a model that ought to be looked at. ... I would like to work with a number of my colleagues. I would welcome working on a committee taking things we have learned and that others have learned. I believe we could come up with a process that would be inclusive."

Boulton emphasized the importance

of a process that involves students every step of the way on boards and committees. In addition, students should be able to react to proposals through the press and public forums.

Student body referenda are helpful, but don't always have the same impact as other, more proactive processes, Boulton said.

But fee proposals not supported by a wide cross-section of students never survive, Boulton said. "I don't even let (them) leave my office."

UNC-system President C.D. Spangler said in an interview this week that student referenda shouldn't dictate policy about fees. "If only 5, 8 or 10 percent of the students turn out, it's not

a vote of the students," he said. "Ideally you'd have fees supported by 50 percent of the students."

But Spangler agreed that the BOG and the boards of trustees should seek out students' opinions. "I think it's something the Board of Governors ought to consider."

Nesbitt said the proposal to nearly triple fees at UNC-Charlotte to build a \$26.3 million athletic complex had caught the attention of many legislators. The BOG approved the plan at the tail end of UNC-system President C.D. Spangler's one-year moratorium on student fee increases.

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BCC advocates confront Spangler in dining hall

By Peter Wallsten
Editor

UNC-system President C.D. Spangler advised supporters of a free-standing black cultural center to make their arguments with care during a spontaneous gathering in Lenoir Hall Tuesday.

"There are two different arguments," Spangler told the group of about 12 students, some of whom represented the Black Awareness Council (BAC). "One is about programs and space, and that's buyable."

"The second is to say we want a certain spot and a certain building. And that doesn't sell."

Spangler eats lunch — typically consisting of a taco salad — in Lenoir,

UNC-Chapel Hill's main dining hall, at least once a week. The students, led by BAC member Chuckie Burnette, approached Spangler after he finished his meal. Burnette also is a quarterback on the UNC football team.

The BAC was formed this summer to promote a free-standing BCC, an issue that garnered a great deal of attention this month after several rallies and a symbolic ground breaking last week.

"(Black students) don't have anywhere to go," Burnette told Spangler,



C.D. Spangler

adding that he was having a difficult time making white administrators and coaches aware of the need for a free-standing BCC. "Blacks don't have any representation."

Penny Blackwell, an All-American on the UNC track team, said most black students didn't have a place to go for help, although an effective support network was in place for athletes. "We as athletes have certain things built to deal with things athletes need," she said.

To build what many students want — a free-standing Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center — would help solve some problems facing black students on campus, Blackwell said.

"It doesn't provide separateness," she said. "It provides unity and more self-esteem ... rather than having (black students) search so deeply for it only in an (African-American studies) class. So when they leave the University, they have something to give back."

Spangler emphasized that as president of the 16-campus UNC system, it would not be appropriate for him to take a definitive personal stand on the issue. Chancellor Paul Hardin has expressed his support for the BCC, but also has said that a free-standing center would promote too much separatism on campus.

"There's no difference in me being president and me being a person," Spangler said. "If I don't support the chancellors, then I've got a problem."

But Spangler also told the students he supported their philosophies about black students needing representation. "I'm with you all the way," he told Blackwell.

The students told Spangler of their frustrations dealing with some administrators on campus, such as Hardin.

"What do you think I believe?" Spangler asked. "What do you think I work for? I want you to graduate."

Spangler questioned the students' tactics in demanding a free-standing building. "I'm saying a place should be provided to give you what you want, but does it need to be separate?" he asked. "You're asking for something separate rather than something that will solve the problem."

Burnette responded by explaining what he perceived as a need for a center of black culture. "The stuff I get about my own culture and my separate black achievements, I have to get on my own," he said.

Spangler said: "I couldn't be president of this university if I didn't believe some of the things you believe. (N.C.

CGLA may join student coalition

By Anna Griffin
Associate Editor

The Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association may join the coalition for a free-standing black cultural center as early as September, CGLA and coalition leaders said this week.

At a BCC speakout last Wednesday, Doug Ferguson, co-chairman of the CGLA, told the crowd of about 150 that the CGLA was willing to give the coalition whatever support it needed.

"I don't know racism," Ferguson said to a group of about 150 students. "I'm not going to say I understand racism, because I've probably been guilty of it in the past."

"But I'm your ally whether you want it or not. I stand with you in the fight for a free-standing black cultural center."

Ferguson later said he hoped the CGLA could join the coalition, which includes the Black Student Movement, the Black Greek Council, the Campus Y, the Student Environmental Action Coalition, the Sonja Haynes Stone Task Force, the Alliance of Black Graduate and Professional Students and the Collegiate Black Caucus. The coalition also includes the newly-formed Black Awareness Council, an organization of black athletes who also are members of the BSM.

"We're going to approach the BSM this week and see if they'll come speak House Speaker) Dan Blue would have me out by nightfall."

During the hour-long conversation, which at some points became confrontational, some students said a free-standing BCC would help the University break out of the days of segregation.

"We don't want to start with the hatred of the past," Blackwell said.

But Spangler, who was a student at UNC-CH from 1950-54, asked the students to acknowledge society's progress since the 1950s and '60s.

"We are doing everything we can to change things," he said, noting the various programs on campus this summer aimed at recruiting and retaining minority students. "When I came here (for college) there wasn't a single black on this campus. It's not necessary to knock progress in the past 20 years to make progress in the next 20 years."

At one point during the conversation,

at one of our meetings in the fall," Ferguson said. "I'm definitely in favor of joining the coalition, and I believe a majority of officers are also in favor of it."

Although the CGLA and BSM have never officially worked together, Interim BSM President Charles McNair said he would support the CGLA joining the coalition. Members of the BSM voted last spring to voice their opposition to riders put on the CGLA's annual budget by Student Congress.

"I was very encouraged by what (Ferguson) had to say," McNair said. "I don't think our past relations would be a problem. We'll welcome anybody."

McNair said Ferguson's comments at the speakout were proof that the BCC movement was not just limited to black students.

Although the other members of the coalition have not yet been contacted, Ferguson said he was confident his organization's members would vote for joining the fight.

"I think it's safe to say that the feeling is toward joining the BCC fight," Ferguson said. "It would be a fair guess to say the CGLA will join the coalition."

Ferguson said representatives of the coalition would speak to the CGLA at its Sept. 21 meeting and that the CGLA would vote on whether to join the coalition then.

Burnette addressed Spangler and other whites by referring to "you all" and "you people," causing Spangler to recall jokingly Ross Perot's now-infamous speech earlier this month to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"You would be helped to not assume people are against you when they're not," Spangler said to the students. "You can't assume by what people look like what they believe."

When the students explained to Spangler that they did not expect him, a white man, to understand black issues, the president responded that he disagreed with their assumptions.

"I believe I'm looking at it as an American, a North Carolinian and as president," he said. "I'm not a white president. You've got to have the abil-

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Denise Matthewson holds the ribbon after a symbolic ceremony for the BCC last week. DTH/Erin Randall

Defendants request new trial for discrimination charges

By Anna Griffin
Associate Editor

The three former UNC administrators ordered to pay a UNC police officer \$116,000 in damages have filed a motion with Orange County Superior Court Judge Gordon Battle asking him to overrule the jury's verdict and grant them a new trial.

On July 9, a jury ruled that former UNC officials John DeVitto, Charles Mauer and Robert Sherman had committed racial and gender discrimination against Keith Edwards, an 18-year veteran of the UNC police force. The jury ordered the three men to pay a total of \$90,000 in punitive damages and \$26,000 in compensatory damages.

But this week, the three men, through their attorney, David Parker, a deputy state attorney general, filed motions with the judge asking him to overrule the jury and grant them a new trial.

"There's a written motion in the court to grant a motion of judgment not withstanding and a motion for a new trial," said Marie Rice, a secretary in Battle's Superior Court office. "That basically means the defense is asking Judge Battle to overrule the jury's verdict and give them a new jury trial."

Battle, who is conducting a case in Randolph County this week, will consider the motions sometime next week, Rice said.

The three defendants still are considering whether to appeal the jury's ruling against them, Parker said. "As far as I know, no decision has been reached," he said, adding that DeVitto, Mauer and Sherman have 30 days to file their appeal with the N.C. Court of Appeals in Raleigh.

Alan McSurely, Edwards' attorney, said he didn't expect Battle to grant a new trial. "I would be surprised if he did," he said. "They're just doing it for the record to establish matters that they might use for an appeal."

The three defendants requested a new trial after the jury issued its decision two weeks ago, but at the time Battle told Parker to file a written motion. The motion officially was filed earlier this week, Rice said.

Although no decision has been reached concerning an appeal, Edwards' supporters have mounted a petition drive encouraging UNC Chancellor Paul Hardin, one of seven original defendants in the suit, to "do the right thing," and discourage DeVitto, Mauer and Sherman from appealing the verdict.

Edwards' supporters hope petitions will avert appeal

Supporters of UNC Police Officer Keith Edwards have begun a petition drive aimed at convincing the three former University officials convicted of racial and gender discrimination not to appeal an Orange County jury's ruling against them.

Organizers began circulating the petitions last week at black churches in Chapel Hill and Carrboro and placed an advertisement in this issue of The Daily Tar Heel.

The petitions urge UNC Chancellor Paul Hardin to accept the jury's ruling that former UNC officials John DeVitto, Charles Mauer and Robert Sherman discriminated against Edwards, an 18-year veteran of the UNC police force.

A jury of six men and six women found in favor of Edwards and ruled that the three defendants had to pay damages totalling \$116,000.

At press time, the three men had not decided whether to appeal the verdict although they did file a motion requesting a new trial.

The petition drive, which is being run out of The Abundant Life Center on West Rosemary Street, is focused on

Hardin.

"We want to get as many signatures as we can," said Esther Tate, one of the drive organizers. "We hope to get between 500 and 1,000 signatures."

Each petition contains space for 20 signatures. Edwards' attorney, Alan McSurely, estimated that 500 petitions had been printed.

Although Edwards' case against Hardin was dismissed during the course of the trial, Hardin still will play a major role in whether the three defendants appeal, McSurely said.

"This drive is pointed in the right direction," he said. "Hardin is definitely involved in the decision-making process. I'm not sure Chancellor Hardin knows how the community feels about this. This should show him how strong the sentiment is."

The petitions urge Hardin to "do the

right thing."

According to the petition, this includes not appealing the verdict, extending an offering of good will to Edwards and ensuring that all UNC employees receive fair and serious consideration when they report discriminatory practices to UNC administration.

Hardin's secretary said this week that the chancellor was referring all questions about the Edwards case to Clifton Metcalf, UNC's associate vice chancellor for communications.

In a statement released July 10, the day after the verdict was announced, Hardin said it would be inappropriate for him to comment on the case since it still may be appealed.

"I respect the legal process, and I want to see justice done," Hardin said in the release.

—Anna Griffin



Keith Edwards



Paul Hardin

Police warn residents about safety

By Gerri Baer
Staff Writer

Responding to several recent attacks on pedestrians who were walking alone at night, Chapel Hill and UNC police last week issued a warning against walking alone on campus after dark.

"UNC-CH students, faculty, staff, local residents and others should take extra safety precautions," according to a press release jointly issued by University Police Chief Alana Ennis and Chapel Hill Police Chief Ralph Pendergraph.

The warning follows two attacks on pedestrians in the last two weeks. One woman was attacked in the Pittsboro Street-Manning Drive area while walking to work on campus.

"The point of the release was to educate people, since several women have been victims of attempted assault," said Jane Cousins, spokeswoman for the Chapel Hill Police Department.

Lt. Marcus Perry, crime prevention officer for the UNC police, said the warning was intended to make people more aware of the dangers of walking alone at night on campus. "The objective of the warning was to make people aware so they can be attentive to their surroundings," he said.

The press release specifically mentioned UNC housekeepers and other employees who travel to work at night or in early morning hours. According to the release, these employees should contact their supervisors for assistance in arranging safe travel if they cannot find someone to accompany them to work.

Alan McSurely, attorney for the housekeepers' movement, thinks the problem should have been addressed with more than a warning.

"What really needs to happen is that the men and women on duty at night need to be brought into the discussion," he said. "They must have a grassroots task force put together of both police and housekeepers to put together a creative crime program."

McSurely said the primary ideas for improving safety around UNC campus needed to come from the people directly involved. "The housekeepers are very intelligent people, and they have plenty of ideas," he said. "The cops know the University backwards and forwards."

"The housekeepers and the police know more about the University than the chancellor does."

McSurely said, "Many UNC and Chapel Hill police know the housekeepers because they come to work at the same times. I believe that if a task force was set up, they could come up with excellent crime prevention suggestions."

McSurely said the cooperation of both police departments was a good step. "There are four police departments

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That's a wrap 'til Aug. 24!

We're sorry to inform ya'll that this is the last issue of the summer.

Now we all say goodbye to those who make the news interesting: Keith Edwards, state legislators, C.D. Spangler, Jay Robinson, Alan McSurely, Donald Boulton, Paul Hardin, the coalition supporting a free-standing BCC, Chuck Stone, Ralph Pendergraph, Charles Little, Matthew Hodgson, John Turner, the Board of Governors, John DeVitto, Carl Fox, Ben Tuchi, Mill Creek, Ross Perot (and family), etc.

Look for the DTH's registration issue Aug. 24 and the first regular daily edition Aug. 26.

I still believe in a place called Hope. — Bill Clinton