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BOG panel hears tuition requests



MOESER PITCHES INCREASES, BUT COMMITTEE IS SKEPTICAL

BY ERIC JOHNSON
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

WILMINGTON — Despite strong appeals from the chancellors of 13 universities, it remains almost certain that the UNC-system Board of Governors will refuse any proposed increases to in-state tuition this year. Meeting on UNC-Wilmington's cam-

pus, the board's budget and finance committee voted unanimously Thursday to advise against campus-based increases for in-state students. There is little doubt that the full board will approve the measure at its Friday meeting.

The board came out against systemwide tuition increases earlier in the school year.

The committee listened for more than five hours as university officials — including UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor James Moeser, Provost Robert Shelton and Judith Wegner, chairwoman of the faculty — argued for increased revenue.

But while board members said that the needs of the system's campuses are not in dispute, they added that students should not have to bear an unnecessarily large part of the burden.

"The case for need is clear," said BOG Chairman Brad Wilson. "I think

we should take that case, which has been elaborated here, and go to the General Assembly."

Standing before the committee, most of the chancellors seemed to know the outcome was already certain.

Even so, most schools brought forth detailed information to indicate that last year's campus-based increases went toward funding the BOG's priorities of improved access and faculty retention.

UNC-CH's presentation elicited one of the liveliest discussions of the meeting, as Moeser, Shelton and Wegner

argued that the University will face a crisis in faculty retention without additional funds to address the problem.

"Two-thirds of the faculty at Chapel Hill have had people approach them and try to hire them away," Wegner told the committee.

Moeser addressed concerns about affordability, citing the University's Carolina Covenant program for low-income students and the fact that UNC-CH funds 100 percent of financial need

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President Bush speaks as Dawn Baldwin looks on at a town hall meeting Thursday afternoon at the BTI Center for Performing Arts in Raleigh. During the meeting, his first trip to the state since his re-election, Bush outlined his plan for Social Security reform and answered questions from the audience.

DTH/JUSTIN SMITH

BUSH TALKS UP SOCIAL SECURITY

BY MARK PUENTE
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — In his first trip to the state since being re-elected, President Bush told about 1,700 Tar Heels what he's been telling the nation for weeks — that Social Security reform sits atop his agenda this term.

Bush, who spoke at the BTI Center for the Performing Arts, said he would work diligently to convince voters that Social Security is in jeopardy of going broke in 2018.

"I'll make it clear that there is a problem," he said. "It's gonna take me a while."

Many past presidents acknowledged that Social Security needs some sort of reform but

failed to gain support for any initiatives. But Bush said he will solve the problem and not pass the buck to others. "We got a lot of work to do."

His proposals would allow young people to invest a portion of their wages voluntarily into private investment accounts, which he says will give them a stake in their future.

"If you own something, you have a vital stake in your community," he said.

The purpose of conducting town hall meetings, Bush said, is to allow voters to also hear about his recently submitted budget proposals.

"It's lean, focused and sets priorities," he said. "If we have programs that are not working, let's get rid of them."

At that point, the tightly packed conservative crowd, which spent hours waiting in the blustery wind, honored Bush with one of many standing ovations.

The president's stop in North Carolina was part of a five-state tour. He headed to Pennsylvania after his stop in Raleigh.

With former Sen. Jesse Helms, a Tar Heel political legend, in the audience, Bush stumped in a state whose own Republican delegation is leery about the plan.

"For those worried about the politics about Social Security, I ran on it twice," Bush said.

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Big platforms propelled pair of candidates

Hopefuls in runoff made key promises

BY BRIAN HUDSON
SENIOR WRITER

In student body president campaigns, it seems that size does matter.

Promise for promise, candidates Seke Ballard and Seth Dearmin had the largest platforms of the four original contenders, offering incentives to many campus voters.

Dearmin and Ballard will meet in a runoff election Tuesday after having won 40 percent and 27 percent of the vote, respectively, in this week's general election.

Both candidates pointed to their platforms as the tool that increased their leverage over former student body president candidates Leigha Blackwell and Tom Jensen.

But what Blackwell and Jensen's platforms lacked in size they made up for with concrete themes.

Jensen's campaign, promising "more for your money," offered an intensive reform of student government geared toward serving students better and cutting \$60,000 from the budget.

Blackwell proposed reorganizing student government as a hub for events and information pertinent to the student body.

Despite their promises, both wound up short in the election.

Ballard and Dearmin attributed the strength of their campaigns to the wide variety of student interests addressed in their respective platforms.

Ballard promises to create an endowment that will bring top speakers to campus, while Dearmin plans to bring wireless Internet to Franklin Street.

"We started out brainstorming ideas that would be good ideas," Ballard said. "We picked the highest-priorities on wide-ranging



Seke Ballard and Seth Dearmin will continue to campaign until the runoff election Tuesday. Both candidates credit their successes to far-reaching platform ideas.

interests for students."

Adrian Johnston, Dearmin's campaign manager, attributed his candidate's success to an extensive and comprehensive platform.

"It was so strong because it was all about making life easier for students," Johnston said. "I think that there are just so many different themes running through this campus. ... There are a lot of diverse needs on campus."

Though success in student elections can be linked to the size of the platform, the strategy has potential to result in failure in office. Promises aimed at diverse interests require a president to devote attention to numerous fronts.

But Ballard said he has no doubt that his campaign promises could be completely fulfilled in office, pointing to the explanations that accompany each platform plank.

"You don't see a promise," he said. "You see a plan of action."

Dearmin also assured the feasibility of his platform.

During the fall semester, Dearmin researched and organized his platform with the help of about 20 campaign workers, Johnston

SEE SBP, PAGE 4

Bill could facilitate voting for students

BY SETH PEAVEY
STAFF WRITER

Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange, is hoping to convince legislators to reform the way voters go to the polls in a move that might directly affect student voter turnout at UNC.

Kinnaird introduced a bill Thursday that would make Orange County the first county in the state to allow voters, regardless of which precinct they are registered in, to cast their ballots at any polling place in the county.

The bill would take UNC students a step closer toward a goal long-stressed by student government: creating a single voting precinct for the campus.

Students would no longer be restricted to voting at their assigned polling locations — the campus currently is divided into six voting precincts, with polling places ranging from the Chapel Hill Public Library to General Administration.



Orange County Sen. Ellie Kinnaird introduced a bill that would allow residents to vote at any local polling site.

Matt Calabria, who has been working with legislators to push the single-precinct goal, said the current system is too confusing for many students. "(Kinnaird's bill) would be a really helpful solution," he said.

If the bill passes, a number of one-stop voting sites known as super precincts would open on the first day of early voting and would operate through Election Day. Previously, students have been able to vote at one-stop locations such as Morehead Planetarium, but one-stop voting has ended before Election Day.

The super precincts would be

UNC Student Body President SEE PRECINCTS, PAGE 4

Berry kicks off history month

Civil rights expert focuses on past leaders

BY HEATHER ANDREWS
STAFF WRITER

Although small in stature, distinguished scholar Mary Frances Berry brought grand personality and grace to the stage Thursday night as spoke of a relatively unknown figure in the reparations movement.

A diverse, vibrant audience reacted with laughter, nods of approval and sounds of surprise as Berry delivered the first African American History Month Lecture, titled "Callie House and the Enduring Significance of the Black Reparations Movement, 1987 to Present," at the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History.

The talk focused on Callie House, a little-known black woman who advocated for reparations for ex-slaves in the 1890s and who is the subject of Berry's forthcoming book. House was born a slave and later, as a widow with five children, worked as a washing woman. She was jailed during her fight for reparations.

"This is an important corrective to the history," Berry said, highlighting the importance of remembering the work of early black activists.

A ceremony preceded the lecture to

honor Berry and to celebrate the first of many annual lectures to commemorate Black History Month.

Representatives from several sponsoring departments spoke, including William Ferris, associate director of the Center for the Study of the American South.

Ferris cited Berry as "a national treasure" and a "truly outstanding scholar."

Ferris also stressed the importance of forging a partnership across the University to recognize black culture.

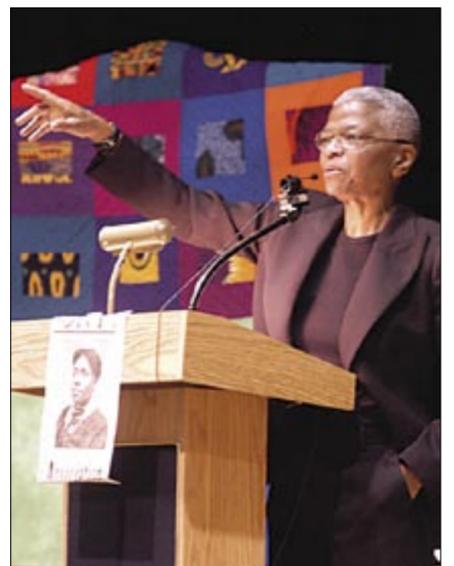
"It's time to come together," Ferris said. "It's time, and we're proud of it."

Performances by the Black Student Movement's cappella group, Harmonyx, and junior Pierce Freelon added a youthful flavor to the ceremony, representing the next generation of African Americans to observe Black History Month.

"We are very pleased with the response from the campus community," said history professor Genna Rae McNeil, who presided over the ceremony. "And the lecturer set a very high standard."

Berry said she was pleased with the

SEE LECTURE, PAGE 4



Renowned civil rights expert Mary Frances Berry speaks at the inaugural African-American History Month Lecture at Cobb Theatre on Thursday night.

DTH/PERRY MYRICK



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Local officials, with a little help from the outside, try to find ways to beautify downtown PAGE 2



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WEATHER

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SUNDAY Partly cloudy, H 57, L 40

