TENTATIVE AGENDA
Executive Committee
ECU Board of Trustees
Mendenhall Student Center, Great Room 3
3 p.m, September 25, 2008

1. Approval of Minutes Action

2. Closed Session Discussion/Action

3. Mendenhall Student Center Action

4. Enterprise Risk Management Discussion
MINUTES
Executive Committee
Board of Trustees
East Carolina University
April 17, 2008

Bob Greczyn, chair of the Executive Committee, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
in Great Room 3 of Mendenhall Student Center.

Mr. Greczyn read the conflict of interest statement required by the State Government
Ethics Act.

The committee approved the minutes of the Feb. 21 meeting.

Ms. Ward offered a motion for the committee to go into closed session. The motion was
seconded by Mr. Hill and approved. The committee asked everyone except Board
members and Chancellor Ballard to leave the room.

At 3:10 p.m., Chancellor Ballard left the closed session.

At 4:50 p.m., the committee returned to open session.

Chancellor Ballard introduced Vice Chancellor Deirdre Mageean, who gave a short
update on ECU’s response to the UNC Tomorrow report.

Kevin Seitz presented a proposal on criminal background checks for current university
employees.

The committee approved the policy for required background checks for current
employees of the university as presented in the Board materials.

After a suggestion by David Redwine, the committee approved a motion to send a
resolution to the UNC Board of Governors that calls for establishing a system-wide
policy on background checks and negotiating a contract to provide cost savings to
individual campuses in conducting these checks.

The committee also:

Approved conferral of tenure for faculty members from the divisions of Academic
Affairs and Health Sciences, as presented in Board materials.

Approved the passage of a resolution of appreciation and support for Dr. Marilyn
Sheerer.
Approved recommendations for new members and officers of the Board of Visitors as presented in Board materials.

Approved an increase in the enrollment verification deposit from $30 to $100, effective for the 2009-2010 academic year.

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.
Briefing: Mendenhall Student Center & Ledonia Wright Cultural Center Project

Date:  September 9, 2008

Interested parties:  East Carolina University Campus Community, Board of Trustees, UNC General Administration, and Prospective Students.

Charge:

To build a state-of-the-art student union and cultural center for East Carolina University that meets and exceeds expectations of key constituents.  Current research shows that student unions and cultural centers are characterized as 24/7 marketplaces where student services, recreation, dining, leadership development, and campus activities come together to create a vibrant atmosphere that supports student success.

Goal and Guiding Principles:

Each student union building and cultural center is unique, just as each university.  A student union and cultural center building should reflect the needs of scholarship and students and the special style and character of the institution.  Furthermore, buildings should reflect the philosophy and practice of the institution at the time of design and be budgeted accordingly, while anticipating the future needs of all constituents and interested parties.

Background:

On May 8, 2008, the Facilities and Resource Committee of the Board of Trustees approved the request to put a hold on the Mendenhall Student Center and Ledonia Wright Cultural Center Project in order to reexamine the focus, costs, and scale of the project.  This request was made based on an initial review of the scope and budget for the project.

Preliminary findings of an internal review committee, comprised of key constituents who conducted a literature review, reviewed national standards, policies and procedures, and conducted site visits to four Universities in North Carolina, highlighted the following concerns and challenges:

- The scope of the original project for the renovation of Mendenhall exceeded its construction budget, resulting in several cost reduction strategies that would result in numerous negative implications.  Specifically,
  - The ballroom would be downsized by 30 percent
  - Associated support, mechanical, operable partitions were downsized
  - Central stair case and adjacent meeting spaces were reduced or eliminated, etc.
• While the original concept and design would have added 30,000sf of programming space to Mendenhall Student Center, due to cost reduction and value engineering, the amount of additional space would be approximately 7,400sf, resulting in a **reduction of 22,600sf**.

• The project would **fall short of meeting the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) standards** for programming/usage requirements. The ACUI standard is comparable to 10sf per student or, for ECU 195,000sf.

• Projections estimate that ECU’s enrollment will exceed 37,000 by 2017 or approximately 4,000 new freshmen per year. **The original project will not accommodate student growth.**

• The MSC/LWCC original project will have **a significant impact on campus life** for at least two years (the estimated period of time MSC would be closed). This situation has implications for student activities, campus meetings, and office space concerns that continue to be a challenge in this era of unprecedented growth. 

**Proposed Next Steps:**

Based upon these findings, we are respectfully seeking the approval of the Board to continue to place a hold on this project in order for the internal review committee to accomplish the following:

a. Redefine and reconsider needs in response to the trend in unprecedented student enrollment at East Carolina University.

b. Continue a review of current literature on trends and issues in campus facilities with regard to student unions and cultural centers.

c. More strategically and thoughtfully link/integrate the Team’s work to the University’s master planning process, strategic enrollment management plan, ECU/UNC Tomorrow Strategic Planning and Response and the need to provide service to the Health Sciences Campus.

d. Obtain review, negotiation, and approval by key constituents.

e. Report findings/recommendations to Facilities Committee of the ECU Board of Trustees.

**Recommendation:**

At this time, we are proposing to modify the project to include the construction of a new student union and cultural center. In addition, we propose to renovate the current Mendenhall Student Hall to accommodate growth – both in terms of staff and students -- and to include plans to house a conferencing center that can, with your approval, provide future revenue for the University. To accomplish our vision, more specific work needs to be done in terms of costs, design and locations. We are therefore seeking the board’s approval to continue to delay this project to accomplish the scope of work outlined above and to bring a revised proposal to the Board upon its completion.