THE DAILY CLIPS

February 26, 2010

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ECU requiring student health insurance
By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, February 25, 2010
East Carolina University students will be required to have health insurance next year. Virginia Hardy, vice provost for student affairs, described the program at a meeting of the student affairs committee with the ECU Board of Trustees Thursday at the East Carolina Heart Institute.
The University of North Carolina General Administration is requiring that every student in the system show proof of insurance or buy into the system’s program beginning this fall.
The cost of the insurance will be billed as part of the overall cost of attendance. Each student who chooses to purchase insurance through the UNC system will be charged $747 per year, or about $62 per month.
Hardy said the system has a base price of $610 but ECU chose several options that increased the cost and made for better coverage for the students. Each school crafts the specific coverage for its students.
The program will include vision and dental care, and ECU officials opted to increase the wellness benefit, increase the maximum claim to unlimited, increase the prescription benefit to unlimited and reduce the deductible from $300 to $150.
Officials cannot predict an exact number of students who will participate in the program, though they expect some parents will opt for the coverage because it might be less expensive than keeping the students on their plan.
“General administration predicts that state employees will remove students from family plans and put them on this plan,” Hardy said.
Hardy said students would still be covered for the year, even if they leave the university.
In other matters, the facilities and resources committee began looking at plans to increase and improve housing options on campus.
The committee heard a presentation by consultants from Brailsford & Dunlavey, a firm that is helping the university develop a master plan for housing on campus.
As enrollment continues to grow, ECU faces the problem of losing its Carnegie designation as a residential campus. To maintain that designation, at least 25 percent of undergraduate students must live on campus. The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education provides a framework for classifying or grouping colleges and universities.
The plan is in the early stages but it includes recommendations to demolish Belk Hall and replace it, convert some dorms from traditional-style rooms to suite-style rooms and build a new residential hall.

The plan also investigated the possibility of building housing on the university’s west campus near Pitt County Memorial Hospital, but found that there is only demand for about 100 beds, not enough to justify a building.

Officials will continue looking at residence halls as market studies indicate that students want more living and storage space and privacy. To remain competitive, the university will update many of its existing buildings.

The full ECU Board of Trustees will meet this morning at 8:30 at the East Carolina Heart Institute.

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@reflector.com or (252) 329-9565.
ECU student robbed on campus

Thursday, February 25, 2010
A 19-year-old East Carolina University student was assaulted and robbed on campus early Wednesday morning, according to a campus police department incident report. The incident occurred about 1:30 a.m. outside Mendenhall Student Center near 10th Street, an officer said. The victim was headed home from downtown in an intoxicated state and was assaulted as he walked by the student center, the officer said. The student was severely beaten and cut on his head and body by a person described as a black male, approximately 6 feet 5 inches tall, weighing about 250 pounds, the official said.

Onlookers were present when the assault occurred and police are checking the possibility that as many as four others were helping the robber at the scene, the officer said. There are surveillance cameras around the area where the student said the assault took place. Police are continuing to review video from the cameras, but have not found any that captured the assault.

The robber took the student's coat and fled the scene, the report states. The student returned to his room and went to sleep, the official said, and did not report the incident to the police until about 1:55 p.m., according to the incident report.
Obituary

Meta Downes

Meta Downes Mrs. Meta Downes, 73, passed away Wednesday, February 24, 2010 in Pitt County Memorial Hospital surrounded by her family. The funeral service will be conducted Saturday at 11 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church. Burial will follow at Pinewood Memorial Park. Meta was born in Newark, N.J., the daughter of Walter and Marie Michaelsen, both Danish immigrants. She graduated as the Valedictorian of her 1958 class at Bethany College, Bethany, W.Va. before earning a Masters Degree in French from Middlebury College, Middlebury, Ver. and the University of Paris (Sorbonne) as a Fulbright Scholar in 1959. Meta married Sheldon Downes in 1959, and raised her family in Morgantown, W.Va. and State College, Pa. before settling in Greenville in 1967. Meta was a teacher her whole life, teaching high school French and Spanish, and college French at West Virginia University, Penn State University and East Carolina University. She earned a Master Degree in Speech Pathology in 1974 and another in Audiology in 1984 from ECU and joined the Department of Communications Sciences & Disorders at ECU where she served as an Associate Professor from 1974 until 2010. Meta sent hundreds of trained speech pathologists into the world, and won many professional awards in the process, including: Honors for Outstanding Contributions to Students and the Profession, ECU Chapter National Student Speech Language & Hearing Association (1982); Honors of Speech-Language-Hearing Area Resource Exchange (1989); Advisor Honors, National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (1990); Honors, NC Speech-Hearing-Language Association (NCSHLA) (1992); Dean’s Award for Outstanding Advising, ECU (1999); Guardian Angel Award, NCSHLA (1999); American Speech-Hearing-Language Association "Year of the Volunteer" Honors (2003); NC Supervisor of the Year, NCSHLA (2004); NC Association of Supervisors in Speech Pathology & Audiology (2004); Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award, Bethany College (2005); Clinical Achievement Award, NCSHLA (2009); and, ECU Faculty Marshall (2009, 2010). Meta's musical talents were shared with many, with 55 years of singing in church choirs, including 37 years with First Presbyterian Church. Meta served her country as the wife of a Marine, the mother of a son and son-in-law, also
Marines, and a daughter who was a Civilian Marine. Meta and her husband celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2009. She is survived by her husband, Sheldon Downes of Greenville; her son, Eric Downes and wife, Kim, of New Market Md.; daughters, Karen of Winston Salem, Sonja Ellington and husband, Greg, of Burlington, and grandchildren Kathryn Downes, Ryan Downes and Kirsten Ellington. The family will receive friends at Wilkerson Funeral Home tonight from 6 – 8. Memorials may be made to the Meta Downes Endowed Scholarship in Communications Sciences and Disorders, ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation, 525 Moye Blvd, Greenville, NC 27834, or to First Presbyterian Church, 1400 S. Elm St., Greenville, NC 27858. Online condolences at www.wilkersonfuneralhome.com.

Published in The Daily Reflector on February 26, 2010
Officials promote H1N1 vaccine at ECU basketball game
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, February 25, 2010

A statewide campaign urging college students to be vaccinated for the H1N1 flu virus set up shop in Minges Coliseum for Wednesday’s basketball game between East Carolina and SMU.
In response to continued cases of H1N1 on college campuses across the state, the N.C. Division of Public Health is sponsoring the immunization campaign during the month of February to protect young people against the flu.
“While flu cases are not at the level they were back in the fall, we are seeing clear evidence that H1N1 is still striking young people,” said Dr. Zack Moore, public health epidemiologist.
From late January through early February, student health centers outpaced other providers in cases of influenza-like illness. A similar trend was evident during the fall wave of H1N1, with student health centers consistently seeing higher-than-average rates of flu.
ECU has recorded 357 cases of flu-like symptoms among students since September, according to Jolene Jernigan, director of the Student Health Center. Jernigan said the number does not account for students who do not report their symptoms to health officials at the university.
Before Wednesday’s clinic, ECU had given nearly 3,000 H1N1 vaccines to students, Jernigan said — most of those during October.
Statistics from the state’s Immunization Branch show college-age individuals remain the least immunized overall in the state.
As of Jan. 30, only 5 percent of 19- to 24-year-olds had received vaccines distributed to colleges through the N.C. Division of Public Health.
College mascots are joining the campaign to encourage students to get immunized. Mascots from eight colleges and universities are sporting bandages with the message “The Flu Stops With Me” at selected basketball games this month.
In addition to their campus efforts, student health services personnel are offering immunization clinics at games such as Wednesday’s to reach students and others who have not yet been vaccinated.

“This is a great opportunity for us to reach one of our most at-risk populations,” State Health Director Dr. Jeffrey Engel said. “We appreciate the support of our colleges and universities in helping us get the message out about the importance of immunization.”

Other colleges involved in the campaign include N.C. State University, Fayetteville State University, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Charlotte, North Carolina A&T, UNC-Wilmington and Winston-Salem State University.

For information about H1N1 and immunization clinics, visit flu.nc.gov. Students also may check with the student health center.

by the numbers
357 cases of flu-like symptoms have been recorded at ECU since September.
3,000 doses of the H1N1 vaccine have been given to students at ECU.
5 percent of of 19- to 24-year-olds have received the vaccine.
ECU stages 'Play It Again, Sam'
By Kelley Kirk
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, February 25, 2010

No character in the film classic “Casablanca” ever said “Play it again, Sam.”
So when Woody Allen wrote a play with that as the title, he perpetuated the misquote.
Allen did that for a reason, however, since his main character is infatuated with
Humphrey Bogart but lacks the style and grace of Bogart.
The ECU/Loessin Playhouse will present “Play It Again, Sam” in McGinnis Theatre at 8
p.m. today-Tuesday, except Sunday when the show will be at 2 p.m.
“This play has some appeal on a few different levels,” said Jeff Woodruff, managing
director of the School of Theater and Dance. “If you’re a fan of older movies, then this is
your play.”
Woodruff said there will be film clips from Bogart movies during the play.
“In fact, the play starts out with a film clip from ‘Maltese Falcon,’” Woodruff said.
In addition to the film clips, the first thing patrons will see upon entering the theater is a
huge painting of Bogart.
The play’s main character, Allan Felix, played by Andrew Britt, is recently divorced and
terrible with women. The mild-mannered film critic’s ego is crushed but decides — with
the help of his friends Linda and Dick — that he needs to get back into the dating game.
Allan begins to have conversations with his hero, Bogart, but he’s the only one who can
see him.
Costume supervisor Delta Childers-Smith said the director of the ECU production,
Robert Caprio, wanted to have the characters look as if they were from the 1940s, much
like the film classics that Allan Felix emulates.
“Linda, we wanted to look like Ingrid Bergman. A lot of her look reflects that,” said
Childers-Smith.
Childers-Smith oversees all of the outfits that the actors wear in “Play It Again, Sam.”
She said most of the men’s costumes came from the school costume inventory, but the
majority of the women’s costumes were created from scratch.
The Currituck County native graduated from ECU in 2006 with a bachelor of fine arts in
theater design and production with a concentration in costume and was hired after
graduation in the position she holds now.
“When I first came to ECU, I thought I wanted to be an actor. Then I took costume
design,” she said.
“I just like creating and I like always having a project. I’m very lucky. I’m one of those people who’s happy to go to work,” she said.
Childers-Smith plans on going back to school to get a graduate degree so she can work specifically as a costume designer. To do that, however, she’ll have to attend a different school because ECU doesn’t offer a master’s degree program.
She’s considering several schools, including the University of Boston.
“My mom is from Boston and I have other family up there,” she said. “I think I want to explore and spread my wings a little further.”

Contact Kelley Kirk at kkirk@reflector.com or (252) 329-9596.

If you Go!
What: “Play It Again, Sam”
When: 8 p.m. today-Tuesday except Sunday when the show is at 2 p.m.
Where: McGinnis Theatre
Cost: $8-$12
Call: 328-6829
Online: www.ecuarts.com
Winds ensemble performs at school, ECU

The Daily Reflector
Thursday, February 25, 2010

The Imani Winds, a Grammy-nominated African-American wind quintet, visited Wellcome Middle School students on Thursday before performing in East Carolina University’s A. J. Fletcher Recital Hall.

The quintet, which takes its name from the Swahili word for “faith,” performed for the students and answered questions about their music and instruments.

At ECU, the group performed contemporary works. Also on the program were works by two composer/performer members of the ensemble: Flutist Valerie Coleman’s Red Clay and Mississippi Delta and hornist Jeff Scott’s Homage to Duke.

The concert was sponsored by the NewMusic@ECU Festival, the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series, the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge, Pitt County Schools, the North Carolina Arts Council and the School of Music’s Instrumental and Theory, Composition and Musicology departments.