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East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481 FAX: 252-328-6300
Student housing, parking fees lead agenda for ECU trustees

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

East Carolina University will have students living in off-campus apartments again next year as enrollment continues to increase and Scott Residence Hall is renovated.

The ECU board of trustees will discuss a proposal to house on-campus students in an apartment complex near campus next year when it meets today and Friday. Overcrowding already has pushed some students into off-campus housing.

The cost will be about $400 per student or $100,000 per semester from the Campus Living housing account, according to board materials.

The apartments must meet the same requirements as dorms on campus, including having a sprinkler system, central fire alarm system, 24-hour maintenance response, security lighting, parking and being on an ECU transit route. The students will be clustered in the complex.

The lease will have to be approved by the University of North Carolina board of governors, the State Property Office and the Council of State.

The board also will discuss an increase in parking fees for the next academic year. If approved, the fees would increase on all types of parking permits allowed on campus. The largest increase (47.9 percent) would be for motorcycles from $25 to $48. Reserved spaces would increase from $336 to $408. All faculty zones would increase by 8 percent.

The board also will discuss Board of Visitor appointments and the expansion of Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.
James William "Jim" Pinkney
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James William 'Jim' Pinkney Dr. James William "Jim" Pinkney, 66, of Greenville and Washington died Monday, April 13, 2009. The family will receive friends tonight from 5–7 at Wilkerson Funeral Home, Greenville. After serving in the U.S. Army, Jim received a BA degree from the University of Minnesota, Morris; an MA degree from Hollins University; and a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. He spent 10 years in the Counseling Center at the University of Nebraska before moving to the ECU Counseling Center in 1983. In 1992, he joined the faculty in the Department of Counselor and Adult Education. He retired as a Professor Emeritus, after 25 years of dedicated service as a teacher, presenter, and author. In 2008 he was named a Distinguished Reviewer by the Buros Institute of Mental Measurements. He was preceded in death by his parents, Duane and Lucina Pinkney. He is survived by his wife, Kathy; brother, Ron and wife, Judy; nieces, Beth and Sara and her husband, Joe; great-nephew Carson; and his many friends at the River and in the Jungle. A loving husband, colleague and friend, he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Memorial contributions can be made to the Joseph Ciechalski Counselor Education Scholarship Fund, ECU College of Education; the ECU Education Foundation; or the charity of one's choice. Online condolences at www.wilkersonfuneralhome.com
Published in The Daily Reflector on 4/16/2009
UNC leaders apologize for speech fiasco

BY JESSE JAMES DECONTO AND ERIC FERRERI, Staff writers

Comment on this story

CHAPEL HILL - In 1963, state legislators silenced communist speech on campus. Forty-six years later, protesting students silenced a conservative former congressman because of his views on immigration.

The result is the same: a black mark on UNC-Chapel Hill's reputation for academic freedom.

On Wednesday, UNC-CH Chancellor Holden Thorp and UNC System President Erskine Bowles both telephoned former Republican Rep. Tom Tancredo of Colorado to apologize after student protesters shouted Tancredo down as he tried to give a speech. Students smashed a window a few feet from where he stood and blocked his face with a banner that said, "No One Is Illegal."

Tancredo is known as one of the nation's most strident voices against immigration, both legal and illegal. But on Tuesday he never got to make his argument against in-state tuition benefits for illegal immigrants. The broken glass, and the subsequent use of pepper spray by
police, shut down the event while Tancredo was merely describing recent legislation aimed at providing such benefits.

News reports and online video footage prompted outrage across the state and nation Wednesday. In Washington, the founder of Youth for Western Civilization, whose UNC chapter sponsored the talk, called on Thorp to invite Tancredo back on the university’s dime. Tancredo seized upon the protest as a fundraising opportunity for his political action committee, Team America.

The incident clearly touched a nerve, Thorp said. His phone rang steadily from the early hours Wednesday. None were happy callers.

"Some were from alums, and a lot were from all over the country," he said. "We didn't get anything from anybody happy with the way things went. The fact that it got out of hand is embarrassing."

Charges are possible
Thorp has promised an investigation that might lead to criminal charges or other disciplinary measures. Specifically, students could be punished for vandalism and pushing a police officer, he said.

Thorp said he was disappointed the students didn't uphold the university's commitment to free speech and diverse viewpoints.

Say that with money, a Tancredo supporter said.

"If he really means that, then I think the university should pay for Congressman Tancredo to come back and give his speech and ensure his security," said Kevin DeAnna, a 26-year-old graduate student at American University in Washington who founded Youth for Western Civilization last year.

DeAnna works as a deputy field director for a conservative education group, the Leadership Institute, which paid Tancredo $3,000 for his UNC appearance. A month ago, the institute sponsored Tancredo's speech at American, where hundreds of students wore black in silent protest. Tancredo said those students let him speak, whereas their UNC-CH counterparts "overwhelmed" nine campus police officers.

The American students "respected our right to free speech," DeAnna said.

The UNC-CH event began with Riley Matheson, who is the leader of the school's Youth for Western Civilization chapter, explaining his organization's conservative politics and introducing Tancredo. No one set guidelines for audience behavior. Tancredo refused to speak as long as protesters were shouting him down, but he tolerated large banners until two women blocked his face with one.

"We always anticipate civil discourse," said campus police spokesman Randy Young. "That doesn't always turn out to be the case."

Thorp pledges reforms
Thorp said the university will look at how to better prepare for controversial speakers.

Jennifer Rudinger, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union in North Carolina, said the protesters' actions amounted to "de facto censorship." She had seen video of Tancredo's appearance on YouTube.

"This is disturbing," she said. "That video is chilling."

Rudinger said Tancredo has the right to express his views against mass immigration, just as
students at N.C. State had the right to paint racist remarks against President Barack Obama on the campus Free Expression Tunnel on Election Day last fall.

"Censorship is not the answer to hate speech. Hate speech is protected by the Constitution," Rudinger said. "If we have the better argument, Americans are pretty smart, and we're probably going to win the day. That's the way democracy is supposed to work."

Roger Perry, chairman of the UNC-CH board of trustees, called the protest shameful.

"All thoughts and views should have freedom of expression on our campus," he said.

Events are planned at both N.C. State and UNC-Chapel Hill next week so students can discuss how to protect free speech and oppose hate speech on their campuses.

jesse.deconto@newsobserver.com or 919-932-8760

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Tancredo makes fundraising pitch after protest stops speech

Pro and con

Sponsors of the talk

The UNC-Chapel Hill group that brought Tom Tancredo to campus is Youth for Western Civilization.

Tancredo is the organization's national chairman; at UNC-CH, a fledgling chapter has eight members.

On its Web site, the national organization bills itself as the west's "right wing youth movement" and an organization "for students who believe Western Civilization is moving in the wrong direction and want to do something about it. This is for people who are proud to be members of the West and want to work in defense of their people, culture, and traditions."

Opponents of the talk

The protest was put together by a handful of campus student groups and led by Tyler Oakley, a graduate student in the romance languages department and a member of Students for a Democratic Society. That group has dozens of active members on campus with a national membership in the thousands.

Oakley said several other campus activist groups joined with his in the protest.

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UNC's speech

When a disruptive protest kept a controversial speaker from giving his anti-immigration talk, everyone lost.

Comment on this story

Free speech, which has had its ups and downs on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus over the years, suffered an embarrassing setback Tuesday night. A crowd's vocal protests, pepper spray from the campus police and a window broken by a fist-pounding protester disrupted an appearance by Tom Tancredo, the former Colorado congressman.

Tancredo was forced to leave without completing his speech at Bingham Hall. The university is left to pick up the pieces, if it can, of its reputation as a place where free speech is welcomed.

The most misguided of the protesters would say Tancredo got just what he deserved. He's widely known as an extreme foe of illegal immigrants (he would severely limit legal immigration as well). Over the years Tancredo's views have placed him squarely in the discredited, nativist tradition of earlier anti-immigration movements. His run for the most recent Republican presidential nomination failed to last even to 2008, and he didn't seek re-election to Congress. His current publicity vehicle is Youth for Western Civilization, which invited him to UNC and of which he is honorary national chairman.

Some of Tancredo's statements have indeed been hateful and obnoxious, but that's not the issue when a controversial speaker comes to a college or university -- not at all.

When protesters hound a speaker off a campus stage, that campus forfeits some of its standing as a beacon of tolerance and inquiry. When a well-known figure on one side of a public policy question is silenced, legitimate debate is the loser. (At UNC, the focus was on in-state tuition for illegal immigrants who are North Carolina high school graduates, an issue on which this editorial page takes the opposite view from Tancredo.) And when a professional firebrand goads people into disruptive acts, he wins -- and they end up with egg on their faces.

Contrast what happened at Chapel Hill with the treatment Tancredo received earlier this year at American University in Washington, D.C. There, students agreed on a course of "peaceful opposition." They handed out fliers listing the campus' protest policies and urged people attending the talk to be respectful -- and succeeded. As an official with AU's Multicultural Affairs office pointed out, "If you silence them [Youth for Western Civilization], you silence us." Some in Chapel Hill on Tuesday night made similar points, but they were overwhelmed by the disruptive acts of hard-liners.

Some of the blame falls on the UNC campus administration. Although Tancredo's Washington visit was peaceful, at least one of his appearances elsewhere -- at Michigan State in 2006 -- touched off violence. And with its substantial population of Latin American immigrants, North Carolina is a Ground Zero in a highly emotional controversy. The Tancredo talk had trouble
Let UNC be free of censors

BY BARRY SAUNDERS, Staff Writer
Comment on this story

The final score at UNC-Chapel Hill on Tuesday was 1-0.

That wasn't the score of a well-pitched game by the university's baseball team; it's the score of an ideological contest on campus between hate and love.

Sad to say, hate won.

When former Colorado congressman Tom "Terrifically self-important" Tancredo came to town like some bile-filled Johnny Appleseed spreading seeds of intolerance, students ran him out of town.

Lost in the burst of pepper spray cops used to disperse the crowd was Tancredo's message - that illegal immigrants are destroying America.

They are, he was quoted as saying in 2007 and probably would've said Monday, "coming here to kill you, and you, and me, and my grandchildren."

Oy. Vile? Yes, but he has a right to say it, especially on a campus regarded as a free speech haven.

After spending an hour or so on campus and Franklin Street on Wednesday, though, I'm not sure that reputation is still deserved.

Some students refused to talk about it. Others didn't even break stride when I approached with pen in hand.

In their defense, though, I hadn't shaved and some looked as though they feared I was fixing to hit them up for 50 cents.

Jonathan Kropko, a graduate student from Ohio, finally said "it's complicated" when I asked why he and other students were reluctant to talk about Tancredo.

"People should be able to come here and express their views," Kropko said, "but to what extent can we allow hate speech on our campus?"

Ah, youth. They don't realize that hate speech is far more odious when stifled than when expressed openly.

Years ago, Ward Connerly came to UNC-CH as part of his "black folks have got it too good" tour.

"Ward who?" you ask.

That's my point.

Connerly, a black conservative, was allowed to speak his insubstantial mind at the Graham Student Union, collect his speaker's fee and scram. He appeared on campus
without incident, though I wanted to create one with a Snickers bar I was nibbling.

UNC-CH survived, and Ward has had as much impact on world affairs as a pimple on the butt of a water buffalo in Indonesia. Tancredo's impact will be equally minimal, if he isn't martyred first.

The protesters must not have known that UNC-CH nearly lost its accreditation in the 1960s because the legislature barred Communists from speaking on campus.

Universities have a right, nay, an obligation, to permit speakers whose views challenge, discomfit and disturb its students. To do otherwise is to waste their time and their parents' money.

Students, likewise, are entitled to protest. They can't stop people from speaking, though.

UNC-CH has the best student newspaper in the country. It would have been far better to let Tom unTerrific speak and editorial writers at the paper offer articulate counterpoints to his scapegoating message. Or to print the entire text of his vitriol and see if it can survive scrutiny.

I'll bet you it can't.

Here's a question philosophers have pondered for centuries: If a bear poops in the woods and there's no one there to smell it, does it still stink?

At UNC-CH, unfortunately, the only lingering scent after a hatemongering politician tried to drop a stinker was pepper spray.

barry.saunders@newsobserver.com or 919-836-2811

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Colleges Ask Donors to Help Meet Demand for Aid

By STEPHANIE STROM

Faced with one of the most challenging fund-raising environments anyone can remember, colleges and universities are appealing to donors to help meet the swelling demand for financial aid.

Using such demand "as a fund-raising tool totally makes sense in this environment," said Richard J. Krasney, a wealth manager and philanthropy adviser. "More than ever, people want to know that their money is being used to address current needs."

Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass., for example, has increased its financial aid budget for the coming school year by 7.5 percent, to $21.5 million, a point its fund-raisers are making to donors.

"The incoming student body for the fall of 2009 will have higher financial needs than in the past," said Clay Ballantine, Hampshire's chief advancement officer. "I tell donors these are excellent students and we want to take financial concerns out of their decision-making process, and we're looking to you to provide a gift that will help us do that."

Chapman University in Orange, Calif., has seen demand for financial aid increase 88 percent — and that does not include requests for support from students accepted for next fall. "We're very open and honest about that in all our communications, and it resonates," said Sheryl Bourgeois, executive vice president of university advancement.

She has shared letters from students seeking additional financial aid with potential donors, like one from a young woman whose mother holds down two jobs to keep her daughter in school but just lost her house.

Telling potential donors about the surge in need helped Chapman exceed the $175,000 goal it had set for its phone-a-thon this year. Its gala, slated to raise $2 million, raised $2.1 million.

More recently, though, things have slowed down.

"It is getting tougher," Ms. Bourgeois said. "I think maybe people have had even more requests coming to them from other nonprofit groups."

Just a year ago, universities were emphasizing new buildings, research and sports centers and faculty recruitment in their fund-raising pitches, but those things turn people off now, fund-raising experts said.

Mitchell Moore, vice president for advancement at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va., said the university was making a case to donors that money raised through its annual fund campaign would be spent on immediate needs.
At the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, fund-raisers are telling potential donors that some $30 million in requests for financial aid remain outstanding. The university’s endowment is down 25.6 percent, and Gov. Beverly E. Perdue has proposed cutting state financing to the University of North Carolina system by 5 percent.

“We have a lot of donors who’ve given to our annual fund consistently for 30 years but have never been challenged to increase the amount they give,” said Patti Stewart, vice chancellor for university advancement. “We’re doing a better job now of asking them to do that, and it’s a good thing we have.”

U.N.C. Greensboro’s annual fund has so far collected 6 percent less than it did last year, Ms. Stewart said. In the past, the annual fund has raised 3 percent to 5 percent more each year. She expects to hit the annual fund target of $3 million by the end of the school year, which would be flat compared to last year.

Hamilton College’s $6 million annual fund drive is already flat compared to last year, and that makes Jon Hysell, director of annual giving, happy. “Flat is the new up,” Mr. Hysell said.

The college, in Clinton, N.Y., based its pitch on a recent alumni survey that showed almost 90 percent said they wanted their donations to support scholarships.

“So, rather than talking about how a $100 donation buys 45 compact fluorescent lightbulbs, we’re talking about how their gift affects a student in need,” Mr. Hysell said.

Several universities and colleges said they also are approaching donors who have created endowed scholarship funds that have lost value. Laws in roughly half the states prohibit charities from spending out of endowed funds that have fallen below their initial dollar value, which has crippled many charities at a time when money is scarce.

Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., has begun approaching donors who established such funds and asking them to consider making a gift to offset the loss of the money that would normally flow from those funds.

“If someone created a $100,000 endowed fund that is now under water, I’ll ask them to make a $5,000 gift, which is about what their fund would generate for our use under normal conditions,” said Charles Lewis, Millsaps’s vice president for institutional advancement. “We have several donors considering that now.”

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