THE DAILY CLIPS

May 28, 2010

News, commentary, and opinion
compiled by the East Carolina University News Bureau from:

The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
The Charlotte Observer
The Fayetteville Observer
The Greensboro News & Record
Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report
Business Week
Time

East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu  Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481
Stiffer budget cuts may hurt ECU
By JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, May 27, 2010

East Carolina University may be facing a larger budget cut than expected if the recommendation of the N.C. House education budget subcommittee is included in the final state budget. The subcommittee approved a plan Thursday that would require UNC campuses and administration to find $239 million in spending cuts for the coming school year. The plan includes an increase of $139 million in cuts on top of $100 million in cuts already in the budget. The new cuts proposed for the system are significantly higher than those proposed by the governor, at $104 million, or the Senate, at $54 million.

“Given the large cuts to higher education, we have a concern about maintaining the quality of our academic programs and student experience and are forced to consider large tuition increases to protect that quality and maintain our excellent faculty,” ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard said. Ballard said he was pleased to see that capital funding for ECU’s dental school remains in the budget.

“ECU is very happy about continued funding for the dental school which will mean so much to North Carolina,” he said. “We remain on track to open the school in the fall of 2011.” The Senate version of the budget includes a provision to raise tuition at each university, something officials have done each year since the economic downturn hit North Carolina in 2008.

“The draft budget approved today by the House appropriations subcommittee on education presents an enormous challenge for the University, and more importantly, for our students,” UNC system president Erskine Bowles said.

“If this budget were adopted by the full General Assembly, these cuts — now in excess of $225 million in a single year — would lead to the loss of 1,700 positions across the University.” Bowles said the cuts are much larger than university officials would have guessed.

“Fully understanding the impacts of these reductions will take some time,” he said. “In all of our previous analyses, we never imagined that reductions would reach this level.” The House budget would allow the system to retain $34.8 million of receipts generated from potential tuition increases and the budget provides enrollment funding for new students of $5.6 million.

But the UNC Board of Governors request of $34.9 million for need-based financial aid would receive only $12 million in the House budget. The House budget also contains a special provision that caps the University’s enrollment growth in 2011-12 to 1 percent.

“We clearly have an enormous challenge ahead of us as we try to improve this budget, both as it advances through the House and while it is under consideration by the conferees,” Bowles said. “This level of cuts would force us to reduce the numbers of students that we can accept on our campuses.” ECU officials do not yet know what portion of the cuts would be required from the university.
Previous plans for cuts recommended by the Senate and the Governor include cutting 100 jobs, 50 of them faculty jobs.

ECU has faced state budget reductions of about $82 million since 2008. Philip Rogers is the legislative liaison for ECU. He said the budget process still has a long way to go before officials know exactly what kind of cuts the system will face.

“We clearly have a challenge ahead of us, but it is important to remember that the development of the state budget is a lengthy multi-stage process, and the UNC system and ECU will continue to work with both the House and the Senate during the conference committee discussions to protect the academic core of our university,” he said.

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@reflector.com or (252) 329-9565.
House budget ax falls on UNC

RALEIGH -- The state House is proposing deep cuts to the state's university system.

The House is expected to debate and vote on its budget proposal next week, but details of its $19 billion spending plan began to emerge Thursday. House Democrats who control the chamber and write the budget began making the case that their proposal is an improvement over the Senate's, largely because it would save 1,600 jobs of K-12 teachers from the chopping block.

"It allows all classroom teachers to keep their jobs," said state Rep. Mickey Michaux, the House's chief budget writer.

The House budget provides a far gloomier scenario for public universities than previous spending plans put forth by Gov. Bev Perdue and the Senate. It recommends new cuts for the UNC system totaling $175 million, on top of about $50 million in cuts approved a year ago, according to draft budget proposals.

If approved, the cuts would lead to the elimination of about 1,700 positions across the university system, a far larger total than the 1,200 in jeopardy under Perdue's spending proposal, UNC President Erskine Bowles said Thursday.

"Fully understanding the impacts of these reductions will take some time," Bowles said in a news release Thursday. "In all of our previous analyses, we never imagined that reductions would reach this level."

Even if 1,700 positions are eliminated, fewer workers than that would lose their jobs. Universities routinely hold positions vacant to prepare for budget cuts.

Still, Bowles and others have said for months now that cuts at that level will force the elimination of hundreds of faculty positions across the state.

The House budget trims $15 million from the state's $44 million annual appropriation to UNC Hospitals. Also cut would be $9 million in tuition waivers for UNC system athletes who are from outside North Carolina, repealing a controversial measure enacted five years ago.

The House budget would fund some of the university's top priorities, such as enrollment growth for the coming year. But the plan would limit the university's growth to 1 percent in 2011-12, something Bowles said would deny "qualified students access to the knowledge and skills they need to compete for jobs."

And the House would provide $12 million for need-based financial aid, which is far less than the $34.9 million the system requested. The universities would, however, retain about $34 million gleaned from tuition revenues, a change from current law stipulating that the money go to the state's general fund.

Details of the budget were being hammered out Thursday and could change over the weekend. State Rep. Paul Stam, an Apex Republican and the chamber's minority leader, said spending in the budget would be slightly more than last year, an issue Republicans are likely to pounce on next week. A slate of taxes and federal stimulus dollars are slated to expire next year, meaning next year's budget could have a
deficit of $3 billion.

"Why spend more in the middle of a recession?" Stam said.

Democrats are likely to focus on teacher jobs as they pitch the budget.

To protect 1,600 teacher jobs, the House would divert $126 million from the state lottery.

The lottery revenues already benefit education, specifically four priorities - class size, scholarships, school building and More at Four, a pre-kindergarten program. The House maneuver would tweak how much money goes to those priorities and raid the lottery's $16.8 million reserve fund.

State Rep. Rick Glazier, a Fayetteville Democrat and an education budget writer, said changing the lottery funding formulas is a onetime step meant to save jobs.

"We're in an extraordinary fiscal time," Glazier said. "We're trying to use innovative and extraordinary measures to protect the classroom."

Staff writers Lynn Bonner and Jane Stancill contributed to this report.

ben.niolet@newsobserver.com or 919-829-4521
May 28th, 2010 07:00am

"Native Carolinians"

by Ben Steelman

The N.C. Office of Archives and History has issued a 25th anniversary edition of its "Native Carolinians: The Indians of North Carolina." The 101-page paperback covers the history of North Carolina's Native peoples and surveys their society and culture today.

Released in 1985, the original volume was by Theda Perdue, a professor of Southern culture at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This new edition was revised and updated by Christopher Arris Oakley, an assistant professor of history at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C.

Before earning his Ph.D. at the University of Tennessee, Oakley received his master's degree in history at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, where his adviser was David La Vere, UNCW's specialist in American Indian history. (La Vere will be the June guest for "Prologue," the StarNews/WHQR book club, talking about his Lost Colony book, "The Lost Rocks.")


"Native Carolinians" devotes chapters to the eastern band of the Cherokee and to the Lumbee Indians of Robeson County. It also, however, looks at the Waccamaw Siouans of Columbus and Bladen counties and their ongoing efforts toward eductiona and economic and community development.

The Cape Fear Indians, extinct since the early 1700s, barely rate a notation on a map.

"Native Carolinians" will be available at state historic sites. It can also be ordered for $19.40 (including tax and shipping) from the Historical Publications Section. To order, phone (919) 733-7442, ext. 0 or visit http://nc-historical-publications.stores.yahoo.net/.

Share and Enjoy:

Tags Christopher Oakley, David La Vere, Theda Perdue | Category Book news

- StarNewsOnline.com
- BrunswickVoice.com
- TheWilmingtonMagazine.com
- Visitors Guide
President honors Duke basketball champs

WASHINGTON -- President Barack Obama said it before Duke University Coach Mike Krzyzewski even had the chance.

"Payback is sweet, isn't it, coach?" Obama asked his guest.

The Rose Garden ceremony Thursday honoring the 2010 NCAA men's basketball champions was Krzyzewski's fourth trip to the White House.

It was his first chance to personally remind the current leader of the free world that Duke shouldn't be counted out of anyone's bracket - even the president's.

Everyone remembered Obama's top choice a year ago. Everyone was gracious about it.

Under a cloudless Carolina blue sky, Obama invoked the Tar Heels almost as soon as he strode out of the Oval Office. He reminded the audience that he had picked Duke's archrival a year ago to win it all, and they did. And he recalled that Coach K, known for supporting Republicans, had been a bit snarky about the whole thing, telling reporters the president ought to focus on the economy rather than on his bracket.

"He basically told me to stick it. Or stick to my day job, is what he said," the president recalled.

"It wasn't anything personal. I was just trying to win some money."

The president paused.

"I was right."

That was last year. On Thursday, Obama talked about Duke's last-second play against Butler. He praised Krzyzewski's charitable contributions to Durham and greeted the seniors by name.

"My homeboy from the Chicago area," he said of Jon Scheyer.

("That was a pretty cool thing," Scheyer said later.)

Krzyzewski, in return, praised Obama as charismatic and warm, a guy who can talk hoops. The coach also talked about the state's basketball prowess - four championships in a decade between Duke and UNC.

Of course, Obama noted, the reigning champs are Coach K and his Blue Devils.

"This year, he went out with all these guys, and he won so he could come to the White House and crow about it," the president said.

Coach K, standing behind Obama, didn't crow, really.

But he did nod his head.
Price speaks up for dismissed ROTC student

A UNC-Chapel Hill student dismissed from the university's ROTC program has a new ally in U.S. Rep. David Price.

Price, a Chapel Hill Democrat, has written to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates asking for details on how many ROTC cadets have been dismissed under the controversial "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

Sara Isaacson, a UNC-CH senior from Wisconsin, was dismissed from the ROTC program this year after telling her commander that she is a lesbian. She is now on the hook for nearly $80,000 in tuition and other school costs she must pay back. The federal government had, for 31/2 years, been paying for her entire education at out-of-state rates.

That doesn't sit well with Price, who wrote the letter with congressional colleagues Anthony Weiner, a New York Democrat, and Tammy Baldwin, a Wisconsin Democrat.

"Requiring a graduating college student who has served with distinction to assume $80,000 in debt for revealing her sexual orientation does not strike us as humane," the letter states.
Leader of Shaw alumni urges trustees to resign

RALEIGH -- Citing "gross neglect," Shaw University's national alumni group has called for the school's board of trustees to step down or be dismissed, an appeal addressed to multimillionaire lawyer, alumnus and board Chairman Willie Gary.

The May 14 letter from the alumni association's president, Emily Perry, cites no specific grievance, but says: "We can no longer stand by and allow Shaw to appear to deteriorate due to poor judgment. ... We have serious concerns regarding conflict of interest, fiduciary responsibilities, adverse interest and commitment."

Shaw, the South's oldest historically black college, has spent the last year trying to shovel its way out of debt exceeding $20 million. The May 14 letter is not the first rebuke. In March, the school's Florida alumni group sent a letter to Shaw administrators saying it was "amazed" that giving among board members totaled only $41,089 since July, despite Gary's pledge that each of the roughly 40 board members would chip in $50,000.

Reached in Florida on Thursday, Gary said he has no plans to step down or request anyone else's ouster. He acknowledged failing to keep up with his own $10 million pledge, made in 1991 at a promised rate of $250,000 a year - a gift that brought him nationwide praise.

Shaw audits conducted between 2002 and 2006 show at least $7 million outstanding from a single board member's pledge, and they show the university contracted for insurance coverage with the relative of an unnamed board member.

"Whether I've given any money to Shaw in the last year or so? No, because of the economic times," Gary said. "We don't have it."

Let's meet face to face

In a letter to Perry on Thursday, Gary proposed a face-to-face meeting with all concerned parties. In an interview, Shaw's board chairman promised future giving once the economy improves.

"People are being laid off," Gary said. "We're no exception. We've got a couple of cases we're going to settle this year, and we're going to give money to Shaw like you wouldn't believe."

About 2,700 students attend Shaw. Its board consists of educators, business people and Baptist officials in North Carolina, Florida and New York, as well as boxer Evander Holyfield and boxing promoter Don King, Shaw's website says.

The letter from Perry gave a Thursday deadline for a response from Gary, adding the group could not be responsible for repercussions if its deadline wasn't met. Gary said he didn't receive Perry's letter, addressed to his Florida law office, until Thursday, when it was faxed to him by The News & Observer. Reading it, he praised both the board and the alumni association but said he would "absolutely not" step down.
'Weather the storm'

"We're just going to have to weather the storm and stay together as a family," Gary said. "Are there outstanding pledges with board members? Yes. Y-E-S. Do we need to raise more money from board members? Y-E-S."

Perry did not return a call Thursday, and other alumni chapter presidents declined to comment. The Rev. David Forbes, another longtime board member, did not return a call.

Copies of Perry's letter were sent to board of trustee and alumni association members. The letter says it is hard to seek money from alumni in a time of rampant complaints about conditions at Shaw. It suggests the board eliminate ineffective members or leave to make way for the future.

"Now is the time for a new board of trustees that can effectively attend to the fiduciary responsibilities of Shaw," Perry's letter said, and, "We cannot afford the continued mistrust, negative news media coverage, hostility, calls, faxes and letters."

Shaw's financial developments and alumni concerns come as the school is seeking a new president and preparing for its accreditation to be renewed in 2012.

Earlier this year, Shaw University secured a $31 million federal loan with help from U.S. Rep. Bob Etheridge.

josh.shaffer@newsobserver.com or 829-4818
Virtual Heroes joins Duke ER

Virtual Heroes is heading back to the emergency room.

The company which creates "serious games" for training purposes announced that it is partnering once again with Duke University School of Medicine. Medical students and interns will be able to use Virtual Heroes' HumanSim game technology to hone their clinical skills, learn about medical devices, clinical trials and more.

The deal has ripple effects as well. The Research Triangle Park company will use the video game-engine technology Unreal Engine 3, created by Epic Games of Cary. Financial terms were not released.

Virtual Heroes is probably best known for developing America's Army, a recruitment and training video game for the Department of Defense. But most of the company's revenue comes from customers in health-related fields.

Virtual Heroes previously collaborated with Duke's Medical School on 3DiTeams, a first-person video game also used for medical education and team training. That game takes place in a field hospital or emergency room.

The company was started by Jerry Heneghan in 2004. It was bought by Applied Research Associates of New Mexico last spring. Heneghan continues as CEO.
Online, youth keeping up appearances

What's that? A young college grad lecturing her elders about online privacy?

It might go against conventional wisdom, but a new report from the Pew Internet & American Life Project is adding fuel to the argument that young people are fast becoming the gurus of online reputation management, especially when it comes to social networking sites.

Among other things, the study found that they are most likely to limit personal information online - and the least likely to trust free online services ranging from Facebook to LinkedIn and MySpace.

Marlene McManus, 21, is among those young adults. On the job hunt since graduating from Clark University in Massachusetts, she has been "scouring" her Facebook page, removing photos that contain beer cups and any other signs of college exploits. She has also dropped Twitter altogether.

"I have to present a public face that doesn't have the potential to hurt my image," McManus says.

She has seen otherwise upstanding adults, well past their 20s, sharing compromising photos and questionable rants with too many people online. "I get embarrassed for these people and sometimes just want to shake them," she says.

In this instance, adults over the age of 30 might do well to listen. The Pew study and a mounting body of research is showing that the very generation accused of sharing too much information online is actually leading the pack in online privacy.

The Pew study found, for instance, that social networkers ages 18 to 29 were the most likely to change the privacy settings on their profiles to limit what they share with others online. The percentage who did so was 71 percent, compared with just 55 percent of the 50- to 64-year-old bracket. Meanwhile, about two-thirds of all social networkers who were surveyed said they've tightened security settings.

Online experience

The Pew report, which was released Thursday, was compiled from telephone interviews conducted by Princeton Survey Research International between Aug. 18 and Sept. 14, 2009, among a sample of 2,253 adults.

The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 2.3 percentage points.

Mary Madden, the Pew researcher who was the study's lead author, says the findings partly reflect the fact that young people have been using social networking longer than their elders, thus making them more experienced in dealing with its intricacies.

They're also an extremely "brand conscious" generation, says Fred Stutzman, a doctoral candidate at the School of Information and Library Science at UNC-Chapel Hill, who co-founded ClaimID.com, a free online identity management service that he now uses as a research project.
"Increasingly, it's the advice that young people get from counselors and elsewhere: 'You need to have your own brand and you have to watch that brand,'" Stutzman says.

He jokes that older people don't care as much because "if you've got a pension, you can pretty much say what you want."
Oxford Tradition Comes to This: ‘Death’ (Expound)

By SARAH LYALL

OXFORD, England — The exam was simple yet devilish, consisting of a single noun (“water,” for instance, or “bias”) that applicants had three hours somehow to spin into a coherent essay. An admissions requirement for All Souls College here, it was meant to test intellectual agility, but sometimes seemed to test only the ability to sound brilliant while saying not much of anything.

“An exercise in showmanship to avoid answering the question,” is the way the historian Robin Briggs describes his essay on “innocence” in 1964, a tour de force effort that began with the opening chords of Wagner’s “Das Rheingold” and then brought in, among other things, the flawed heroes of Stendhal and the horrors of the prisoner-of-war camp in the William Golding novel “Free Fall.”

No longer will other allusion-deploying Oxford youths have the chance to demonstrate the acrobatic flexibility of their intellect in quite the same way. All Souls, part of Oxford University, recently decided, with some regret, to scrap the one-word exam.

It has been offered annually since 1932 (and sporadically before that) as part of a grueling, multiday affair that, in one form or another, has been administered since 1878 and has been called the hardest exam in the world. The unveiling of the word was once an event of such excitement that even non-applicants reportedly gathered outside the college each year, waiting for news to waft out. Applicants themselves discovered the word by flipping over a single sheet of paper and seeing it printed there, all alone, like a tiny incendiary device.

But that was then. “For a number of years, the one-word essay question had not proved to be a very valuable way of providing insight into the merits of the candidates,” said Sir John Vickers, the warden, or head, of the college.
In a university full of quirky individual colleges with their own singular traditions, All Souls still stands out for the intellectual riches it offers and the awe it inspires. Founded in 1438 and not open to undergraduates, it currently has 76 fellows drawn from the upper echelons of academia and public life, most admitted on the strength of their achievements and scholarly credentials.

Previous fellows include Sir Isaiah Berlin, Sir Christopher Wren, William Gladstone and T. E. Lawrence (of Arabia). Hilaire Belloc and John Buchan are said to have failed to get in. In recent years, fellows have included a Nobel Prize winner, several cabinet members, a retired senior law lord and a lord chancellor.

In addition, two young scholars are chosen each year from among Oxford students who graduated recently with the highest possible academic results. Called examination fellows, they get perks including room and board, 14,783 pounds (about $21,000) a year for a seven-year term and the chance to engage in erudite discussions over languorous meals with the other fellows.

But first they have to take the exam. It consists of 12 hours of essays over two days. Half are on the applicants' academic specialties, the other half on general subjects, with questions like: "Do the innocent have nothing to fear?" "Isn't global warming preferable to global cooling?" "How many people should there be?" and the surprisingly relevant, because this is Britain: "Does the moral character of an orgy change when the participants wear Nazi uniforms?"

Those are daunting enough. But it is the one-word-question essay (known simply as "Essay") that candidates still remember decades later. Past words, chosen by the fellows, included "style," "censorship," "charity," "reproduction," "novelty," "chaos" and "mercy."

It was not a test for everyone.

"Many candidates, including some of the best, seemed at a loss when confronted with this exercise," said Mr. Briggs, a longtime teacher of modern history at Oxford.

Others found it exhilarating. "Brilliant fun," a past applicant named Matthew Edward Harris wrote in The Daily Telegraph recently, recalling his 2007 essay, on "harmony."

He had resolved, he said, that "No matter what word I was given, I would structure my answer using Hegel's dialectic." And then, like a chef rummaging through the recesses of his refrigerator for unlikely soup ingredients, he added a discussion of Kant's categorical imperative and an analysis of the creative tensions among the vocalists in Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young (he didn't get in).
The writer Harry Mount, an Oxford graduate and the author of “Carpe Diem: Put a Little Latin in Your Life,” didn’t get in, either. His essay, in 1994, was on “miracles.”

What was in it?

“Crying Madonnas in Ireland, that sort of thing,” Mr. Mount said. “And the battle between faith and cynicism. I was a cynic and didn’t believe in miracles, and perhaps that was bad. I had just read about Karl Popper and his theory of falsification, so I threw in a bit about that.”

Justin Walters, the founder and chief executive of Investis, an online corporate communication service company, said that writing his essay, on “corruption,” was not half as bad as the oral exam several weeks later, conducted by a long row of fellows peering across a table.

“‘Mr. Walters, you made some very interesting distinctions in your essay. Are you prepared to defend it?’” he remembered one of the fellows asking. Unfortunately, he had only a vague recollection of what he had written. “You’re the teacher — you figure it out,” he recalled thinking. (He must have done something right: he got in.)

Sir John, the current college warden, has worked as the Bank of England’s chief economist and been president of the Royal Economic Society, among other jobs. He draws a self-protective veil over the memory of his own essay, in 1979, on “conversion.”

“I do shudder at the thought of what I must have written,” he said.