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Ship's remains found off N.C. coast

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Archaeologists are studying part of a 400-year-old ship found off the North Carolina coast. Researchers want to know how the ship was built and where it might have come from.

A field-study student group from East Carolina University looked at the remains of the ship, which was uncovered on the beach near Corolla.

“These are amazing vessels. The technology involved is incredible. You can see the wood is amazing. Also, we don't have anything like it today,” ECU archeology professor Bradley Rodgers said.

Volunteers carried the ship, believed to be from the early 1600s, ashore weeks ago so it could be studied and preserved.

“If this is a 1600-era hull that would be very exciting, because there aren't too many around,” ECU graduate student Dan Brown said.

Understanding the ship means understanding the shipbuilders, archaeologists said.

“Obviously just trying to figure out what this is and where it came from contributes to our understanding of the heritage of Outer Banks,” Brown said.

The ship's remains will soon be moved and displayed at the Graveyard of the Atlantic museum in the Village of Hatteras on the Outer Banks.

Reporter: David Crabtree
Photographer: Richard Adkins
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Bowles: ‘I pray’ budget cuts won’t be too extreme

By Jay Price
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL – UNC System President Erskine Bowles told the Board of Governors on Thursday that legislative leaders had assured him that the university system will face budget cuts closer to the $54 million approved by the Senate than the "draconian" $175 million cut passed by the House.

Still, Bowles was worried about the outcome enough to ask for Raleigh later Thursday to talk more with House members who are negotiating with their counterparts in the Senate to reconcile their versions of the budget.

"I pray for our students and for the economic future of North Carolina that it's closer to the Senate side," Bowles said in a news conference after the board meeting.

The legislature is struggling to cover an $800 million revenue shortfall for the state at a time when raising taxes would be all but impossible politically.

Bowles said he understands that there will have to be cuts but says the House cuts are so extreme that they would destroy the economic and social future of the state. Among other things, they would force the system to eliminate about 1,700 jobs, about 1,000 of them filled and most of those faculty positions. It also would force the 16 universities in the system to slash 6,300 class sections, increasing class sizes and making it harder for students to get classes they need and graduate on time.

The cuts come from an annual system budget of about $7.4 billion.

Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo of UNC Wilmington said parents of incoming freshmen on campus fees for orientation were bewildered by the size of the potential cuts and were asking whether their children would be able to get the classes they need and what would happen with tuition over the next few years.

The House proposal, DePaolo said, would be devastating.

"It's going to put us so far back for so long I can't imagine when we could recover from it," she said.

The House budget also would do greater harm to poor and middle class families, Bowles said, because it included a 1 percent cap on enrollment growth and a provision for $23 million less in need-based financial aid than the Senate version.

The smaller amount for financial aid would mean 6,000 to 8,000 qualified students being turned down for need-based aid, and the enrollment cap would force the system to reject about 2,700 qualified potential students a year.

It would be the first time in the history of the system that it was forced to say no to qualified students, Bowles said.

"By capping the growth and not funding the need-based aid, that means that the people who are really going to be hurt in North Carolina are the kids who come from poor families and middle class families," he said. "We just can't deny access to poor kids. It's just not right. That's not the North Carolina way."

The huge difference in the proposed House and Senate cuts shows that the UNC system needs to do a better job of building relationships among House members, said Marshall Pitts of Fayetteville, a member of the Board of Governors.

Bowles said that he and the chancellors had concentrated their lobbying effort on House members and that students and faculty had also gone to the legislature to help make the case.

Bowles said the UNC system's funding usually becomes a hot issue at budget time but that even he had been surprised that the big cuts got as far as the final version of the House budget.

The objections to the House budget aren't a matter of dodging responsibility, Bowles said. The system has been doing its share, already making $50 million in cuts for the current year and absorbing $575 million in cuts in the past few years. In the past year, it cut administrative costs by 23 percent, he said, leaving little left to cut that doesn't directly involve teaching.

"The vast majority of [the cuts] will have to come out of the academic side and that will lead to lower quality education," Bowles said. "That's something North Carolina can't live with in a knowledge-based economy."

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Students protest Israel's raid on flotilla

By Lynsey Horn  
The Daily Reflector  
Thursday, June 10, 2010

Rising South Central High School senior Layla Quran and rising J.H. Rose High School sophomore Sabrin Wshah were so deeply affected by the recent events in Israel involving the attack on the flotilla carrying humanitarian aid that they decided to protest. The students contacted East Carolina University students Faten Odeh and Moneera Awadallah to help them plan the protest, which was held Thursday at the Pitt County Courthouse. They and others supporting their effort held signs that said things such as “Against Israeli Aggression” and “Human Rights Now.”

“It is an outrage to all humanity to let Israel commit such crimes,” Odeh said. “The world is not doing enough. If we don’t stop them, what more will continue?” she said.

Odeh is a Palestinian Muslim-American and has been an activist and attending protests since the age of 10. She and others were protesting the events of May 31 when nine pro-Palestinian activists — eight Turks and an American-Turkish teenager — were killed after a squad of naval commandos stormed a ship trying to breach Israel’s blockade of the Gaza Strip.

Israel says its soldiers began shooting only after a mob of activists attacked them, according to a report from The Associated Press. The activists and their supporters claim Israeli commandos needlessly opened fire.

The young women said their protest was to make the Greenville area aware of what is happening. Quran moved to the United States when she was 4 years old. Her mother, Dina Quran, was born and raised in Palestine and is Layla’s inspiration.

As a young adult, Dina was shot in Palestine while protesting the Israeli occupation. Sabrin Wshah’s family also is from Palestine. Both women are the presidents of the Muslim Student Association at their schools. Awadallah was the president of the ECU Arab student Union.

She and Odeh have planned and attended protests and walks on the ECU campus and in the Greenville area.

“The courthouse is where justice is brought,” Odeh said. “We want justice. We want peace. We wish the world would stop being fooled.”

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Sober: College courses, rehab center under one roof
By Jennifer Epstein, Inside Higher Ed  June 11, 2010

Since graduating from high school a few years ago, Emily, a 21-year-old from South Carolina, has studied at the College of Charleston, the University of South Carolina and a few community colleges.
At each college, her story was the same. "I kept messing up," she says. "I was caught up in the party lifestyle and got involved in drugs. Everywhere I went, it ended terribly." But after Emily hit bottom and went to detox, her family helped her enroll at a different kind of institution, where long-term recovery and academic success are both priorities.
Since January, when she arrived at Sober College — an inpatient rehab center for young adults in Woodland Hills, Calif. — Emily, who asked that her last name not be used, has finished two college-credit courses; she is now taking two more. "I proved that I can do it and actually pass," she says. "I just needed to get my life straight first."

ON THE WEB: Recovery Hall
MORE FROM INSIDE HIGHER ED: Fighting for your right to party
She's not alone. Three-quarters of the 60 or so students at Sober at any one time were enrolled in college or hoping to apply, but struggled because of substance abuse problems, says Robert Pfeifer, Sober's founder and managing partner. "Once they're here and they're sober, they're able to start transitioning into college-level academics."
After trying out academic offerings from several colleges and universities, Sober has just signed a partnership agreement with Woodbury University, a master's level, nonprofit institution located 20 miles from Sober in Burbank. Woodbury faculty will develop courses that are based on the university's offerings but tailored to Sober's students, and deliver online lectures. Staff at Sober will follow up with in-person instruction and academic coaching. Both institutions will be able to use the other's name in some marketing materials. The initial agreement will last for one year but be renewable.
"This is really an integrated approach between an addiction treatment provider and a university," Pfeifer says. "It's really a true partnership, with us and Woodbury using our strengths to offer academic instruction to students in treatment."
The collaboration began in 2008, when a Woodbury professor invited a Sober class to visit the campus. Soon, Sober was offering Woodbury classes in public speaking and creative writing.
"We realized that our missions were really closely aligned," says Edward Clift, dean of Woodbury's School of Media, Culture and Design. "Woodbury has a history with this idea of student transformation and that's what Sober College is about."
Under the partnership agreement, the two institutions will work to develop three more courses that Clift describes as "hands-on, lower-level and with a rather relaxed teaching methodology" that together will make up a 15-credit "Certificate of General Studies." In the past, Sober had worked with Andrew Jackson University, an online for-profit based in Alabama, and Rio Salado College, an Arizona community college, among other institutions.
The other three courses will be in sociology ("Drugs and Alcohol in Pop Culture"), psychology ("Emotional Intelligence") and health ("it's going to be called Principles of Healthful Living" and be similar to the Health 101 courses taught at a lot of places," Pfeifer says).
Sober's monthly fee is about $8,000, which includes treatment, room and board, and Woodbury classes.
All the courses will be designed "to keep a wide variety of students engaged and to connect to the material," says Corinne Barner, Sober's academic director. Sober takes in students from a wide variety of educational backgrounds, but aims to accommodate most in the specially-designed classes. Some have learning disabilities or struggle with rules and structure, while others have successfully completed a year or two at institutions like Pennsylvania State University and the University of Maryland.

Barner advises some students to take one course at a time, while others take as many as three, with the goal of completing them all in 8 to 12 weeks. The typical course load is two at any one time. "We only want to do what the students can handle," she says, "so depending on their academic experience, it might really vary."

Rachel Sanders, Sober's academic coach and public speaking instructor, describes the students as "a mix." Some are motivated and "happy to take advantage of the opportunity," she says, while others "do not want to be here" or need remedial help.

And students' goals after successfully completing six months to a year at Sober (the average student stays for a little more than seven months) vary, too. For some students, Pfeifer says, the general studies certificate may be an endgame in itself. "This will be a sense of accomplishment in itself but it might get them to start thinking about continuing on."

For others, the goal is to transfer credits to another institution but "one of the core issues is that you're never going to want Sober College on your transcript, but Woodbury is great," he says. The courses will be designed to meet common general education requirements and be transferable to other colleges and universities as credits earned at Woodbury, which is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Emily hopes to eventually move onto another college or university where the credits will be recognized. "I'll probably be here for a while longer, but I definitely have plans of going back to a four-year college," she says. "I'm committing myself to going to class and doing the work."

Though she has toured Woodbury's campus and liked it, Emily thinks she wants to move back to the East Coast to be closer to her family. Any college will bring with it the temptations of drugs and alcohol, she admits, "but if I really want to stay clean and sober there are lots of influences out in the real world, not just in a college environment, and I'll have to cross that road when I come to it."

So far, Clift says, Woodbury has yet to secure any enrollments from Sober College alumni. But a Sober student who took one of the Woodbury classes has just applied to the university, as well as to the University of California at Los Angeles and Pepperdine University. The partnership is "not really a marketing channel right now," Clift says.

The two institutions hope to create another five courses that would be less related to treatment "to slowly transition students into the full college experience," Pfeifer says. Together, Clift says, the two sets of five classes would create a full freshman-year experience where "students win, because they get to sort of combine rehab with the first year of college." Students might then choose to spend their sophomore year — if not their entire college experience — at Woodbury while engaged in outpatient treatment at Sober.

He adds: "If they connect with Woodbury, great. If not, we're not trying to channel anybody into Woodbury who doesn't want to be here, but obviously we want students to be open to that idea."

While faculty and administrators at some institutions might turn up their noses at a formalized partnership with a rehab program, Clift insists that most people at Woodbury have been supportive of the deal. "We take a pretty broad approach to seeking diversity in the kinds of students we want to reach out to, that's sort of the Woodbury mission," he says. "We're a very practical university, providing this sort of professional education with a liberal arts twist. Sober is providing treatment along with academics."

Faculty were most skeptical about offering lectures to Sober students online and not in person, but have been convinced because of the presence of Sanders and a few other instructors at Sober.
Because Sanders has a master's degree and teaching experience at San Diego State University, she'll be joining the Woodbury faculty. The partnership won't be all about academics, Clift says. Together, the two institutions hope to start a national sober living fraternity that would be headquartered at Woodbury but, ideally, spread nationwide. Recovering students, he says, "still deserve the opportunity to do the same activities as other college students, to say, 'I want to learn about the world.' "
New alliances, league affiliation ready to reshape college sports
By Marlen Garcia, USA TODAY

The first ripple in a money-driven, potentially seismic shift in college sports came Thursday when the Pacific-10 Conference announced the University of Colorado will become its 11th member, beginning with the 2012-13 school year.

The Big Ten Conference, which has had 11 members since Penn State joined in 1990, could be next with a major move. Regents at the University of Nebraska— which like Colorado has been a member of the Big 12 — could announce as early as Friday that the school is joining the 114-year-old league.

The moves, aimed largely at increasing television revenue from the schools’ football programs, are a signal that the landscape of college sports could be reshaped this summer by dramatic realignments that could jeopardize longstanding regional rivalries and raise a range of questions. Among them: Where will the University of Texas and Notre Dame— considered the crown jewels of college sports because of the huge revenue their programs generate — end up? Will the Big 12 Conference (which also includes Texas) survive? As Colorado and Nebraska depart the league, its viability is in doubt. Will a domino effect — driven partly by expansion plans of the Pac-10 and Big Ten — create chaos in any other leagues, such as the Big East?

Those with a stake in college sports have been waiting for such events to unfold since the Big Ten announced in December that it was studying expansion.

Conference expansion is largely about hooking up with brand-name football programs with heavy followings that are the basis for lucrative TV deals. There is little room for sentiment with millions of dollars on the line.

**FINANCIAL PUNCH?:** Pac-10 hopes bold steps help finances

**NEW TO THE PAC-10:** Colorado accepts invitation to join league

**OTHER MOVES?:** Reports about Texas, Texas A&M abound

**BIG TEN IN THE MIX:** Nebraska nears decision to leave Big 12

"This is now about the number of households; it's not about geographical location, traditional rivalries or any of the other traditional reasons when you think about conference alignment," said Karen Weaver, athletics director at Penn State-Abington who recently wrote a doctoral thesis on the launch of the highly successful Big Ten Network. "It's about who brings the most value to the table."

Said former Purdue football coach Joe Tiller: "Who are we kidding? It's all about the money. It's not necessarily what's good for the sport; it's all about the money."

Established in 2007, the Big Ten Network already is churning a profit, drawing envious looks from many other conferences. Big Ten schools equally split $72 million in network revenue for the fiscal year that ended in June 2009.

Other leagues see similar potential for a financial boon. By moving into Colorado, the Pac-10 hopes to corner the Denver market as it prepares to negotiate a new TV deal and examines launching its own network.

That league could add more teams — possibly up to five more members of the current Big 12 besides Colorado, a move that would kill the league that began play in 1996 as a merger of the Big Eight with four schools from the old Southwest Conference.

"There are still several different scenarios that could play out," Pac-10 Commissioner Larry Scott said in a teleconference.

Ideally for the Pac-10, those scenarios would include Texas.
"I think what they really want out of this is Texas and the Texas schools that go with it," said Barry Frank, executive vice president of IMG Media, which recently negotiated a deal between the Atlantic Coast Conference and ESPN.

From other Big 12 members to the Pac-10 and Big Ten, it seems everyone wants the Austin-based university. Texas is a football and financial behemoth with enormous clout; its program raked in $138.5 million in 2009. Texas' TV drawing power is so significant that its athletic department has floated the idea of starting its own TV network to cover Longhorns sports — and keeping all the money it makes.

If Texas were to bolt the Big 12 in light of the defections by Colorado and Nebraska, it could take Texas A&M and Texas Tech with it. Those schools ride the coattails of Texas, but there have been reports by OrangeBloods.com, a website that covers the Longhorns, that Texas A&M could be considering a move to the Southeastern Conference.

Texas officials appear to be cool to the idea of joining the SEC, so such a move by Texas A&M could threaten a rivalry with the Longhorns that is more than a century old and is ingrained in the state's culture.

SEC Commissioner Mike Slive, through a spokesman, declined to be interviewed.

The push for Texas

Meanwhile, the Big Ten has reached out to Texas, perhaps with a willingness to also accept Texas A&M. But it apparently is reluctant to accept another Texas school in the Big 12, Texas Tech, because of concerns about its quality of academics.

The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch recently obtained an e-mail exchange between Ohio State University President E. Gordon Gee and Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany, in which Gee mentioned a "Tech" problem. Texas Tech isn't viewed as a fit for the Big Ten because it is not part of the Association of American Universities (AAU), a group of 63 major research institutions that includes all Big Ten schools as well as Nebraska. Texas and Texas A&M are members of the AAU.

For all its clout, Texas — a publicly funded school — likely would feel some heat from the Texas Legislature if it changed leagues without taking Texas Tech with it.

But Texas easily could find a home in the Pac-10, which also could welcome Texas Tech, Texas A&M, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State to create the nation's first 16-team super-conference in football.

Another option would be for the Big 12 to remain intact after Colorado and Nebraska leave and add two or more schools. It's unclear whether such an arrangement would yield the type of massive revenue forecast for the Big Ten and SEC for any school other than Texas. The Associated Press reported that Texas and Texas A&M officials met Thursday and that the schools remaining in the Big 12 was still among the possibilities.

Significant realignment of college sports would have a broad impact. For starters, fans would have to adjust.

"Whenever you expand the footprint of a conference, you are losing some traditional rivalries," Wake Forest athletics director Ron Wellman said. "Under most competitive models, you won't play those rivalries as much as you have in the past. That's a rather significant change for the fans."

Another worry is that the rich conferences will get bigger, stronger and richer while others will meet their demise.

Even a proud, tradition-rich school such as Kansas could be left scrambling for a new home. The school has won three national championships in men's basketball and boasts basketball founder James Naismith as its first coach, but its football program isn't attractive on a national scale, and the state's population is too small to add value to a conference cable network.

That's the harsh reality of today's college sports.
"We have one of the top followings in the country, and I feel helpless," Kansas men's basketball coach Bill Self said. "We're on the outside looking in. There are so many components in conference expansion. Basketball is not one of them."
"This is not panic mode, but it's a big, big deal. It certainly can change the whole climate for your university for the next 30 years."
On many levels, expansion and realignment are nothing new. The SEC took Arkansas and South Carolina in 1990. The ACC grabbed Florida State in 1991, and Miami, Boston College and Virginia Tech during the past decade.
But the number and scope of the potential shifts at one time seems unprecedented. The Pac-10, for example, had not added a school since 1978.
And no one is sure where this is all headed.
"There is anxiety associated with any type of change," Wellman said. "It remains to be seen if the changes that may or may not occur will be beneficial to college athletics overall. I would say the changes made in the past have been beneficial. I don't think we need to fear change. I think we need to make sure the changes are appropriate."

Is it really about academics?
While acknowledging that the flourishing Big Ten Network is one reason to expand, Big Ten Commissioner Delany has said expansion is one way the league's schools can counter a general population shift to the South from the Midwest. He also has said that academics are a top priority, emphasizing AAU membership as a requirement for Big Ten membership.
An exception would be Notre Dame, not an AAU member but strong academically and long coveted by the league. Notre Dame turned down the league for membership in 1999.
"Of course they're going to say that," Smith College economics professor Andrew Zimbalist said of the Big Ten's repeated emphasis on academics. "What are they going to say? 'We're going to prostitute ourselves?'"
If the Big Ten truly valued academics, it would not pick Nebraska, Zimbalist said. He notes the school's academics aren't on par with those of Michigan, Illinois and other Big Ten schools.
"What's happened over the decades, more so in the last two, commercial value has trumped academic value, and that's decidedly wrong," he said.
Yet in a slumping economy, it stands to reason that schools are looking to improve their bottom lines.
"It's understandable there are certain financial pressures and they're trying to sustain themselves," Zimbalist said. "It doesn't mean it's the right thing to do to subject yourself to the needs of TV and media."
In the eastern half of the country, the SEC, ACC and Big East are cautiously eyeing developments in the Big Ten, Pac-10 and Big 12.
Last week the SEC's Slive, whose members include football powerhouses such as Florida and Alabama, said he was comfortable with the league's lofty status but could be strategic to counter a significant shift in conference paradigm.
For now, that depends on the Big Ten and Pac-10, and how large they grow.