THE DAILY CLIPS

June 23, 2011

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
The University of North Carolina redacted the names of two "athletic department" employees in the NCAA's Notice of Allegations leveled at UNC's football program, a university official said Wednesday.

Nancy Davis, the Associate Vice Chancellor for University Relations, declined to identify the employees whose names were redacted from the 42-page document, citing the names as personnel-protected information. She added, however, that Tar Heels football coach Butch Davis was not one of the two employees cited.

State personnel law keeps private all but basic information regarding state employees, but it also allows state departments the discretion to release nonpublic information when an agency's integrity is in question.

UNC released a redacted version of the Notice of Allegations on Tuesday night. The NCAA document cited nine major alleged violations, and UNC redacted the names of the players involved, per the student's federal privacy rights.

However, the NCAA - and UNC in the case of one player - had previously documented the individual violations of Tar Heels football players Greg Little, Robert Quinn, Deunta Williams, Kendric Burney and Charles Brown. Those violations were repeated in the notice, but the names were redacted in the version released by UNC.

The names of the two employees in question were redacted in the ninth enumerated violation with a specific reference to the interactions of Chris Hawkins, a former UNC player who has been defined by the NCAA as a runner for an agent. The NCAA has asked UNC for a summary of information regarding Hawkins' interaction with one of the employees and a second employee's approval of Hawkins' presence at the athletic facilities.

**Inconsistencies**

There were also several inconsistencies in the redaction of names of individuals involved directly with the violations, specifically former university tutor Jennifer Wiley, former NFL agent Gary Wichard and former UNC football player Kentwan Balmer.
Wiley was listed in three of the nine violations and was given a separate four-page notice but had her name redacted in the first denoted violation. However, in the second and third denoted violations, Wiley was named.

Wiley, a kindergarten teacher in the Durham public schools system, graduated from UNC in 2009. She worked as a university tutor for three years and was also employed by Butch Davis as a tutor for his teenage son. According to the notice, Wiley committed academic fraud, causing UNC to use ineligible players during the 2008, 2009 and 2010 seasons and provided approximately $3,500 in impermissible benefits, including $1,789 for one player's parking-ticket payments in August 2010.

Following the new details of Wiley's involvement in the investigation, her lawyer, Joseph Cheshire V, said Wednesday that Wiley had no comment.

Wichard was described as providing $31,000 in benefits to former assistant coach John Blake and more than $5,000 in benefits to former player Marvin Austin. In the sixth violation, Blake was described as an agent/runner for Wichard's agency, but in the fifth violation, Wichard's name is redacted.

Blake, who lives in Durham, did not return phone messages left on Wednesday; neither did his Florida-based lawyer, William Beaver, who is listed in the notice as Blake's legal representation.

Austin did not return phone messages on Wednesday either, but he did post a joke on his Twitter account in reference to the NOA, calling Little, "Mr. Extra Benefits." The NCAA cited the Twitter accounts of former players in the NOA on Tuesday under the ninth denoted violation for "failure to adequately monitor the conduct and administration of the football program."

**Balmer cited**

Balmer's name is listed under the enumerated benefits for providing $2,000 worth of benefits to Austin, but Balmer's name is redacted in the subsequent description of the violation.

A first-round NFL pick out of UNC in 2008, Balmer signed with Wichard's agency. Austin and Cam Thomas, who played his final season at UNC in 2009, have said Balmer paid for their trip to a California training facility in July 2009.

Nancy Davis declined to explain the inconsistencies in the redactions.

The News & Observer called or left messages for Chancellor Holden Thorp and 11 members of the university's Board of Trustees on Wednesday, with
no responses received in return. All media queries at UNC about the notice and investigation have been directed to funnel through Nancy Davis.

ACC commissioner John Swofford, who played football at UNC and was the AD in Chapel Hill for 17 years, declined to comment through an ACC representative.

UNC has until Sept. 19 to officially respond to the notice and will meet with the NCAA's Committee on Infractions on Oct. 28 in Indianapolis.

Staff writer Chip Alexander contributed to this report.

jp.giglio@newsobserver.com or 919-829-8938
UNC's crisis

It's been almost 50 years since the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has been alleged to have committed a "major violation" by the NCAA, the governing body of college sports. But inadequate oversight of the football program, an assistant coach with connections to a sports agent and the alleged excessive help to players provided by a tutor have come home to roost on the Old Well.

This is a significant embarrassment for a university that has boasted of its squeaky-clean athletics program.

An NCAA letter, received in Chapel Hill on Tuesday, details allegations related to former associate head coach John Blake, who had financial ties to a sports agent (now deceased) and who is said to have steered players to that agent, something he denies. It also contains details about a tutor who is said to have provided improper help to players (including paying $1,789 in parking fines and buying a $150 airline ticket). The tutor had also worked for Coach Butch Davis on behalf of his son.

The university in addition is alleged to have failed to act on information one player provided about improper benefits in 2009 and 2010. Seven players took more than $27,000 in such benefits in those years, the NCAA asserts.

The university will respond, and then the NCAA will determine whether there were violations and what penalties will ensue.

Regardless of the outcome, UNC-Chapel Hill never should have been even close to a predicament of this nature. Blake resigned (getting a settlement) and 14 players missed at least one game of the 2010 season in the course of a university investigation.

Davis has taken responsibility; he had little choice, as the football buck stops with him. Chancellor Holden Thorp has expressed regret, but he could have been more forceful when potential problems were first revealed.

The university owes it to the public to be forthcoming with details regarding Blake and the tutor, who are at the center of the allegations.

And it owes a detailed explanation as to how it will see to it that inexcusable problems of this nature will never be repeated.
NCCU plans biosciences doctorate

By Helen Chappell - Staff Writer

Durham The UNC Board of Governors has approved N.C. Central University's request to plan a new Ph.D. program in integrated biosciences.

If the board endorses the program's final form this fall, NCCU will enroll its first biosciences doctoral students in the fall of 2012.

The first degrees, expected to be granted in 2016, would be the first Ph.D.s awarded at NCCU in more than 50 years. NCCU granted five Ph.D.s in education between 1955 and 1964, but the program was discontinued.

The new integrated biosciences doctorate would build on several existing programs at NCCU. Current students can pursue bachelor's or master's degrees in pharmaceutical sciences, drug discovery, or biomanufacturing. There are also two institutes on campus where students can work alongside research faculty in biosciences.

Considering these strengths, the Ph.D. program "is just a natural fit," says Dr. Hazell Reed, vice chancellor for graduate education and research.

The research faculty and laboratory facilities needed to support the program are already in place at NCCU, according to Dr. Li-An Yeh, director of the Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise at NCCU and a professor of pharmaceutical science. The university does not plan to hire any additional faculty for the program.

"We are pretty much all set for the next few years," Yeh said. Because of this, she does not expect budget cuts at NCCU to affect whether the integrated biosciences doctorate moves forward.

The new students, recruited from around the state and nation, would improve NCCU's research programs in biosciences, Yeh said. Doctoral students spend several years working in research laboratories and typically contribute more than master's students, who work for only one year.

The new program also would make NCCU faculty eligible to apply for government and private grants that are only available to Ph.D.-granting institutions.

Reed believes the new program will have benefits beyond NCCU. The most important aspect of the program, he said, is its focus on health disparities, in
which researchers work to understand why some human diseases disproportionately affect certain segments of the population, such as minorities or women.

"It's really forward-thinking in terms of addressing a state, regional, and national problem," Reed said.

helen.chappell@newsobserver.com or 919-829-8983
Budget cuts may force NCCU to cut 107 positions

BY LANA DOUGLAS - Staff Writer

DURHAM—N.C. Central University may eliminate 107 positions because of state budget cuts.

The campus expects to lose $13.9 million under a 15 percent budget reduction across the UNC system.

Actual cuts may vary from campus to campus, said Joni Worthington, vice president for communication for the system. The UNC Board of Governors will approve final budgets in about three weeks, she said.

With undergraduate tuition rising 5 percent and many students already on financial aid, NCCU decided not to seek a further increase, Chancellor Charlie Nelms said Wednesday.

Instead, the university plans to cut 64 faculty and 43 non-faculty positions, or 7.9 percent of its 1,355 state-funded positions, pending its final budget.

"We knew this would be a tough time," said Claudia Hager, associate vice chancellor for finance and process improvement. NCCU planned ahead by filling vacant positions on a temporary basis, she said.

Of the 64 faculty positions slated for elimination, 24 are vacant and 40 are filled by instructors whose contracts expire this year, Hager said.

The cuts would affect the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, School of Business, School of Education, School of Nursing, School of Law and the School of Library and Information Services.

Nelms told the board of trustees the planned cuts don't affect core faculty and academic advisers and that administrators will teach classes if needed.

Class sizes would increase an average of 20 percent and the university would reduce course sections by 15 percent, according to Hager.

Non-faculty jobs would be lost in maintenance, research, academic affairs and student services.

lana.douglas@newsobserver.com or 919-932-2008
Study: ACT Test May Not Accurately Predict College Success

By: Kayla Webley

While students have long contested (and whined about) the dreaded standardized test — a new study shows the ACT test may not be a valid predictor of college success.

The study from the National Bureau of Economic Research found that parts of the ACT standardized test — the science and reading sections, which are the two sections that set the test apart from the SAT test — have "little or no" ability to help colleges predict whether applicants will succeed.

The ACT, once called the American College Testing assessment, was originally introduced in 1959 as a competitor to the SAT (formerly, the Scholastic Aptitude Test). Today, it is accepted by every four-year university in the nation and has roughly an equal market share to the SAT.

While the study found the test's two other parts — sections on English and mathematics — were "highly predictive" of college success, the entire test's validity is in question as for the most part colleges rely on the composite score rather than individual subject scores.

"By introducing noise that obscures the predictive validity of the ACT exam, the reading and science tests cause students to be inefficiently matched to schools, admitted to schools that may be too demanding — or too easy — for their levels of ability," the study says.

For their part, ACT fired back against the study, issuing a statement that read: "ACT has decades of research supporting the predictive validity and application of the four ACT subject test scores and the composite score in college enrollment, performance and retention. We were not aware of the study in question until this morning, and we are in the process of reviewing its methodology and findings."