THE DAILY CLIPS

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Chancellor's residence renovations debated
By JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector
Tuesday, July 13, 2010
East Carolina University’s “first lady” doesn’t expect to be moving any time soon.
Nancy Ballard, wife of ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard, gave a tour of the chancellor’s residence to members of the local media on Tuesday. A committee appointed by the ECU Board of Trustees is exploring the possibility of renovating the house or moving the chancellor’s residence to another house in Greenville.
“If someone told you that you were going to live in this house, you would never complain for a minute,” said Nancy Ballard, who has lived in the house for six years with her husband.
“But if someone told you that you were going to live at the corner of Summit Street and Fifth Street, you might think of a few things to complain about,” she joked.
Ballard said the house is the closest residence to downtown Greenville and is often the target of pranks, but officials are considering a change because the house is not large enough to host events comfortably.
Ballard said she loves the house and said it is like a mini White House with so many functions and events.
“It is a beautiful residence,” she said. “It is more house than we need with just the two of us and two dogs.
“The only concern is a lack of privacy, but that comes with public service.”
As university officials consider expanding or moving the chancellor’s residence, Ballard said she does not expect to move for a while.
“I am not expecting anything to happen right now because I know, given the economy, our focus has got to be on the students,” she said.
Ballard stressed that any work on the house or purchase of a new house would come from private donations. The university does not plan to spend tuition funds on the chancellor’s residence. The house hosts more than 100 social events every year. A tiny coat closet, one small bathroom on the main floor and a small kitchen that gets cramped when used to cater large events, makes hosting difficult.
The house was built in 1930 and first occupied by Chancellor Leo Jenkins and his family. It is 5,000 square feet and features a large foyer with a split staircase, a dining room, a living room, a small library and a sunroom on the main floor. Upstairs, which is reserved for the Ballard family, includes four rooms which the Ballards use as a master bedroom, a guest room and offices. The university is about 10 times bigger than it was when it acquired the house in 1948, and members of the board of trustees have pointed out that it can be a burden on the chancellor to host large events at his home if the home is not large enough. The plans to renovate or move, trustees say, is important in the long run for the university, not just the Ballards.

"The board of trustees have a responsibility," Ballard said. "I think one of the things heavy on their minds is the growth of the university."

With other universities in the state featuring larger residences, some officials have worried about recruiting a chancellor at the end of Ballard’s time at the university. State law requires that chancellors live in housing provided by the university, so the option of a stipend to allow the chancellor to live where he wants is not available as in some other states.

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@reflector.com or (252) 329-9565.
Nancy Ballard, wife of ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard, stands near a baby grand piano as she talks about the entertainment area during a tour of the chancellor’s residence on Tuesday.
Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector

Many pieces of art, including pottery, can be found on the walls and resting on shelves inside the chancellor’s residence.
Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector
OUR VIEWS

Editorial: Rising tuition threatens long-term harm for UNC system

Wednesday, July 14, 2010
East Carolina University remains a tremendous value for students seeking a higher education. As part of the University of North Carolina system, the school receives public money to offset the cost of academic programs, a principle in line with an egalitarian provision in the state constitution mandating that education be kept as free from expense as possible.

The General Assembly strayed from that noble tenet this year by allowing UNC schools to offset spending cuts with higher tuition, an option East Carolina is expected to accept before classes resume in the fall. That is a treacherous path for the state to walk, as it threatens to price a university education beyond the reach of the least fortunate in violation of the constitution’s intent.

Before the Legislature convened its 2010 session, East Carolina Chancellor Steve Ballard issued a measured warning that potential spending cuts would impact East Carolina’s academic mission. He called on lawmakers to continue their record of investing in education, one area of spending during a recession with the most lucrative long-term returns.

The General Assembly would have done well to heed that request. Instead it set about crafting a bare-bones budget to address the state’s $800 million revenue shortfall, including a $70 million cut to universities. Lawmakers offset those cuts by including a provision allowing UNC institutions to raise tuition for the 2011-12 school year.

At a special meeting of the East Carolina Board of Trustees on Monday, members discussed the imposition of that tuition hike. In-state undergraduates paid $2,491 to attend classes in the recently completed school year, but that would increase to $2,881 in the fall and $3,144 in 2011-12 should the proposal win approval. It is a move the trustees seem resigned to make, reflecting Ballard’s concern about the university’s academic mission.

However, with each increase in tuition, East Carolina and its fellow UNC schools step away from the provision in the state constitution. They ensure more students leave school with substantial debt in addition to their diploma. And, most concerning, they threaten to price a university education beyond the reach of those qualified but who fall within the margins of financial aid and the ability to pay.

The UNC system is one of the state’s most valuable resources, but only so much as it is affordable and accessible. While the burden of this economic downturn must be shared equitably, lawmakers’ decision to flout the state constitution’s intent may have the most harmful repercussions.
UNC tuition will rise sharply

BY ERIC FERRERI - STAFF WRITER
Tags: education | local | news | state

CHAPEL HILL -- A public university education in North Carolina just got considerably more expensive.

UNC system President Erskine Bowles has signed off on tuition increases for the coming academic year, an attempt to mitigate budget cuts recently imposed by the General Assembly.

What it means: Students at UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University will pay $750 more in tuition in 2010-11, while N.C. Central University students will pay an additional $435.

The increases are far larger than is customary in a state that has long treasured the notion of an affordable education. At UNC-CH, for example, this year’s $4,066 tuition for in-state undergraduates will rise 18 percent.

Bowles presented the increases to the UNC system’s Board of Governors on Tuesday.

“This may be the best of some bad options,” said Hannah Gage, chairwoman of the board. “Nobody wants to do this on the backs of students. But the reality is clear.”

The new tuition increases come on top of a $200 hike for all students in 2010-11 that had already been enacted.

Student leaders say they understand the need for extra revenue, but some expect some sticker shock.

"The number is big, there's no doubting it," said Hogan Medlin, student body president at UNC-CH. "There's going to absolutely have to be a campaign to explain it, not only just to students but to parents. Families will be at a loss about this."
The state budget approved two weeks ago includes a $70 million cut in the university system's budget, which will be spread among the 16 college campuses and the N.C. School of Science and Math, a residential high school. The budget also allowed campuses to increase tuition by as much as $750 to mitigate the effects of the cuts.

UNC-CH and NCSU are the two largest campuses and received the biggest cuts - nearly $20 million each. Bowles gave the two campuses the option of enacting the full $750 tuition increase, and each chose to do so.

The UNC School of the Arts was the only other campus allowed to hit the $750 limit.

NCCU could have increased its rates by as much as $532, but chose only a $435 hike, figuring anything larger would hurt the institution's ability to recruit good students, Bowles said.

Twenty percent of revenue raised is to be used for financial aid.

University officials say that even with these new increases, the state's public universities remain a bargain. Tuition at all public universities will remain in the lowest quarter when compared to their public peer institutions nationwide.

In the last three years, the UNC system has cut $575 million in spending and eliminated more than 900 positions. Now, campus officials say, tuition hikes are the only way to avoid direct cuts to academics, including instructor layoffs and the elimination of course sections.

Campuses were given the option of phasing in the tuition hike over the next two years, but most chose to do it in 2010-11, citing the urgent need for as much new revenue as possible.

UNC-CH and NCSU still have additional cuts to make.

"N.C. State is still going to have to eat almost $3 million," Bowles said. "And Chapel Hill is going to have to eat almost $4 million."

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GOING UP

Tuition for in-state and out-of-state students will rise at all 16 state university campuses to help offset budget cuts. Some schools will raise the tuition for out-of-state students by a different amount than the increase for in-state students. Here's how much more per year an undergraduate can expect to pay:

Appalachian: $468
East Carolina*: $563
ECU out of state: $750
Elizabeth City State: $414
Fayetteville State*: $250
N.C. A&T: $517
N.C. Central: $495
N.C. State: $750
UNC Asheville*: $428
UNC-Chapel Hill: $750
UNC Charlotte: $425
UNC Greensboro: $485
UNC Pembroke*: $468
UNC Wilmington: $411
Western Carolina: $572
Winston-Salem State*: $623
WSS out of state: $750

* spread over two years
Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector

ECU’s Davis dives in
By Nathan Summers
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Tuesday, July 13, 2010

It’s almost go time for Dominique Davis. As planned, Davis is enrolled in summer classes at East Carolina, he’s in the throes of summer workouts with the ECU football team and the days leading up the college football season are starting to dwindle. For Davis, a long-awaited return to football that counts for something is almost here.

“It feels great to be back in school, back on the football field, and I’m still just getting back into it,” said Davis, who played as a true freshman at Boston College in 2008 before encountering academic problems and ultimately transferring to Fort Scott Community College in Kansas last year. The wide-open spaces of the Midwest caused what Davis described as a vital change in his way of thinking.

“Fort Scott made me a man. Fort Scott really showed me you can’t take anything for granted,” said Davis, a Lakeland, Fla., native. “There is really nothing out there, so you have to focus. It keeps you focused because of the surroundings.”

Now just weeks away from likely becoming the Pirates’ next starting quarterback, Davis said he’s ready to play, and to lead. He said the difficult road he’s traveled already has redefined his dedication and motivation to school and football.

Davis’ steadfast attendance at ECU’s spring drills, despite the fact he could not join in, served as evidence that the quarterback wants the third chapter in his college career to be the last one.

He also knows it could likely be his last chance to fulfill his own football expectations, and Davis said he wanted to make sure first-year ECU head coach Ruffin McNeill knew from the beginning he had learned a valuable lesson in junior college.

“When he came to my house and talked to me, he could tell I was ready,” Davis said of his first meeting with McNeill, who replaced former ECU head coach Skip Holtz in January and was forced to try to keep all of Holtz’s recruits at ECU, Davis foremost among them. “I looked him dead in the eye and let him know that I made a mistake and that it won’t happen again.”

Davis signed with ECU in February and was a constant spectator at spring practice, but opted not to enroll in classes until this summer. Still, he said it was important for him to forge relationships with his teammates even if he couldn’t play yet.
“I wanted to show the team that I’m here, I’m not going anywhere, I’m here for them and I’m ready to win,” he said.
ECU opens preseason practice Aug. 5, a month in advance of the Pirates’ Sept. 5 season kickoff against Conference USA foe Tulsa.
Meanwhile, a process of addition and subtraction has already taken place behind Davis, who despite not yet being named the starter by McNeill would seem to be the favorite heading into August camp.
Junior Josh Jordan, the former incumbent quarterback behind predecessor Patrick Pinkney, has continued his transition from passer to pass-catcher. Now filling Jordan’s spot in terms of putting pressure on Davis is freshman Shane Carden, a McNeill signee out of Bellaire, Texas, who is in school now and ready for fall camp.
Carden ran a spread offense at Episcopal High and has even worked extensively with the offense utilized by Texas Tech, the program from which McNeill and most of his staff emigrated.
Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or (252)329-9595.
This 2,800-square-foot house on Anderson Street near the campus of East Carolina University will be the new location for the REAL Crisis Center. Mary Smith, executive director center, said she is pleased with the location because many of the center’s staff members and volunteers are tied to ECU.
Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector

**REAL crisis is solved: Center has new home**
By JOSH HUMPHRIES
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The REAL Crisis Center will soon have a new home a block away from its current location. The center will be moving from 600 E. 11th Street to 1011 Anderson St. to make way for a large apartment complex planned for the land that also includes the King’s Arms and Green Mill Run complexes.

Mary Smith, executive director of the REAL Crisis Center, said she is pleased that the move will be to a house just down the street because many of the center’s staff members and volunteers are tied to nearby East Carolina University.

“We are very glad about the location simply because many of our volunteers come from ECU and it makes it easy to get across the street to the center,” Smith said. “We considered several locations that were far from the university and it didn’t seem like it would work out very well.”

At 2,800 square feet, the new house is slightly smaller than the old one, but it has a two-car garage the center can use for storage.

Smith plans to use the living room and dining room in the new location for office space, the den will house her office along with her assistant. A bedroom downstairs will serve as a conference room.

Two bedrooms upstairs will house live-in employees that staff the crisis center at night and on weekends.

Plans also include clearing some trees and shrubs at the new location to make room for parking. The developers of the apartment complex originally intended for the current location to be vacant by July 22 but extended the deadline.

Smith said the center plans to move as soon as possible but the new location will require some minor repairs as it has been vacant for about two years.

The center needs to raise money to help with the moving costs, estimated to be around $5,000, because many of the its grants do not allow for spending on moving.

Smith said there will be no disruption in service for the move.

“None of our services will stop,” she said. “We will do what we do around the move.”

The center has 12 employees, 15-20 volunteers and a 15-member board.

A nonprofit formed in Pitt County 39 years ago, it handles crisis phone calls, referral services, victim advocacy and suicide intervention among other services.
It is funded largely by the United Way of Pitt County, state grants, donations and fundraisers. Edwards Communities Development Company, based in Dayton, Ohio, will demolish the current location along with the King’s Arms and Green Mill Run apartment complexes and other nearby buildings to make way for a 15.81-acre apartment complex.

The Province in Greenville is expected to include nine three-story buildings, a maintenance building and a swimming pool that will be marketed to college students with one, two, three and four-bedroom units, according to plans that have been approved for a special use permit by the City of Greenville.

The complex will include 244 units and 729 beds.

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@reflector.com or (252) 329-9565.
CHAPEL HILL -- The cake was plentiful and so were the people Tuesday as hundreds waited in line to wish the state's "most respected man" a happy 90th birthday.

UNC System President Emeritus William Friday personally greeted guests and enjoyed his favorite Maple View ice cream and chocolate cake. Guests got vanilla.

Friday became president of the university system in 1956 and served until 1986, the longest tenure in the 20th century.

Party-goers included colleagues from the highest levels of education and government and those like Ann and Eugen Merzbacher, whose children overlapped with the Fridays' in school.

"Bill and Ida never missed a PTA meeting," Ann Merzbacher said.

Scott Ralls, president of the North Carolina Community College system, called Friday his personal hero.

"I don't know if the community colleges in the state would be what it was [without him]," Ralls said. "We are often times the way students access the UNC system. He understood that years ago and understands it today when the state needs it more than ever."
organization.

"He's the guy that makes it all right for North Carolinians to be do-gooders, especially for people who are hurting," he said.

Hall has worked for four governors. Every one sought Friday's advice on higher education, he said.

Raymond Jefferies worked with Friday in the dean's office at UNC-Chapel Hill from 1949 to 1953. As co-workers he and Friday were "always together," Jefferies said.

"He is probably the most respected man in North Carolina," he said.

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