THE DAILY CLIPS

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ECU’s tuition and fees may rise

The ECU Board of Trustees will discuss a tuition and fee proposal today in the board’s executive committee.

BY JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector

Tuition and fees are likely to rise at East Carolina University, following a trend of rising costs at other schools in the UNC system.

The ECU Board of Trustees will discuss a tuition and fee proposal today in the board’s executive committee before sending the issue to the full board Friday.

ECU spokesman John Durham said the proposed increase will be less than 2.5 percent, but final numbers were unavailable late Wednesday.

The increase will first have to be approved by the ECU Board of Trustees and then by the UNC system Board of Governors. The Board of Governors limits tuition increases at the state’s universities to a maximum of 6.5 percent a year.

ECU

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- Utility positions, cutting back on travel, cutting out non-essential purchases and closely watching utility bills.
- Funding decisions will be made at an administrative level; the board does not have to approve the policies that will pay for the reversion of funds.
- The board also will take a look at the draft proposal from the Strategic Enrollment Management Task Force, a plan that will address the issues faced by the university as it gears up to grow by more than 10,000 students in the next decade.
- The report touches on all aspects of the university, from facilities to technology.

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9565.
Treatment focus of lung cancer awareness event

BY TOM MARINE
The Daily Reflector

Lung cancer is best treated by a multidisciplinary team that focuses on individualized care, early intervention and long-term follow-ups, said Teresa L. Parent, program coordinator for the Thoracic Oncology Clinic at the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center.

Parent was one of four medical experts speaking Tuesday at the Lung Cancer Awareness Program, presented by the LJCC. Nearly 40 people attended the educational event, to learn about where treatment plans begin, the anatomy of lung cancer surgery, stereotactic radiosurgery and a post-surgical lung cancer vaccine therapy.

"Basically, lung cancer is treated with a combination of therapies most of the patients come with an advanced form of the disease."

Following Parent's presentation, Dr. Jon Moran provided a detailed analysis of the different diagnostic procedures and lung surgeries.

Moran, who works as professor in the Department of Surgery at East Carolina University, said each procedure — bronchoscopy and needle biopsy — are important diagnostic tools.

"Why are they done and how are they done," Moran asked the audience. "Surgery is a local therapy and most of the time we are doing it when we have a good chance of removing all of the cancer."

On their way into the program at the Hilton Greenville, attending guests were able to take booklets about lung cancer treatment guidelines, T-shirts and bags from different

CANCER
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tidisciplinary care," Walker said. "If it's the best treatment for an individual, it may be the best for individuals to come."

Walker's presentation showed the promise of MAGE A-3, a type of vaccine therapy used after surgery for lung cancer. He said the body's immune system responds to this vaccine, which carries over to the malignant cells.

Dr. Hiram A. Gay, clinical assistant professor of radiation oncology at ECU and co-medical director for the clinic, listed the positive aspects of radiosurgery for the patients who are not surgical candidates. He said radiosurgery only requires five treatments every other day and has a low potential of side effects for patients, meaning they are less likely to get sick.

Gay then discussed treatment planning and how the location of a tumor can dictate how he acts.

"Radiosurgery is a promising treatment option for patients with lung cancer nodules that cannot undergo surgery," he said. "But quit smoking while you can."

To close the program, Walker told the audience members how oncology can be draining, but knowing that every day, every patient is getting everything done to battle lung cancer keeps them going.

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NCSU student apologizes for racist graffiti

‘I am very sorry for my actions and for the anger and fear brought to NC State. ... In addition to my apology, I want to assure the campus that there is no threat to anyone’s safety.’

APOLOGY FROM UNNAMED N.C. STATE STUDENT

GRAFFITI

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addition to my apology, I want to assure the campus that there is no threat to anyone’s safety.”

The three other students, who helped him paint the graffiti, expressed remorse in a written statement released by a university spokesman Wednesday.

NCSU’s chancellor, James L. Oblinger, said he believes the students’ apologies are sincere. He said that the student who accepted primary responsibility has agreed to participate in diversity training and will be assigned community service.

Oblinger said discussions with university legal counsel determined that there would be no legal grounds for expelling the students. He also said that the primary objective of disciplining students is education.

“Education is our reason for existence,” Oblinger said in a statement. “These students now understand that the behavior was hurtful and offensive.”

The graffiti had brought considerable unrest at the university and among civil rights activists.

The graffiti included statements such as “Let’s shoot that n— in the head” and “Hang Obama by a Noose.” There also were references to the Ku Klux Klan. The paintings were examined by the U.S. Secret Service, which determined the paintings were not a serious threat against President-elect Barack Obama’s life.

Greg Doucette, president of the student senate, said the vote on the resolution was 48 in favor, 1 opposed, and 3 abstentions. “We had a standing-room only crowd with approximately 100 students in attendance in addition to the 52 senators,” he wrote via e-mail Wednesday night.

The resolution was drafted after a committee of the student senate held hearings to listen to students and alumni about what to include, Doucette said.

The resolution has four parts:
■ It condemns the four students’ acts.
■ It calls for the university to punish the students under school regulations and not federal law.
■ It encourages university officials to be creative with the students’ punishments. For example, Doucette said, the students could be sentenced to do community service at the African-American Cultural Center on campus.
■ It calls for a task force appointed by the chancellor to create policies that are explicit toward this type of crime and deal with these acts adequately.

READ THE STATEMENTS

To read Chancellor Oblinger’s full statement and the students’ apologies, follow the links from this story at newsobserver.com/news.

presidential election.

The student, who still has not been publicly named, said he meant no physical harm to anyone. He admits that his statements went too far.

“The statements written in the Tunnel were written with political intentions in mind,” he said.

“I am aware that racial differences were brought into play by my words, but I want to ensure the university that no physical harm was intended. My intentions were simply to express my views on the outcome of the election, but went too far.

“I am very sorry for my actions and for the anger and fear brought to NC State. I am also ashamed of the bad light spread on this prestigious university.

SEE GRAFFITI, PAGE 11B
N.C. could step up lung cancer research

By David Work

My family has been acutely aware of cancer since my wife was diagnosed with non-small-cell adeno-carcinoma of the lung in fall 2000. She died after fighting the disease for 3 years 9 months and 23 days.

There is no cure for advanced lung cancer. The progress of the cancer may be interrupted occasionally, but the standard five-year survival rate is between 10 percent and 15 percent. The comprehensive numbers are somewhat less than that, as my wife would count as a survivor when she did not outlive the disease.

Recent statistics show that 160,000 people in the United States die each year from lung cancer, while 52,000 people die from colorectal cancer. Breast cancer causes 41,000 deaths annually, and prostate cancer 27,000. The American Lung Association reports that, from 1992 until 2004, $1.6 billion was spent on breast cancer research, while lung cancer research funding totaled $33 million during the same period.

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This reveals a perverse situation: The disease that is the leading cause of cancer deaths annually has only 2 percent of the funding level of breast cancer research. Our priorities are obviously reversed on this subject.

Some people assume that lung cancer victims must have smoked tobacco and that the disease is a consequence of their actions. This stigma is not warranted. My wife never used tobacco. She is part of a growing group, including many women, who never used tobacco yet still contracted lung cancer. And nobody, tobacco user or not, deserves to get lung cancer.

One major reason for the lethal nature of lung cancer is that it is often not discovered until the condition is well advanced and perhaps less responsive to treatment. Traditional and orthodox medical practice has not included regular testing or screening of patients for lung cancer without any signs or symptoms of the disease.

Researchers at UNC-Chapel Hill have published an article in the Journal of Clinical Oncology that proposes genetic testing for propensities to develop lung cancer and potential treatments for the disease. While these procedures are still in the developmental stage, they are a good sign of progress.

We use regular Pap tests to detect cervical cancer and colonoscopy exams for early detection of colon cancer. Only 16 percent of lung cancer patients are diagnosed before their disease has spread to other parts of their bodies, such as lymph nodes, compared with more than 50 percent of breast cancer patients and 90 percent of prostate cancer patients. Effective and accurate screening tests to detect lung cancer at an early stage would be real progress in this field.

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Several years ago, tobacco companies entered into a settlement with state attorneys general that provided payments to states involving billions of dollars, in return for a waiver of the right to further litigation against the companies. Many public health professionals assumed that part or all of this money would be used for health care, but that is not the case. There are some specific provisions in the agreement involving health promotion and other activities, but most of the money can be used at the discretion of the states.

In North Carolina, half the settlement money goes to the Golden LEAF fund for grants to assist areas affected by reduced tobacco production, a quarter goes to the Tobacco Trust Fund to help farmers and tobacco workers and a quarter goes to the Health and Wellness Trust Fund. There are no specific provisions to fund research to find a cure for lung cancer.

We need to reset our priorities on funding lung cancer research without delay. The development of a screening test that would detect lung cancer at an early and treatable stage should be a primary priority. The next step would be to find a cure for this lethal disease.

David Work, retired executive director of the N.C. Board of Pharmacy, is a member of the board of directors of the N.C. Chapter of the National Lung Cancer Partnership.
Carolina North guidelines OK'd

UNC-CH trustees pass broad plan

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — Trustees at UNC-Chapel Hill have signed off on a series of guidelines that will help dictate how the university's Carolina North campus will look.

Trustees, during a meeting on Wednesday, approved a broad set of guiding principles touching on everything from density to building height on the campus slated to be built on land west of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

The approvals of the guidelines are the latest step in a long process mired in delay. The first building UNC-CH had hoped to build at Carolina North, a facility where lab research could be spun off into private enterprise, has already been put off due to the weak economy.

Roger Perry, chairman of the board of trustees, said this week that delay is actually to the benefit of the town and university, because town leaders will now have a chance to approve these design guidelines before voting on the specific Innovation Center plan.

The design guidelines are intended to help lead a development process expected to take several decades.

Some details:
- Carolina North will rely on some of the classic elements of the picturesque main UNC-CH campus like stone walls and brick sidewalks.
- The campus should also have distinct features, such as monuments and public art, that would give it a personality.
- Entries and street-level building design will encourage pedestrian activity. Along with academic and research components, the campus will have retail shops and homes or apartments where people can live, an attempt to create a sense of community rather than a commuter campus.
- Buildings along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard will be six stories high. Farther into the core of the development, buildings could go as high as eight stories, according to the guidelines.
- "The buildings could be quite massive," University Architect Anna Wu said, "in keeping with our interest in increasing density."

At a meeting earlier this week, some members of the Chapel Hill Town Council said they wished the UNC board had gathered community input on the design guidelines prior to approving them.

But Perry said approving the guidelines would give town leaders and citizens a template to follow as planning continues.

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