The East Carolina University Board of Trustees will hold a special discussion during lunch today on tuition and fees for next year.

An increase of 6.5 percent is proposed for the 2012-13 school year, with increases of 10 and 12.5 percent to be phased over subsequent years. The trustees will make an initial decision at their formal meeting Friday for approval by the University of North Carolina system Board of Governors in the early spring.

The three different options translate to $218, $335 or $418 increases in resident undergraduate costs. Proposed fee increases total $95.

A standing state policy caps increases at 6.5 percent each year. But this time around, “catch-up” increases beyond that are allowed if spread over multiple years, so long as schools stay on the low end when compared to peer institutions.

Chancellor Steve Ballard said at a conference call with trustees last week that he likely would recommend the “catch-up” increases on top of the 6.5 percent annual increase.

This year state appropriations to ECU were cut 16 percent, or $49 million, and 180 class sections were cut.

Option 1, a 6.5 percent increase, would yield about $7.9 million. Option 2, a 10 percent increase, would yield about $12.2 million. Option 3, a 12.5 percent increase, would yield about $15.2 million.

Most University of North Carolina system schools are looking at 8-10 percent increases. Chapel Hill trustees recently approved a 15.6 percent increase, or $800, for next year’s resident undergraduates.
For this year, tuition and fees at ECU increased by $567, or 11.9 percent, with some previously scheduled increases on top of the 6.5 percent annual cap. Resident undergraduates are paying $5,514 for a year’s tuition and fees, compared to $4,947 last year.

Professional medical and dental schools have different regulations. The ECU Brody School of Medicine is looking at a $1,500 tuition increase for next year. The new ECU School of Dental medicine is considering a $455 increase per trimester, or $1,365 per year.

The fee increase breakdown is $35 for athletics, $40 for education technology, $6 for student services, $5 for health services, $3 for graduation and $6 for transit.

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or 252-329-9567.
Local events to spotlight World AIDS Day
By K.J. Williams
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, December 1, 2011

Local events today will mark World AIDS Day with free confidential testing and speakers in an effort to stem the increase of AIDS and HIV cases diagnosed in Pitt County.

The educational message is that sexual activity is the primary means of transmission, but early detection and treatment can prevent HIV from advancing to AIDS, said Dr. Diane Campbell, an assistant professor at East Carolina University’s Brody School of Medicine.

Campbell, who is the director of the Community HIV and AIDS Reach out program, will moderate a panel of speakers, who will give first-hand accounts on the impact the virus has had on their lives from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Hendrix Theatre at ECU’s Mendenhall Student Center. The public is invited. Earlier on campus, testing will be provided from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. by Brody at The Wright Place food court in the Wright Building. Testing won’t be limited to students.

Also today, another educational and testing event will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at York Memorial AME Zion Church, located at 201 Tyson St. Campbell will speak about AIDS and HIV and answer any questions. Testing will be provided by representatives from the Pitt County AIDS Service Organization, known as PiCASO. The church event is sponsored by the Pitt County alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

Yolanda Palmer, the sorority’s president, said the national theme of “Getting to Zero” reflects the hope that “someday we can look forward to having no new HIV- and AIDS-affected cases in the area.”

She said a candlelight vigil will be held and four candles will be lit. The first will symbolize the people who have died because of the disease. The second will remember their families and survivors. The third candle symbolizes health care providers, and the fourth candle represents the hope that the epidemic will end.
At the event, toiletry items will be collected for PiCASO clients.

On Saturday, a Walking for AIDS 2011 event is planned. The 1.7-mile walk leaves the Big B Mart parking lot at 146 S.W. Greenville Blvd., beside Walmart, at 9:30 a.m. Registration is at 9 a.m. Donations also will be accepted for a food bank and energy assistance program.

In North Carolina, Pitt County ranks 15th for the average rate of HIV cases and 16th for the average rate of AIDS cases, according to 2009 statistics compiled for a state report and included in last year’s State of the County Health Report produced by the Pitt County Health Department.

Campbell said that in Pitt County as a whole, the number of cases has leveled out, but minority groups have a disproportionately higher rate, and that rate is rising.

She said that AIDS is the “end stage of untreated HIV disease,” and with treatment and medication, HIV doesn’t not have to result in AIDS. A person who is treated can have a normal life expectancy.

Preventing the spread of HIV is crucial through the use of condoms. People who are not in a monogamous relationship with someone who has been proven to be free of the virus need to take precautions, she said.

It’s important to educate the public to remove the stigma and promote testing, Campbell said.

In Pitt County, statistics point to a higher rate among blacks and Hispanics.

“They communities historically have social economic factors that are conducive to the transmission of HIV,” she said. “One of these factors would be that HIV moves in communities where there is poverty because with poverty you have a lack of health care.

“And in eastern North Carolina, 33 percent of African-Americans live at or below poverty (level) compared to other ethnic groups,” she said.
Other factors that lead to the spread of the virus is an atmosphere that isn’t tolerant of homosexuality, so that people hide their sexuality and increase the risk.

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Carving a new identity: UHS changes its name
By K.j. Williams
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, December 1, 2011

University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina officials announced Wednesday that the not-for-profit will change its name to Vidant Health effective Jan. 25.

The Greenville-based health system either owns or operates 10 hospitals in eastern North Carolina, including Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

UHS officials will change the name from PCMH to Vidant Medical Center. The main building at the Greenville hospital will be referred to as the Pitt Memorial Building, said Dr. Dave Herman, the president and chief operating officer of UHS.

He said the decision to retain the name Pitt for that building was made as a way of identifying it, and was not made to quiet critics of the first attempt to change the hospital’s name three months ago. Some residents were concerned that PCMH would lose its Pitt County identity.

“Coincidentally it does recognize the people who started this fine institution,” Herman said of calling the main building Pitt Memorial.
A marker has been installed there to acknowledge its historical ties to World War II veterans.

The Vidant name was chosen because the letters Vi are derived from the Latin root word of viv, which means life and alive, reflecting the health system’s dedication to “enhancing the quality of life,” said Dave McRae, UHS’ chief executive officer.

Along with the name change a new logo with a stylized capital “V” was unveiled. The logo uses the same blue and white colors the system uses now.

Herman said the logo’s overlapping design shows how Vidant is an interconnected health care system.

The event at the UHS Foundation building near PCMH marked the second time this year that UHS has announced plans to change its name to reflect its growth into a health system.

In August, UHS officials said they would shorten the name to University Health System and would change the name of PCMH to UHS Medical Center to identify it as a regional hospital.

Pennsylvania-based Universal Health Services, which also uses the acronym UHS and has facilities in North Carolina, objected in September on the basis of trademark infringement.

McRae noted that the use of the new name, Vidant Health, will allow the organization to move “forward with a protected name that will be our own.”

Herman said a name change was a priority so that UHS could rebrand itself to show its growth.

“This (PCMH) hospital is No. 3 in the country for hospital-to-hospital transfers,” he said, adding that PCMH is the only level 1 trauma center in eastern North Carolina.

“We need a name that shows that we are a system,” Herman said.

Eight regional hospitals including the Washington, N.C., Beaufort Hospital leased by UHS will have the hospital’s name preceded by Vidant.
In Belhaven, the hospital will be renamed Vidant Pungo Hospital.

Two facilities that won’t be affected by the change are the Outer Banks Hospital in Nags Head, which UHS owns with another entity, and Albemarle Health in Elizabeth City, which UHS manages.

Herman said by January’s official effective date, the name transformation will be complete throughout the system.

The entities’ legal names will not change.

Vidant Health was chosen as the name by trustees, who jointly serve on the boards of UHS and PCMH, in a closed-session vote on Nov. 7.

The change was not made public until Wednesday.

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Protesters greet CEO of Wells Fargo at NCSU

BY JOSH SHAFFER - jshaffer@newsobserver.com

RALEIGH Protesters at N.C. State University shouted down the head of Wells Fargo Bank on Wednesday, accusing CEO John Stumpf of backing foreclosures, high-interest loans and predatory lending they say are killing the national economy.

Stumpf, who leads the country's fourth-largest bank, spoke as part of an executive lecture series at NCSU's Poole College of Management. About 30 minutes into his speech, NCSU junior Danielle Carr rose from the crowd and yelled "John Stumpf!" - a cry echoed by about 20 others scattered around the crowded auditorium.

"We won't take your home," the protesters told him, "but we will take a minute of your time. Your leadership has led to the death of the American dream. Wells Fargo is guilty of widespread predatory lending and holds over 5.7 billion in student debt."

Stumpf left the lectern as the disruption continued for about 5 minutes.

Police reported no arrests among the protesters, a combination of Occupy Raleigh, Occupy Durham, Occupy N.C. State and other groups. Security
guards and campus police led roughly a dozen of them out of Nelson Auditorium, which held about 400 people.

As they left the building, Stumpf resumed his speech to applause.

"We take this very seriously," he said. "Our company is trying very hard to create opportunities to get this economy moving again."

San Francisco-based Wells Fargo took and later repaid $25 billion in federal dollars as part of the Troubled Asset Relief Program. Stumpf rose to chairman, president and CEO in 2010 - two years after Wells Fargo acquired Charlotte-based Wachovia. That year, he earned $18.9 million in salary, stocks and other compensation, according to Forbes.

Stumpf began his speech on a genial note, praising both N.C. State's legendary basketball team coached by Jim Valvano, and the university's comeback win Saturday over the University of Maryland on the football field.

Stumpf noted that many students had sent him emails before the Wednesday afternoon speech, inviting him out afterward.

"I don't know where East Village Bar and Grill is," he said, getting a laugh from the crowd, "but I was offered drinks and things." He went on to discuss the Wachovia merger, the housing bubble and the decline of American manufacturing when the first protester stood.

**A coordinated effort**

The Raleigh group followed the style made popular by the Occupy Wall Street movement, a call-and-response format in which one person speaks and the rest repeat those words in unison, making sure everyone can hear.

"Wells Fargo foreclosed on hundreds of thousands of homes last year, many of them illegally," the protesters said, referencing an ongoing U.S. Treasury investigation into several banks' practices. "You have issued no admission of guilt or apology."

The protest group had printed its lengthy speech inside a mock pamphlet designed to look like an advertisement for Stumpf's speech. His picture appeared on the front, and inside, the message included statistics on rising tuition and a reference to lawsuits facing Wells Fargo.

Plans had been coordinated in advance by the various Occupy groups in the Triangle.
"It's kind of been this hush-hush idea," graduate student Ryan Thomson said. "We got some students from the Design School helping."

Students gathered outside the College of Management nearly two hours before Stumpf's speech, drawing both honks and middle fingers from Hillsborough Street drivers.

"Instead of giving a lecture, he ought to offer an apology to the N.C. State students who are probably going to graduate without any job opportunities," said Jeremy Sprinkle, communications director for the AFL-CIO, who held a sign on Hillsborough Street along with the Occupy groups.

**Protesting outside**

Inside Nelson Auditorium, College of Management Dean Ira Weiss called for order, and the first several rows of spectators began applauding to drown out the protesters' shouting.

After the protesters were led from the room, they kept up their demonstration, their numbers rising to 50.

Some cars honked support as they passed.

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UNCC plans $37 million R&D center

By Andrew Dunn

UNC Charlotte is set to break ground this month on a building it hopes will become a hub of research and innovation that benefits the region.

Known as the PORTAL building, the $37 million project is the latest significant development for the nearly 10-year-old Charlotte Research Institute, the university's link to research, academia and the business community.

The groundbreaking is set for Dec. 15. The 95,000-square-foot building, off North Tryon Street by the entrance to the institute's campus, should open by late 2013 or early 2014.

The institute envisions the building housing private research and development teams and large-scale research projects. No companies have committed to leasing space.

But once full, at any one time, the building could hold as many as eight research and development teams from large companies, 25 fledgling businesses, a dozen student-driven enterprises and a larger university research project.

"Having these companies so close to a community of entrepreneurial, aggressive students and talented faculty will increase the ability to attract these companies to Charlotte," said Robert Wilhelm, UNCC vice chancellor for research and economic development.

The new building also will house the Ben Craig Center business incubator. The center, which recently celebrated its 25th year, houses about two dozen small businesses.

"This is a whole new level of commitment to university and corporate partnerships, whether it's a two-person startup or a large, established company," center President Paul Wetenhall said. "It's unpredictable what will come from that, but when you bring the intellectual property creation capabilities of the university and the execution properties of the private sector, you get some really good outcomes from that in terms of job creation."
In its new space, the center hopes to focus more on fostering innovation-centered businesses, Wetenhall said.

Work on the project began in 2007, with the vision of being a portal for collaborations between businesses and the university. Later, the university came up with an acronym to fit: Partnership, Outreach, and Research for Accelerated Learning.

Design work was largely complete in 2010, but uncertain financing slowed the project. UNCC Chancellor Philip Dubois gave it the go-ahead this year. Construction money from the state legislature has been tight in recent years, but Wilhelm said the PORTAL building's financing will come from the university's budget.

Four of the six design firms that will work on the building are Charlotte-based. The construction manager, Edifice Inc., is based in Charlotte as well.

"It is a significantly sized project," said Mike Carlisto, project executive in charge. "Any project over $20 million these days is nice to have. But for us, it's a very important project."

The design will be fairly generic, Wilhelm said, to be able to adapt to different needs. One unusual component: a 10,000-square-foot facility designed to protect sensitive information.

The new building reflects the university's emphasis on private-sector partnerships and research. UNCC already has a number of partnerships with researchers and businesses, in fields ranging from manufacturing to data security.

The new building will add capacity and allow the university to better group teams, Wilhelm said.

UNCC also has placed greater emphasis on fostering entrepreneurship and business development in recent years, a theme shared by several of the larger universities in the statewide system.

UNCC also has supported the similarly focused N.C. Research Campus in Kannapolis. Rather than competing with that location, Wilhelm said he hopes the PORTAL building becomes one more research hub along an increasingly developed Interstate 85 corridor between south Charlotte and Kannapolis.

Dunn: 704-358-5235
Student’s Death Turns Spotlight on Hazing

By LIZETTE ALVAREZ and ROBBIE BROWN

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Before they even arrive at Florida A&M University here, the freshmen who are hand-picked for the famous marching band know all about the hazing, an unsanctioned tradition that goes back decades.

In the ultracompetitive atmosphere of the Marching 100, as the band is called, the verbal, emotional and physical pain that is doled out is viewed as an extra source of pride and strength among the relatively small number of band members who participate in hazing, former members say.

Punching, paddling, slapping and forcing band members to eat certain things, do certain favors and endure verbal abuse for mistakes is part of the code, carried out by subgroups within each section: “The Clones” in the clarinet cluster, for example, and “The Soulful Saxes” in the saxophone section. Drinking is seldom involved, former members say, and much of the hazing is voluntary.

“A lot of people who come to the band come expecting these things,” said Phillip Stewart, 29, a former university drum major who said hazing was
part of a subculture within the band. “They think that in order to be amongst
the best and to be accepted they have to do certain things. This isn’t true.”

But those decades of tradition — a longtime concern of the university
administration — are now the focal point of an investigation into the death
of a drum major 10 days ago, and the reaction so far has been significant.

The band’s longtime director, Julian White, has been fired, and four separate
investigations have been ordered, including one by Gov. Rick Scott, who
asked the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to step in, and one by the
university president, James H. Ammons. The marching band has been
suspended from performing indefinitely.

The death of the drum major, Robert Champion, 26, also raises a perplexing
question: Why was a drum major — a campus celebrity whose position
reflects outstanding leadership skills and talent — being hazed, if that is
what in fact contributed to his death? No cause of death has yet been
determined but the Orange County Sheriff’s Office in Orlando, where Mr.
Champion died, said it suspected that hazing was involved.

“I vow as the president of FAMU that Robert’s death will not be in vain,”
Dr. Ammons said Wednesday at Mr. Champion’s funeral in Decatur, Ga.

The church was packed with 500 mourners, including many band members
and Dr. White, who also spoke at the service. Promising to “end hazing on
the campus of FAMU,” Dr. Ammons told mourners that he would introduce
his own brand of R & D to the university, “and I don’t mean research and
development; I mean respect and dignity.”

Mr. Champion, a hard-working clarinet player, tried out twice before being
selected as one of six drum majors in the spring of 2010. He died just hours
after marching on the field at the Florida Classic, a football game between
Florida A&M and its longtime rival, Bethune-Cookman University.

He collapsed in a bus parked at an Orlando hotel, where the band was
staying. It was evening, and the buses should have been locked, Dr. White
said. After interviewing band members, he said, it appeared that Mr.
Champion had been punched repeatedly by a small group of band members
on the bus as part of a hazing ritual, then vomited and passed out. When
others in the bus could not revive him, they called for an ambulance. He died
a short time later at a hospital.

His parents have hired a lawyer and said they planned to sue the university
to prevent such a thing from happening again.
“It’s kind of a ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ culture,” said Christopher M. Chestnut, the family’s lawyer. “No one’s shocked. Everyone knew it happened.”

Dr. White, a tenured professor who was been at the university for four decades and became band director in 1998, has also hired a lawyer, saying he had done everything he could to stop hazing over the past two decades.

Hazing is not uncommon among marching bands around the country and has been a longtime practice at historically black colleges like Florida A&M. The university, whose enrollment is roughly 13,000, has had its share of serious hazing incidents. Two students were beaten or paddled so forcefully they suffered acute injury, one in 1998 and the other in 2001.

To back his claim of trying to end hazing, Dr. White released documents this week showing letters of band suspensions dating to 2001 that he had issued to dozens of students and correspondence with university administrators and the university police. He also held workshops for students and meetings with freshmen, created an anonymous reporting system and issued routine admonishments, among other things.

A few weeks before Mr. Champion’s death, Dr. White suspended 26 trombonists and clarinetists from the band for hazing in October and November.

Bria Hunter, a clarinetist, was repeatedly punched in the legs so badly this fall that a leg bone was broken and a knee damaged, her parents told WXIA-TV in Atlanta on Tuesday. The Tallahassee Police Department is now investigating her case.

Dr. White sent letters regarding the 26 recent suspensions to university administrators and the university police. Although he was director of the band, he said, he lacked the authority to suspend or expel students from the university or cancel major marching events, the sort of harsher punishment that he said he had sought over the years.

The Marching 100 is the marquee organization at the university — the equivalent of a powerhouse football team — and is crucial in raising money for it and attracting new students. It has performed at events like the Grammy Awards and the Super Bowl and was scheduled to play at Carnegie Hall. The band has 375 members this year.

In an interview, Dr. White said of the recent suspensions, “I would have liked the administration to terminate the students,” and he added that he had made such a recommendation to the university’s vice president, its dean and
other officials. “They did not do that,” he said. “We need to be stronger in our punishment.”

While some say that as band director he should have asserted greater control, others, including Ms. Hunter’s parents and former band members, have rallied to Dr. White’s defense, saying he was hypervigilant about hazing.

“Dr. White has been trying to champion eradicating hazing from the band for years,” said Timothy A. Barber, a former head drum major who graduated in 2003 and is now the executive director for the Black Archives History and Research Foundation of South Florida. “He took a strong stance. But it goes underground. It happens away from campus, at night. You can’t control it.”

Lizette Alvarez reported from Tallahassee, and Robbie Brown from Decatur, Ga.
Syracuse University associate head basketball coach Bernie Fine was fired Sunday in the wake of an investigation of child molestation allegations against him. (Associated Press)

Lessons from Syracuse, Penn State and Duke on responding to scandal

By Jenna Johnson

Ten days ago, Syracuse University put associate head basketball coach Bernie Fine on administrative leave amid accusations that Fine had sexually molested two boys. Immediately, head coach Jim Boeheim attacked the credibility of one of the two accusers in an interview with ESPN: “It is a bunch of a thousand lies that he has told... there is only one side to this story. He is lying.”

Since then, a third man has accused Fine of molestation, and the university fired Fine on Sunday. Boeheim told the media that he supported that decision, and he expressed regret for initial statements that might have been “insensitive to victims of abuse.”

As university scandals unfold, and more facts are made public, academic or athletics leaders sometimes face criticism for their initial statements. At Penn State this month, now-former President Graham Spanier was criticized for issuing a statement that expressed “unconditional support” for two administrators accused of not reporting suspected child abuse. At Duke
University in 2007, President Richard Brodhead apologized to the families of lacrosse players who were falsely accused of rape.

University leaders cannot go into hiding when major news breaks, George Mason University President Alan G. Merten told me earlier this month, but there is one over-arching rule: Leaders should not absolve or condemn anyone involved. “You can not do that,” he said.

In discussing how to respond to scandal, many administrators bring up the Duke lacrosse case. In March 2006, three players were accused of sexually assaulting a woman who had been hired to dance at an off-campus party. As police investigated, President Brodhead canceled the remainder of the lacrosse season and accepted the resignation of coach Mike Pressler.

In a series of public statements, Brodhead made clear that the investigation was ongoing and that the charges had not been proven. But after all of the charges against the players were dropped in 2007, Brodhead apologized to the players and their families.

“As president, I had responsibility for the statements the university made and the actions the university took in a virtually unprecedented situation, and I take responsibility for them now,” Brodhead said at a legal conference in September 2007. “Given the complexities of the case, getting this communication right would never have been easy. But the fact is that we did not get it right, causing the families [of the players] to feel abandoned when they most needed support.”

Another example played out this month at Penn State when assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky was charged this month with sexually abusing eight boys, and two university administrators were charged with perjury and not reporting child abuse to police.

Within hours of the news breaking, then-president Spanier issued a statement that called the accusations against Sandusky “troubling,” and expressed “unconditional support” for the charged administrators, athletic director Tim Curley and vice president Gary Schultz.

Spanier wrote that the two officials “operate at the highest levels of honesty, integrity and compassion. I am confident the record will show that these charges are groundless and that they conducted themselves professionally and appropriately.” At the bottom of his statement, Spanier included statements from the attorneys representing Curley and Schultz.
Although the statement was more than 100 words long, two words in particular — “unconditional support” — have been quoted over and over again. Some examples:

“To see that Graham Spanier is putting his unconditional support behind Curley and Schultz when he should be putting his support behind the victims, it just makes them victims all over again.” — The mother of Victim Six in an interview with The Patriot-News.

“Graham Spanier: ‘Unconditional’ support for Curley and Schultz is unacceptable.” — Sign held by a student outside the Penn State administration building on Nov. 6.

“It’s been five very long days and the only notable words to come from Graham Spanier have been ‘unconditional support.’” — The first sentence of an Onward State blog post on Nov. 9.

Spanier is no longer president at Penn State. In a statement following his ouster, he wrote: “Penn State and its Board of Trustees are in the throes of dealing with and recovering from this crisis and there is wisdom in a transition in leadership so that there are no distractions in allowing the university to move forward.”