THE DAILY CLIPS

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Environmental regulators meeting Thursday in Raleigh ruled out some of the state Department of Transportation's ideas for protecting N.C. 12 from storm damage, but they agreed to consider elevating parts of the Outer Banks road on long bridges.

Concerned about harm to the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge south of the N.C. 12 bridge over Oregon Inlet, the state and federal agencies vetoed options to protect the highway with heavy beach renourishment and dune construction.

And they turned down a suggestion to move N.C. 12 slightly to the west, where it would run through sensitive marshes in the bird sanctuary, a DOT spokeswoman said after the two-hour meeting.

But at the suggestion of a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologist, the group agreed to consider a new idea: a seven-mile-long bridge that would veer west from N.C. 12 just north of a new inlet created in August by Hurricane Irene, curving across Pamlico Sound and hooking back into the highway in the village of Rodanthe.

DOT engineers frequently seek guidance from a group of state and federal regulators as they plan road projects that ultimately will need their agencies' approval. The group will reconvene in January for more discussion of these options:

Keep N.C. 12 on its present path but lift the pavement 25 feet into the air on a two-mile bridge across the new inlet in the wildlife refuge - and on another long bridge a few miles farther south, ending in the village of Rodanthe.

Replace the Rodanthe roadway bridge with a longer structure that would curve out into Pamlico Sound to bypass the storm-vulnerable area at the north end of Rodanthe.

Replace both roadway bridges with a single seven-mile bridge that would run south through Pamlico Sound to Rodanthe.

Jim Trogdon, DOT's chief operating officer, said the two bridges on the current N.C. 12 route seem most likely to win approval. DOT hopes to award contracts next year for both projects.
If the work starts less than two years after the damage caused to N.C. 12 by Hurricane Irene in August, DOT would be able to pay for the road with federal emergency funds, rather than carve the money out of regular highway allocations.

"This is why we're moving ahead so rapidly," Trogdon said.

Julie Youngman, an attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center, said environmental regulators had rejected DOT's options for N.C. 12 a few years ago, when they were broached in connection with a contract to replace the Oregon Inlet bridge, which was awarded in July.

The proposed bridges for vulnerable sections of the road will effectively move N.C. 12 into the ocean in coming decades, as the barrier island migrates in the other direction, she said.

"They'll just keep raising sections of N.C. 12 up onto bridges as the island erodes under them toward the west, and can no longer hold that section of the road," Youngman said. "The result is a long bridge out in the ocean, to the east of the island."

Stanley R. Riggs, a coastal geologist who published a book this year on North Carolina's barrier islands, said the bridges would stabilize parts of N.C. 12 for a few years, but at a high cost. Other sections of the island also are vulnerable to heavy storm damage, he said.

"The question comes up as to whether a road-and-bridge system can even begin to survive for the time they're talking about, without breaking the state," said Riggs, an East Carolina University professor. "The feds don't have enough money to keep that road in place.

"You spend all that money on two bridges - and then an inlet opens up just a few miles down, where you don't have bridges. The shoreline continues to move west. You do not want a bridge in the surf zone, and it will be in the surf zone."

Trogdon said that won't be a problem.

"If we can design a bridge that can withstand the energy of the Oregon Inlet, we can design a bridge that can withstand the wave energy of the swash zone on the beach," he said.

Siceloff: 919-829-4527
Joanne Freeman, left, and her daughter, Ashley, stand near the cupola on the campus of East Carolina University on Thursday morning. The two will be graduating together during graduation on Friday. (Rhett Butler) The Daily Reflector

Double graduation celebration
By Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Friday, December 16, 2011

When students graduate from East Carolina University today, most will be looking to the audience to see the familiar faces of their parents.

But Ashley Freeman won’t have to look that far for her mom; JoAnn Freeman will be in the graduate processional with her. Both mother and daughter, who are from Greenville, will be among the more than 3,300 graduates to receive degrees at fall commencement ceremonies today.

“It’s so exciting. We’re both thrilled,” said JoAnn, who will receive a degree in family and community services.

“At first it was kind of weird, but seeing my mom go back to school to get her education made me really proud,” said Ashley, whose degree is in business management with a concentration in entrepreneurship.

Ashley started at ECU in August 2008 and is graduating a semester early. JoAnn had started in January of that year after the youngest of her six children was in kindergarten. Ashley is her second-oldest child.
“It was a little uncomfortable at first, but the students were spectacular,” JoAnn said. “They embraced me, and I embraced them.”

JoAnn gave birth to her oldest son during her first year in community college and dropped out to take care of him, get married and focus on family life. She was a stay-at-home mom, then worked at a bank for a while until she decided she wanted to do more.

“My passion is to work with families and children,” she said.

In addition to her courses, Ashley also was involved with several kinds of dance at ECU. She said when she lived at home, her mom got on her about studying, but gave her some freedom in her final year.

“It was an amazing experience,” JoAnn said. “I will be forever grateful to ECU for giving me the opportunity to go back to school.”

During commencement, more than 3,300 students will receive their degrees, including approximately 2,220 bachelor degree candidates and 1,110 graduate degree candidates, of which 30 are from ECU’s Brody School of Medicine.

Dr. Thomas G. Irons, associate vice chancellor for health sciences and professor of pediatrics at Brody, will deliver the commencement address. The ceremony is scheduled to begin with a band concert at 9:30 a.m. in Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum. The commencement program will follow at 10.

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or 252-329-9567.
ECU Graduate Jarrett Newby and his father Jarrett Newby Sr. are competing in the World's Toughest Mudder Event Saturday in Englishtown, N.J. Newby is missing his graduate school graduation today to prepare for the event. (Contributed photograph)

'Tough mudder' skips graduation
By Lynsey Horn
The Daily Reflector
Friday, December 16, 2011

One ECU student is missing graduation today to compete in “probably the toughest event on the planet.”

Jarrett Newby, a former captain on East Carolina’s track and cross country teams, has finished his last semester as a graduate student and should be walking across the stage to accept his master’s degree in business administration. Instead, he will be preparing to compete in the World’s Toughest Mudder in Englishtown, N.J.

ToughMudder.com describes the event as “hard core 10-12-mile obstacle courses designed by British Special Forces to test your all-around strength, stamina, mental grit and camaraderie.” Participants face obstacles such as fire, barbed wire, frigid waters, electric shock and a lot of mud in a race to see who can complete the course the most times in 24 hours. The winner receives $10,000.

The event, which begins Saturday, is not televised, but some of Newby’s friends and his stepmother will be there to cheer him on.

To qualify for the World’s Toughest Mudder, participants must have finished in the top 5 percent of a preliminary Tough Mudder event. About
1,000 people are scheduled to compete; only 10 percent are expected to finish.

As an undergraduate at ECU, Newby was a captain on the men’s cross country and track and field teams for three years. He has competed in Tough Mudder preliminaries in Georgia and Indiana. He finished first in both events, but in Indiana completed the course twice to help him prepare for today’s event.

“The first lap was easy,” said Newby, who is from Endwell, N.Y. “The second was brutal. I was black-out cold. Things weren’t making sense.”

Despite that experience, Newby said he is excited. He and his father, Jarrett Newby Sr., both qualified to compete during the Georgia event.

Newby sent his father the following email as an invitation to compete: “Dad. Running race, crazy obstacles, Englishtown, N.J. This has Newby written all over it! Are you in?” With no further information, his father said he was going to start training.

The average age of participants is 29; the senior Newby is 54.

“He’s not what you imagine when you think of someone his age,” the younger Newby said. Participating with his father has been one of his favorite aspects of competing,” he said.

“I’ve talked to him more since we’ve been training than I’ve ever talked to him,” he said. “I say we’ve been training together even though the times we’ve run together have been few and far between.”

The older Newby built a home obstacle course to train, but the younger uses everyday objects. He will jump fences, run stairs, army crawl through mud puddles or drop and do push ups in the middle of a run.

A personal obstacle the junior Newby will have to face is an ankle injury suffered in August while playing softball.

“For all the stupid things I do, I just stepped in a hole and broke it,” Newby said.
He ended up needing a metal plate and three screws. The ankle swells when he runs, and he wears a special sock to support it. Newby is no stranger to injuries. His family always has encouraged physical activities like Tough Mudder.

He grew up riding motocross, playing soccer and running track. The way he trains would get him in trouble on the track team, he said.

Despite missing graduation, Newby said attending ECU was one of the best decisions he ever made.

“My parents may have raised me to do something like World’s Toughest Mudder,” Newby said. “But it’s the opportunities at ECU that really made it possible.”

Tough Mudder is not just an event to test “strength, stamina, mental grit and camaraderie.” It supports the Wounded Warrior Project and has raised more than $2 million.

“Tough Mudder might be crowning the toughest person on the planet,” Newby said. “But really the toughest people on the planet are overseas serving our country, and I would be proud to help support those individuals.”
The festive shouts of celebration will fill Minges Coliseum on the East Carolina University campus this morning, though the Pirate basketball team will not be the focus of attention. Instead it will be the young men and women completing degrees and receiving diplomas who are the honored guests, and it is their achievement that is worthy of praise.

Twice a year, East Carolina’s commencement exercises remind this community of its good fortune to be a center of higher education for the region and the state. The teaching conducted there and a few miles away at Pitt Community College stand as defining parts of the landscape, and Greenville and Pitt County would be far poorer were those cherished resources absent.

More than 3,000 East Carolina graduates will walk the stage in caps and gowns today, marking the formal end of their quest for a university degree. Undergraduate and post-graduate students have devoted countless hours to their studies, immersed themselves in various curricula, sought to expand the boundaries of human understanding and will be justifiably honored for that commitment.

The academic calendar at the university very much sets the pace of this city, with traffic-filled streets and a bustling downtown serving as reminder of the thousands who come here for a higher education. The seemingly ceaseless
activity at the East Carolina campus, and at Pitt Community College, is the community’s pulse, pounding from August through May, minus the occasional pause.

As host to these young people, this community has a responsibility to provide a level of public safety and a quality of life that helps accentuate their time here, aspects that all residents want for themselves. Likewise, students have a mutual obligation to act as conscientious and considerate citizens of their new home throughout their stay here — and perhaps for many years that follow. That relationship, when successful as it often is, provides for Pitt County a special atmosphere and defines it as a place that thrives as a center of education.

Commencement ceremonies, like today’s, illuminate that status this community enjoys. Since East Carolina opened more than a century ago, thousands have come here for the next step of their academic careers, gathering the essential lessons as they continue into the workforce. These students share something of themselves here and leave with memories of the time they spent in Greenville. That is both rare and precious, and something worthy of consideration today.
Music House hosts 'Favorite Things' show
Friday, December 16, 2011

What are a few of your favorite things? For Jessie Barth, it’s all things Oscar Hammerstein II and she’s made a study of his life and music. Hammerstein was half of the famed Rodgers and Hammerstein duo who wrote many iconic musicals including “The Sound of Music,” “The King and I,” “South Pacific” and “Carousel,” to name just a few.

Barth, a soprano, will sing some of her favorite songs from Hammerstein’s repertoire at 7 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday at the Music House, 408 W. Fifth St.

“This will be a very unique event indeed. Jessie Barth has devoted a large part of her professional life to this subject and is one of the most respected experts in the country,” said John O’Brien, ECU music professor and owner of The Music House.

Barth taught high school choral music in Bellefonte and State College, Pa., from 1971-1996 and vocal-directed and performed in many classic American musicals. Her favorite roles include Anna in “The King and I,” Desiree in “A Little Night Music,” Winifred in “Once Upon A Mattress” and Lucy in “You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown.”

She is developing a show titled “Oscar and I” with New York City director, Richard Biever. Her first CD “At Home With Oscar: A Hundred Million Miracles,” was released in September.
The concert will include East Carolina University musical theatre voice instructor Mollye Otis on piano and freelance musician Carol Lindsay on percussion. ECU students Candice Dickinson and Nick DeVito will sing. Dickinson is a junior from Asheville and DeVito hails from Raleigh and played the role of Ali Hakim in ECU’s recent production of “Oklahoma.”

There will be an opportunity for the audience to participate in a sing-along before the intermission and at the closing of the show. Songs slated for the sing-along include “The Sound of Music” from “The Sound of Music,” “Getting to Know You” from “The King and I” and “Oh, What a Beautiful Morning” from “Oklahoma,” to name a few.

The program

- “My Favorite Things” from “The Sound of Music” sung by Jessie Barth, Nick DeVito and Candice Dickinson
- “The Sound of Music” from “The Sound of Music,” “Getting to Know You” from “The King and I,” and “Some Enchanted Evening” from South Pacific, sing-along
- “Mister Snow” from “Carousel” sung by Jessie Barth
- “Bali Hai” from “South Pacific” sung by Nick DeVito
- “When the Children Are Asleep” from “Carousel” sung by Nick DeVito and Candice Dickinson
- “Happy Christmas, Little Friend” sung by Jessie Barth, Nick DeVito and Candice Dickinson
- Intermission
- “Maria” from The Sound of Music sung by the Women’s Ensemble
- “Nothin’ Like a Dame” from “South Pacific” sung by the Men’s Ensemble
- “I Enjoy Being a Girl” from “Drum Song” sung by Candice Dickinson
- “Oklahoma” from Oklahoma, “I Whistle a Happy Tune” from The King and I, “You’ll Never Walk Alone” from “Carousel,” “Oh, What a Beautiful Morning” from Oklahoma and “Edelweiss” from The Sound of Music, sing-along
Lenox Rawlings: ECU wants a new home, but is Big East the right choice?

By Lenox Rawlings

Question: What do you call it when colleges play a game of musical chairs inside a large revolving door just outside Madison Square Garden?

Answer: the Big East Conference.

The game goes on, and so does the Big East, in one form or another.

Because of the game, nobody knows what the Big East will look like one day — like, day after tomorrow. Because of the uncertainty, nobody knows what will happen to other leagues and other schools, especially East Carolina.

Some vocal ECU supporters envision Big East membership as a grand prize that would affirm the program's arrival in an elite conference with a contractual path to major bowls. That's why ECU applied to the fluctuating Big East in September and why folks often write the Big East office, happily applying pressure while contemplating a departure from Conference USA.

Other factors pose other problems, however.

The Big East doesn't seem nearly so elite after the recent exodus of traditional powers Pitt, Syracuse and West Virginia prompted Texas Christian to cancel its impending membership.

The Big East vows to keep old schools around through two more football seasons.

Louisville tried to join the Big 12 at the moment coach Rick Pitino was lobbying the Big East to add Memphis and other basketball heavies. Louisville probably will try again. Connecticut would love to join the ACC, which will grow to 16 teams if Notre Dame becomes No. 15.

Rutgers would salivate over an ACC invitation.

If the Bowl Championship Series follows through on a trial balloon and shrinks to only a national-title game, automatic BCS qualifying for the richest bowls would disappear. That would dilute the incentive for far-flung
schools (Boise State, San Diego State, Southern Methodist, Houston, Central Florida) to execute their Big East membership plans, which could leave the Big East in an even bigger mess.

Navy has agreed to become another football-only member (and the Big East's sixth addition this month in pursuit of 12 football teams), but Navy might not compete on Big East fields until 2014 or later.

Terry Holland, the ECU athletics director who grew up nearby in Clinton, assesses the moving targets daily. His basic goals remain clear — finding the best future home, competitively and economically — but the dream neighborhood isn't as obvious and immediate as some fans imagine.

C-USA and the Mountain West are involved in merger talks, which could produce a model closer to Holland's vision, with an expanded East Division and football title game. Because school presidents prefer silence during the negotiations, Holland refrain{s from elaborating.

He wants to broaden exposure while preserving Saturday football (rather than chasing midweek TV slots). For budget reasons, he wants teams in all sports to travel the shortest feasible distances.

ECU's historic drive for athletics visibility began nearly 50 years ago, steered by Chancellor Leo Jenkins and fueled by the public university's hunger for public recognition.

The Pirates chose football as the primary vehicle, which ran counter to the state's basketball addiction. The strategy blended the combustible elements of a successful athletics uprising: the spectacle of intense Saturday competition unfolding against the backdrop of socially spectacular tailgating. Nothing opens the donor wallet like winning the party.

At different moments across the decades, ECU proved its point. The school used a loyal following to secure a regular date at N.C. State, which needed revenue to pay off stadium debt.

The 1991 team (11-1) rallied past State in the Peach Bowl and nailed down the No. 9 spot in the final AP poll. The Pirates recently won consecutive C-USA titles under Skip Holtz. Again this season, ECU averaged more home fans (50,012) than every school outside the automatic BCS leagues except BYU, more than every Big East school except West Virginia and more than seven ACC schools.

That settles the football gate argument, but nearly everything about the Big East and the eventual landscape remains unsettled.
The Wilmington Star News
Published: Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 5:10 p.m.

UNCW trustees to review tuition rates

Wilmington–The Board of Trustees at University of North Carolina Wilmington is slated to meet Friday to talk about tuition and fees for the 2012-13 school year. They'll also talk about room and board and other rates for next year.

UNCW students saw a 6.5 increase in their tuition this year. The UNC system told its campuses that a 6.5 percent increase for next year was also allowed. But it also gave them a little leeway, saying that schools could put higher increases into place to "catch up" with peer schools.

Several UNC-system schools have already seen increases in tuition for the 2012-13 school year. In November, the News and Observer reported that UNC-Chapel Hill trustees passed a 15.6 percent increase in tuition for in-state students and a 6.5 percent increase for out-of-state students.

The UNCW trustees meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. on the campus in the Nixon Annex, which adjacent to Trask Coliseum.

- Pressley Baird
Will UNCW increase student costs to compensate for Honorables’ budget ax?

It would be a tremendous show of courage today if the UNCW trustees were to refuse to follow in the footsteps of their fellow state universities, most of which have approved yet another tuition increase to offset the General Assembly’s drastic cuts to higher education. What is far more likely is that they, like their peers, will merely sigh and agree to put an even greater financial burden on students and their hardworking parents.

They may rationalize their action by noting that compared with other states, North Carolina college tuition is a bargain. Or that many students can still qualify for help paying the higher price, even though the Honorables’ budget cuts also slashed financial aid.

UNCW students already have endured several painful increases in tuition and fees, and now the trustees again will consider raising the cost of an education.

The reality is that with every tuition increase, more students are priced out of their first-choice college. Some may be able to manage the cost by taking on part-time or full-time work, by reducing their hours and taking longer to graduate, or by going into deep debt upon graduation. Many students already graduate with tens of thousands of dollars in debt in a slim job market.

The people who wrote North Carolina’s constitution just after the Civil War recognized the importance of a strong, state-funded university system in their efforts to build a prosperous state. They felt so strongly that they added a clause mandating that tuition be free “as far as practicable.”

Many who disparage “government schools” will argue that students should pay their own way and hoist themselves up by their own bootstraps. They overlook the fact that “government schools” are largely responsible for the growth of the U.S. economy in the industrialized age, and that equal, affordable access to education builds a better-skilled, higher-quality work force.

Our state universities are part of that system. As with the public schools, they are far from perfect and often too slow to adapt to necessary change.
But they cannot operate while the state officials who are responsible for providing adequate funding continue to slash the state’s share of the cost of higher education.

Not long ago members of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors, which has the final say on tuition rates, actually raised the idea of telling the General Assembly they wouldn’t add to students’ costs at a time when many families are squeezed by higher prices and lost wages. Doing so would force universities to make deeper, more painful cuts that would affect the quality of higher education in North Carolina.

However, taking such a bold step would point the finger where it belongs – at the Honorables, who had the power to lessen the impact of budget cuts by extending a 1-cent sales tax, but who chose to inflict deeper pain instead.
Chimpanzees, such as this one at the Ohio State University lab, have long been used for medical research.

**Medical tests on chimps curtailed**

BY CHRIS ADAMS - McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON The National Institutes of Health said Thursday that it would curtail its use of chimpanzees in medical research, suspending new chimp research grants and agreeing to accept the recommendations of an outside panel that found the apes are "not necessary for most biomedical research."

NIH Director Francis Collins said he'd decided to accept the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine, which had weighed in earlier Thursday on the contentious issue of whether chimps - one of man's closest genetic cousins - should be used to help medical researchers understand and combat human disease.

The panel decided that most of the time, the answer was no. The NIH's Collins said he'd follow their guidance.

"I think it was a very thoughtful set of recommendations from a distinguished group of experts who spent many months taking in input from lots of different perspectives," said Collins, who oversees the nation's premier biomedical research facility, based in Bethesda, Md. "I found their recommendations very compelling and scientifically rigorous."

Animal rights activists generally cheered the institute's report and the NIH's reaction to it.
While neither institution went as far as the outright ban on chimp research that activists desired, they did acknowledged that science was moving away from chimps as a necessary research model.

"The NIH has funded a lot of research that's just been deemed unnecessary," said Jarrod Bailey, the science director for the chimp-release campaign of the anti-animal testing New England Anti-Vivisection Society. "Even though they have stopped short of the ban, it's a welcome first step."

'Alternative ways'

After reviewing the current state of science and the demand for chimps in research, the institute concluded that changes in science "have rendered chimpanzees largely nonessential as research subjects."

The 190-page report didn't rule out chimps for research, saying there are some situations in which they still could prove useful. Beyond that, chimp experimentation could be indicated in later years if new diseases emerge.

For the most part, however, the panel determined that chimps as research subjects weren't as valuable as they once were.

"Science is evolving. We have alternative ways of testing drugs," said committee member Warner Greene, the director of the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology at the University of California, San Francisco.

He noted that the last two blockbuster hepatitis drugs were produced without using chimpanzees, and said that under the committee's new guidelines "many existing studies that use chimps would not clear the bar."

The NIH, which funds much of the nation's chimp research, had said previously using the animals was crucial to understanding diseases, particularly hepatitis C. There are more than 900 chimps at the main research labs in the U.S.

While the number of chimpanzee experiments at any time is small, the chimps have lived a lifetime of research involving dart-gun knock-downs, biopsies and infections.

On Thursday, the NIH said it would appoint a committee to implement the institute's recommendations. The NIH won't issue any new awards for research that involves chimpanzees until that review is complete.

Protests last year
The Institute of Medicine's report said committee members were split on whether chimpanzees were necessary to develop a preventive hepatitis C vaccine.

The committee concluded that the research can be performed without chimps.

It also established guidelines for any use of chimps, saying they should be used in biomedical research only if there's "no other suitable model available," if the research "cannot be performed ethically on human subjects" and if forgoing chimps would "significantly slow or prevent" important advances.

The issue boiled over last year when the NIH said it planned to move about 180 chimps from a facility in New Mexico - where they'd been withheld from experimentation - to one in Texas, where they'd be thrown into the testing mix. Animal rights groups protested, saying the chimps should be retired.
Civil rights groups urge Penn State inquiry

BY CURTIS TATE - McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON As the U.S. Department of Education investigates whether Penn State University might have broken federal law in the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse scandal, legal experts say the university also might have violated civil rights laws designed to protect students and others from sex discrimination.

If the university is found in violation of the law, Sandusky's alleged victims could seek damages, these experts said, and Penn State would have to pay millions to settle a case that's already cost the university its reputation and its head football coach and president their jobs.

This week, a group of nine civil rights organizations, led by the Women's Law Project, sent a letter to the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights requesting a review of Penn State's compliance with Title IX, the 1972 law that barred sex-based discrimination on college campuses. Court cases have found that sexual assault fits the definition of sex discrimination, and the group said that the Sandusky case raises troubling questions about whether the university treats student athletes and athletic officials more favorably in cases of alleged sexual assault.

"Penn State must be held accountable and must be required to take corrective action to prevent and promptly address sexual harassment and violence on its campus and of its students," said the letter, dated Dec. 12, and addressed to Russlynn Ali, the Department of Education's assistant secretary for civil rights. "This is true for any children who were (allegedly) victims of a senior athletic department staffer and for others victimized by student athletes."

The letter highlights Penn State as an example of the failure of institutions across the country to comply with Title IX's requirements that students and others on college campuses should not be subjected to a hostile environment created by sexual assaults.

"We want to make sure universities have proper procedures for dealing with sexual assault," said Terry Fromson, the managing attorney for the Women's Law Project in Philadelphia. "There may be a problem at Penn State that's worth looking into."
Penn State University's public affairs office did not respond to a request for comment Thursday.

In April, the Education Department sent a letter to colleges and universities that receive federal funding making clear that the schools have a legal obligation to act promptly in cases of sexual assault that take place on campus.

Sandusky is charged with abusing 10 boys over a 15-year period, in some cases on Penn State's campus. Sandusky, who retired as an assistant football coach in 1999, continued to have a title and an office, and had access to campus athletic facilities.

According to the state grand jury report that led to Sandusky's indictment in November, several university officials, including head football coach Joe Paterno and university president Graham Spanier, knew something about Sandusky's alleged crimes but failed to stop them. The university fired Paterno and Spanier in the wake of the charges.

Penn State's Judicial Affairs Office is supposed to handle complaints of assault by students and determine punishment, but the letter cites several cases in which university athletic officials intervened, resulting in more favorable treatment for accused student athletes.