

The Pine Needle

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Train crash simulation set for March

By Staff Reports

As safety remains a major concern for University officials, a train derailment exercise will be held on March 11, beginning at 8 a.m. and ending at 2 p.m.

The disaster simulation will be held near the train tracks of both Old Main and the Mary Livermore Library.

The disaster simulation will include a mock display of an overturned rail car leaking toxic chemicals and fumes into the nearby University and community.

University officials planned the event during Spring Break to inconvenience the fewest number of students, faculty and staff. However, community and campus awareness of the event is important.

For the University and Community Relations Division, which includes Campus Police, it will be the third "disaster" drill it has coordinated in two years.

Because a major railroad line runs through the south end of campus, the University is vulnerable to potential hazards, said Assistant Vice Chancellor for Public Safety Rick



A train derailment disaster simulation will be held March 11 to help train emergency personnel how to respond if the event should ever happen near the campus. The simulation will include a mock display of an overturned rail car leaking chemicals and fumes. The disaster simulation will be held near the train tracks of Old Main and the Mary Livermore Library.

Photo by Tony Lewis

Boyd.

"Upwards of 50 trains travel through Robeson County on a daily basis, and the possibility for disaster is always present,"

Boyd said.

A "tabletop" exercise was conducted on Feb. 17 to prepare for the full-scale event on March 11. All parties involved with

the simulation attended the four-hour program, including local law enforcement, campus police, CSX law enforcement officials, University

administrators, fire and rescue, state and regional emergency and hazmat officials.

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Tuition and fees increase next fall

By Dustin Porter
Electronic News Editor

Tuition and fees for each of the campuses in the University of North Carolina system will increase next fall, but by how much is still up to the state legislators.

The Board of Governors (BOG) of the University of North Carolina approved the tuition and fee rate increases submitted by each institution for the 2010-11 academic year at its Feb. 12 meeting.

President Erskine Bowles is expected to ask the legislature to approve the BOG plan.

Tuition

According to the University of North Carolina Board of Governors Policy Discussion document dated Jan. 7 provided by the UNCP Division of Business Affairs, UNCP asked for a 5.5 percent increase in tuition of \$113 that would make regular tuition rates \$2,173 for resident undergraduates beginning next fall. Out of state would be a 1 percent increase to \$11,380. Graduate resident would increase 5.2 percent to \$2,272 and out of state by 1 percent to \$11,599.

In contrast, other UNC institutions asked for a 6.5 percent increase in their tuition, the maximum campuses were told they could request.

Fees

The document shows UNCP asked for a 2.9 percent increase in general fees of \$41 that would bring fees to \$1,466. General fees include Athletics, Student Activities, Educational and Technology and Health Services fees. In contrast, the average increase asked by all campuses was 4.5 percent.

The \$41 UNCP request is composed of \$18 for Athletics, \$14 for Student Activities, and \$9 for Education and Technology. Unlike some other campuses, UNCP asked for no increase in its health fee.

The North Carolina General Assembly in 2009 eliminated the Education Access Reward North Carolina (EARN) scholarship program for 2010-2011, a potential \$4,000 per student for next year. The document reported the phasing out of the program this year "has had a negative effect on needy students and on the campuses' ability to meet students' needs."

On the other hand, the General Assembly raised the maximum Pell Grant more than \$600, from \$4,731 to \$5,350 per student.

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Campus QEP plan to improve student writing capabilities

By Hayley Burgess
News Editor

Kayloni Wyatt
Managing Editor

The University is finalizing its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), a University-wide program to improve student learning in a particular area as part of the University's reaccreditation process.

Slogan

"Write to the top" is the slogan for the QEP, which focuses on improving student writing. A survey of faculty and students found that writing was the most important student-related issue.

The program is aiming to improve student skills in writing. Dr. Elizabeth Normandy, QEP co-chair and director of the Teaching and Learning Center, and other committee members created a five-year program.

Improve writing

"Writing was at the top of the list," Dr. Normandy said. "There was room for improvement."

The 15-member QEP committee, made up of faculty of various departments, is working to let the campus know about the upcoming reaccreditation process.

They sponsored a contest for slogans in the



Senior Dante Durant finishes a paper for class in the Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs computer lab. The emphasis of the QEP plan is to improve student writing skills within the next five years.

Photo by Tony Lewis

but could not decide on one they all agreed on.

The final "Write to the top" slogan was submitted by a member on the committee.

Goals

According to the draft of the QEP plan, there are several goals that the committee wants to achieve through the program.

One of the goals is to create a writing intensive program which will follow the freshmen composition classes.

Dr. Normandy hopes that the QEP emphasis on writing will stay on as part of the University. She wants the program to improve courses in the

students' majors in order to help develop their writing.

Dr. Normandy hopes the courses become part of the graduation requirements beginning the 2011-2012 year. It will require students to complete nine hours of writing intensive courses.

Visit

An accreditation team will be visiting the school March 16-18, talking to a select group of students and randomly asking students and others outside of the selected group about what subject the University is trying to improve.

Universities are reaccredited every 10 years.

UNCP was last reaccredited in 2000.

According to Dr. Normandy, it's important for a university to retain its accreditation because it shows the public that UNCP offers a quality education and it is important that student aid is offered through the University.

"The school would not be able to continue," Dr. Normandy said.

The QEP Committee is working to get the word out by promoting it throughout the campus with student publications, posters, signs, door hangers and table tents.

"Our goal is to get the word out to students," Dr. Normandy said.

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