



Faculty Senate
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Chancellor Steve Ballard

FROM: Janice Tovey, Chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee
Bruce Southard, Chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee

DATE: September 11, 2008

Subject: University Sponsored Child Care Center

The Faculty has followed with interest the progress toward a University Sponsored Child Care Center to serve the children of faculty and staff at East Carolina University. We have received updates on the planning of this project from its inception in April 2006. The UNC Tomorrow Report Phase II asks each University to address issues of recruitment and retention of faculty and the Child Care Center will aid in this response.

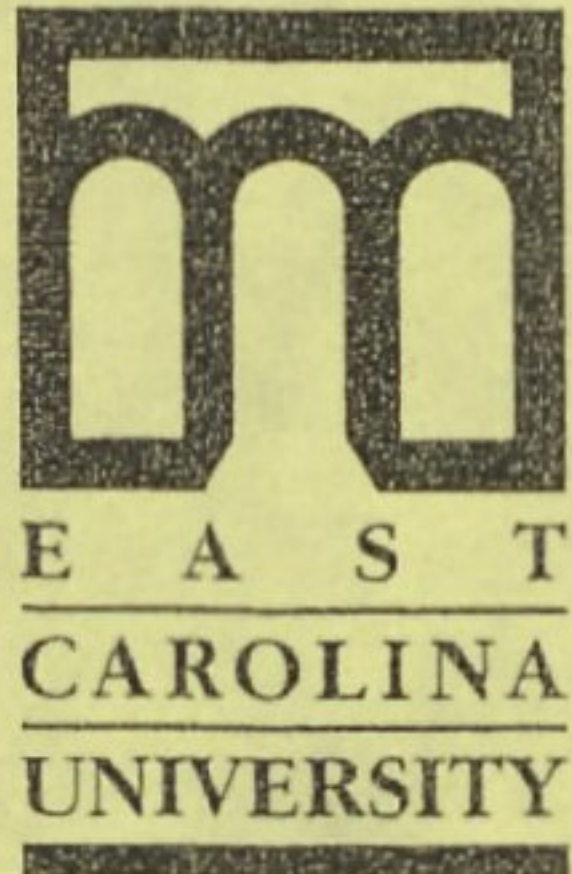
We believe that the University Sponsored Child Care Center described in the recent proposal should be supported for the following reasons:

- The proposed center will meet the highest state (5-Star) and national (NAEYC) accreditation standards and will represent a model of excellence at East Carolina University. The critical shortage of quality child care in Pitt County makes establishing such a center at East Carolina University particularly important.
- The presence of high quality university sponsored child care will significantly strengthen efforts to recruit and retain faculty and staff and will reduce faculty and staff absenteeism by providing a reliable source of child care.
- The proposed center will provide an important site for professional development and research activities for undergraduate and graduate students from a wide range of disciplines across campus.
- The proposed center will integrate existing child care programs and provide a single setting serving the children of faculty and staff, including children with disabilities.
- The provision of back-up emergency child care (on a space available basis) will be of great value to faculty and staff, who may have other child care arrangements that fail from time to time.

We believe that the proposed University Sponsored Child Care Center will positively impact faculty and staff morale and quality of life. Few issues are as critically important as assuring that our children are enrolled in high quality child care. The University Sponsored Child Care Center will represent a clear institutional commitment to supporting our faculty and staff in this critically important area and, in addition, will provide a model child care setting for professional development and research across a wide range of disciplines.

We strongly endorse this proposal and encourage you to fully support it.

c: Faculty Officers
Faculty Welfare Committee
Faculty Senate



Office of the Chancellor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Janice Tovey, Chair of the Faculty
Bruce Southard, Chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee

FROM: Steve Ballard
Chancellor

DATE: September 23, 2008

SUBJECT: **Child Care Center**

Thank you very much for your memo of September 11 in support of a University-sponsored child care center at East Carolina. I concur that there is a need for enhanced child care for our employees, and much good work has been done on this project at the conceptual level over the last two years.

The timing of your letter was not ideal, coming on the heels of a \$2.4 million recurring budget reduction that the university has recently sustained and the 2 percent cut in our state appropriations that was announced last week by the state Office of Management and Budget. All public educational institutions expect a very tough financial picture through academic year 2009-10.

In addition, ECU continues to struggle with priorities and mandates that must be funded (e.g. all student residences must have sprinklers), with woeful infrastructure across many areas (financial aid, institutional research, business operations, and others), and with other high needs, such as campus safety, that have been long-standing. I am being held accountable by our Board of Trustees and by President Bowles for funding our top institutional priorities and system priorities that have been identified by our strategic plan and by the UNC Tomorrow report.

The Child Care Center will have to be compared with all these existing and emerging commitments. The financial requirements of the center, now at \$4.4 million over its first three years, have raised many concerns since we discussed these costs at the August 26, 2008 meeting of the Executive Council.

With these caveats, as a next step, I am asking Academic Council to identify how this project could be moved forward, where the revenues could come from, and the degree of consensus for the project. I look forward to the council's response.

pc: Academic Council
Mr. Bob Greczyn, Chair, ECU Board of Trustees
Faculty Officers