

The Banner

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UNC increases in-state tuition fee 4 percent

By Nancy Hayes
Staff Writer

In-state UNCA students will pay \$22 more in tuition for the 1997-98 school year after the North Carolina state legislature increased tuition 3 percent throughout the 16 schools in the state's university system. Out-of-state tuition costs at UNCA re-

main unchanged.

UNCA student fees increased 4 percent, a \$21 hike for the year. Student fees for 1997-98 total \$1,082, while in-state tuition is \$752 per year.

"If it were up to the Board of Governors, tuition would be free," said Edward Broadwell, UNC Board of Governors member.

"According to the North Carolina Constitution, we have a mandate to provide

higher public education at the lowest possible cost," said Broadwell.

The North Carolina Constitution, Article 9, Section 9, states:

"The General Assembly shall provide that the benefits of the University of North Carolina and other public institutions of higher education, as far as practicable, be extended to the people of the state free of expense."

"While tuition obviously is not free, North

Carolina residents pay only approximately 15 cents per dollar of the actual cost of their education," said Sam Neill, a former chairman of the Board of Governors.

"Only one other system in the country is lower than ours, and that's the University of Texas. They struck oil on their campus and have used the income from that to offset tuition and other costs," said Neill. Another 2 percent tuition increase is scheduled for the 1998-99 school year.

Some UNCA students expressed little concern over the increase in tuition, but had stronger statements about student fees in general, especially the distribution of the fees.

Approximately 48 percent of student fees is allocated to the athletic department.

"It's a damn lot of money," said Bray

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Housing 'crisis' felt off campus

By Veronika Gunter
Staff Writer

While many students prefer to live off campus, rising rent costs, a shortage of affordable housing, and discrimination by landlords can make the search for housing in Asheville difficult.

"It is very challenging to find affordable housing in Asheville. Expenses are high and availability is low," said graduate student Derek Chisholm.

There are no on-campus housing options for Chisholm, 28, who is married and has two dogs and a cat. If there were options, he "would entertain the notion" of living on campus.

For now, he and his wife rent a home off Hillside Street, about three miles from campus.

"I think there is a housing shortage for lower- and moderate-income people. It definitely takes two incomes to rent a decent home," Chisholm said.

Asheville's Affordable Housing Coalition (AHC) confirmed Chisholm's suspicions.

"The lack of affordable housing in Asheville is practically a crisis," said Geraldine Melendez, Affordable Housing Coalition (AHC) office manager. AHC assists low- to moderate-income people in finding long-term housing within their economic grasp and periodically assesses the general housing situation in Buncombe County.

"City and civic leadership are very concerned," Melendez said.

Mayor Russ Martin could not be reached for comment.

UNCA's Office of Admissions provides the guide "Assorted Apartment Complexes" to students who request

See RENT on page 10

ARE YOU
PAYING
TOO
MUCH?

FAIR MARKET RENT

	Without Utilities	Utilities Included
Efficiency	\$217	\$292
1 Bedroom	\$270	\$354
2 Bedroom	\$355	\$461
3 Bedroom	\$482	\$600
4 Bedroom	\$494	\$648

SOURCE: ASHEVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

PHOTO BY MAURIE HILL/GRAPHIC BY ROB HAMMONDS

Karpen Hall's top floor to open

By Mandisa Templeton
Staff Writer

The North Carolina General Assembly recently appropriated money for the completion of the third floor of Karpen Hall, scheduled to open by January 1999. The third floor will house the mass communication department, which is currently located on the second floor.

"We've been here for seven years in our temporary quarters," said Cathy Mitchell, mass communication department chair. "So, in the department, we had about given up any thought that (the funding) would actually go through, because it actually took appropriation by the legislature. So, we're all surprised and amazed."

The North Carolina General Assembly allotted \$792,700 to finish constructing the third floor of Karpen. This figure includes the cost of architectural engineering fees, construction costs, equipment, and furnishings of the third floor, said Ron Reagan, director of facilities planning.

The third floor was not completed as originally planned because the funding allotted to build Karpen Hall was depleted prematurely, Reagan said. Offices for graduate programs through other campuses were supposed to use the second floor, but had to be compacted to allow room for the mass communication department.

Mass communication students working on projects voiced frustrations due to the crowded conditions.

"When I took broadcast journalism, there were about three classes that needed access to the (video editing) room and the equipment," said senior meteorology major Michael Slaughter.

"I think there is definitely a need for separate editing labs," said senior Marissa Deblasio, a mass communication major. "Getting the projects completed already frustrates you, and the other noise in the room (from overcrowding) just adds to your confusion and frustration."

The third floor will have a computer lab with high-end equipment, a lab assistant desk, five faculty offices, a secretary office, and three video editing rooms.

Tentative plans also include digital editing in the editing rooms.

Currently, mass communication adjunct professors do not have offices, but have to meet with students in the lobby of Karpen. One of the five new faculty offices will be used by these professors.

According to Mitchell, the completion of the third floor should improve the way the mass communication professors are able to teach their classes, especially in the areas of video and the multimedia science arts minor.

See NEH on page 10

Federal humanities cuts stir concern

By Catharine Sutherland
News Editor

Government cutbacks for the National Endowment for the Humanities have raised concern about grant-funded humanities projects at the state and local levels following an estimated 40 percent cut in federal NEH funding since 1994. UNCA faculty claim that the NEH has funded valuable programs at UNCA and in the Asheville community.

"The NEH has had an enormous impact on our campus," said Merritt Moseley, dean of faculty development and head of the Asheville Institute on General Education (AIGE). Moseley received an NEH grant to fund the AIGE in 1993, and also cited numerous research grants, summer seminars, and summer stipends made available to UNCA history, literature, and humanities professors by the NEH in the last 20 years.

"I think they're undoubtedly short-sighted and mean-spirited (to cut funding for the NEH)," Moseley said. "Why don't we cut back one stealth bomber and fund the NEH until the end of time? The NEH can

actually operate when it's raining, unlike the stealth bomber."

The state branch of the NEH, the North Carolina Humanities Council (NCHC),

"The NEH can actually operate when it's raining, unlike the stealth bomber."

—Merritt Moseley,
Dean of Faculty
Development

has also provided numerous grants and awards for UNCA professors, primarily through NEH funding. The NCHC receives nearly 80 percent of its funding from

the NEH, said Harlin Gradin of the NCHC.

"This is the first year that the NCHC has received any state funds, which I think shows a certain amount of laggardness on North Carolina's (part in) support of the humanities," said Gwen Ashburn, associate professor of literature, who completed research funded by an NCHC grant in 1995.

U.S. Representative Charles Taylor, congressman for the Asheville area, continues to oppose funding for the humanities. Taylor recently voted in favor of a bill that would strike \$110 million from the NEH budget in the 1998 fiscal year, in effect "zeroing out" the NEH, said a Taylor staff member in his Washington, D.C., office who asked to remain nameless.

Though the bill ultimately failed, resulting in a proposed \$96.1 million-dollar budget for the NEH, the program's budget has decreased from \$172 million dollars in 1995.

"On our end, we didn't feel the cuts the same way that the NEH as a whole did. The NEH really got rocked by (the cuts)," Gradin said, noting that most of the cuts were absorbed internally by the NEH and did not affect the state branches directly.

In terms of staff, the NEH was "decimated," Gradin said. Prior to the funding cuts, the NEH employed 10 to 12 people to staff its office of state programs, which deals with state branches such as the NCHC. The office of state programs currently employs two workers to handle all 50 states, Gradin said.

In order for Americans to continue their democratic traditions, the country must recognize and support the humanities, according to Gradin. It is "the responsibility of our nation to promote the analytical skills and critical skills (that are) at the core of our ability to function as a democratic society," said Gradin in support of the NEH and its state branch. "It's really important for people to

Campus research included in NCHC tribute, page 8