

# The Banner

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## Board of Governors changes method for funding growth

UNCA receives special funding provision due to its small size

By Nicole Miller  
Staff Writer

The University of North Carolina Board of Governors voted on March 19 to change the way in which the General Administration will fund new enrollment growth at all state-supported universities.

UNC System President Molly Broad said that under the new system, growth in higher-cost disciplines, such as graduate programs and high-tech courses, will generate more new funding for schools than growth in lower cost programs, such as undergraduate and literature-based courses.

"Before, there was just a single amount per student, regardless of what they were studying or what degree they were pursuing," said Broad.

Broad said that the legislature requested that the Board of Governors explore new funding methods which would acknowledge that some disciplines are more expensive to maintain than others. She said that the new funding model would only affect funding for enrollment growth, and that none of the system universities would lose existing funds.

"No funds will be taken away," said Broad. "As enrollment grows, campuses will get different funding."

According to Broad, the Board of Governors considered UNCA's mission as a small public liberal arts university when making the decision to change the funding process for new growth, and decided to make a special funding provision to UNCA and other small universities. Broad said that the provision will provide the smaller schools with a level of support greater than would be provided simply by the level of the students and the nature of the academic programs.

Broad said, "Smaller schools still

need a full admissions apparatus, a full registrar's office, a full financial aid office, all of those same things that larger campuses provide. But they do not have as many students to spread the cost across."

UNCA Chancellor Patsy Reed agreed that the special funding provision was necessary for UNCA because of the school's small size.

"If you have 3,000 students, you still have to perform all the functions that you do if you have 6,000 students," said Reed. "So you end up having, proportionally, a greater load on your staff."

Archer Gravely, director of institutional research, added that UNCA faculty costs are proportionally higher than faculty costs at larger system schools, because UNCA staffs all classes with faculty members, and keeps class sizes small in order to fulfill its mission as a liberal arts university.

Gravely said that other system schools often times hire graduate students to teach large classes, which is significantly cheaper than the staffing method employed by UNCA.

According to Reed, UNCA will receive 25 percent more money under the special provisions of the new funding model than it "would have gotten without the acknowledgment of our mission and size."

However, UNCA administrators said that it is too early to know exactly how much money the university will acquire under the new funding plan.

"We will not know until we know what our enrollment is (next semester), and where that enrollment falls," said Reed. "It will depend on how many students are in the higher cost categories."

Gravely said that Reed was instrumental in acquiring the special funding provision for UNCA.

"Chancellor Reed has been very effective in getting the UNC General Administration to understand that we are different," Gravely said. Even with the special funding provision for UNCA, a growth in overall enrollment would result in the allocation of more funds to UNCA.

However, administrators said that

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Molly Broad

## UNCA investigated for possible Disabilities Act violations

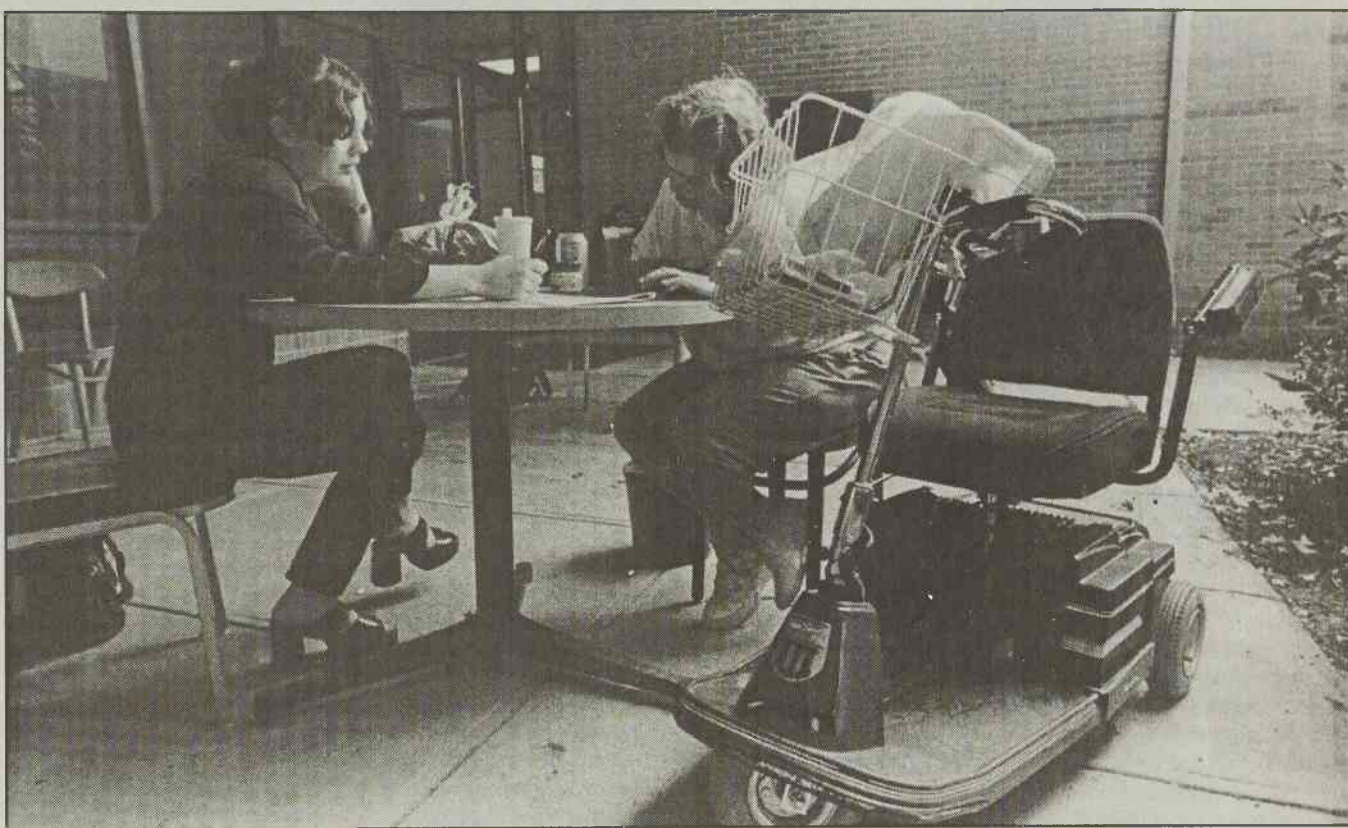


PHOTO BY PRESTON GANNAWAY

Junior sociology major Teresa Bradley (right), who is mobility impaired, claims that the UNCA administration is not adequately addressing her special mobility requirements, and is in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

By Amelia Morrison  
Staff Writer

A state government council that investigates violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) sent a representative to the UNCA campus on March 30 to determine if UNCA is in violation of the ADA.

The ADA says that a state institution like UNCA must provide reasonable access to facilities unless it causes undue financial hardship or changes the fundamentals of the program.

Tom Griffin of the Governors Advocacy Council for Persons with Disabilities (GAC) came to the UNCA campus in response to a request by Teresa Bradley, a junior sociology major with mobility problems, who claims that UNCA is in violation of the ADA.

"Tom Griffin came to campus basically as an investigator," said David Rothman, a senior political science major who is working to ensure that Bradley's safety and accessibility problems at the

university are addressed. "He was very helpful and seemed to agree that there was a severe violation of her rights."

Griffin did not respond to attempts by *The Banner* to obtain a direct comment on his findings.

Bradley, who navigates the campus on a scooter, said that she has problems accessing Zageir Hall, Ramsey Library bathrooms, and the bookstore.

"It is difficult for me to get into Zageir because there are no automatic doors, and there is no way for me to get to the second floor, even if I try to use the elevator which is like a cubby hole," said Bradley.

"There is not a single bathroom in the library she can use," said Rothman. "Teresa also cannot get around the bookstore. She was not at first willing to demonstrate (to Griffin) getting through the bookstore because she was not sure how hard it would be to get out."

Rob Hammonds, a junior political science major who is working with Rothman to make sure that Bradley's problems are resolved, said that the Physical Plant staff failed to clear snow from the handicapped ramps during the last winter storm, which immobilized Bradley.

"They cleared all of the stairs and sidewalks, but not the ramps, and pushed the snow so that there was an additional layer of snow on the ramps," said Hammonds.

Bradley said that she has repeatedly voiced her concerns since she started classes at UNCA in January, but that the administration has been unresponsive to her complaints.

"They say they are trying. They are not trying," said Bradley.

Assistant Director of Student Development Amy Justice said that UNCA may not be in violation of the ADA.

"We were aware of the fact that (Bradley) was having a hard time to an extent, but the university may be in compliance, even if it is not ideal," said Justice. "There are different opinions about what is reasonable. The university has to have some boundaries."

"I have followed through with everything I was working on, and either responded with a yes or a no with an alternative solution," said Justice. "It is important that we use the funds we have to serve all of the students we have, and to still meet the requirements."

Vice Chancellor of Student Af-

fairs Eric Iovacchini said that the administration was only recently made aware of the specifics of Bradley's mobility problems.

"We were aware that she needed some assistance, but we did not know the specifics," said Iovacchini. "We find that because disabilities are individual, sometimes individuals with disabilities need to tell us where we need to change, so we know."

"I think most of the things she raised are things we can work with her on," said Iovacchini.

"It is a learning process for everyone, and we need to work together, not against each other," said Justice. "We are definitely open to creative ideas."

Iovacchini said that the administration is continuously working to make the campus more accessible for students with disabilities and mobility problems.

"This is a difficult campus to maneuver because it is not a flat place. People with disabilities have a tough time because of the terrain," said Iovacchini. "We are always doing something in the way of modifying facilities."

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## New registration system put into place

By Gene Zaleski  
Staff Writer

The UNCA Registrar's Office installed a new Internet-based registration system which will be used to conduct the pre-registration session beginning on April 20. All returning students will be required to register through the UNCA home page on the World Wide Web instead of in-person at Lipinsky Hall.

"The old way of registering was not working any longer," said UNCA Registrar Rebecca Sensabaugh. "The student body has grown to such a point that we really needed to find an alternative system of registering."

Under the new system, registration appointment postcards will continue to be sent to students prior to each registration period.

The appointment time will represent the

time in which each student will first be allowed to access the registration home page.

Registration times will continue to be staggered, with priority given to students with the most accumulated academic hours.

According to Sensabaugh, every student will be required to obtain a Personal Identification Number (PIN) from their advisor prior to registering.

The new computer system will not allow students to register without a PIN from their designated advisor.

"Students will need to see their real advisor to get their PIN numbers," said Sensabaugh. "The emergency advisors on the second floor of Lipinsky will not have the PINs."

Sensabaugh said that a three-page tutorial including instructions on how to use the new registration process was sent to every student in late March.

"The tutorial is by no means all-inclusive, but it will get the students through registration, screens, and fee payments," said

Sensabaugh.

According to Sensabaugh, the new registration system was adopted because the old process was obsolete.

"Regular registration prior to each semester was a cumbersome process," said Sensabaugh. "Going through the basement and pulling cards was a system that was abandoned before I even started college. It worked well for a while, but it was time to move on."

Sensabaugh said that the new system was also adopted because many students suggested the change.

"Transfer students, who had been to other schools and had used newer systems really

wanted us to take advantage of the technology," said Sensabaugh.

According to Sensabaugh, one of the primary advantages of the new system is that

it gives students flexibility in deciding when and where to register.

"Students can register from any computer that is (World Wide Web) accessible," said Sensabaugh. "They can register at night, on weekends, and on-campus or off-campus."

Sensabaugh claimed that the new procedure is simple to use. She said that it "was written for students and not for computer people."

Roughly 100 students used the new sys-

**"The student body has grown to such a point that we really needed to find an alternative system of registering."**

**- UNCA Registrar Rebecca Sensabaugh**

tem during a trial run conducted last fall. Freshman Nathan Mann, who participated in the trial run, said that he liked the new system.

"It was nice not to have to wait in line, and in five minutes I was done," said Mann. "The speed was a pleasant surprise."

Sophomore psychology major Marla Stecki also was pleased with the new system.

"I thought the online registration was very good," said Stecki. "the instructions were self-explanatory, and I just breezed along."

However, sophomore political science major Holly Spencer said that the registration web site was not user-friendly.

"In the web site itself, a lot of the title links are not real clear, and even with instructions were sort of confusing," said Spencer.

Sensabaugh said that the Registrar's Office will ensure that the new registration system does not discriminate against handi-

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