

## New plan could benefit transfers, cut programs

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The UNC system's new strategic plan aims to smooth the transfer process between public four-year schools and community colleges, but might erase unique programs and curricula, according to UNC Asheville staff and transfer students.

"It would definitely make transferring from within the state of North Carolina a lot easier," said **Sarah Humphries, the transfer admission counselor at UNCA.**

The strategic plan proposes streamlining the system transfer process, allowing for students to easily receive credit

hours for courses taken at other UNC schools and community colleges. The plan proposes focusing on community college transfers and those enrolled with associate degrees.

Humphries said the process currently helps community college transfers with a designated list of course equivalencies located on the UNCA website.

"It shows, for all of the North Carolina community colleges, exactly what courses the community colleges offer, and how it translates over into credit for courses at UNC Asheville," Humphries said. "They can use that as a resource to get a good basic idea of things."

The plan suggests several solutions to streamline the trans-

fer process, including a \$120 million proposal to develop a system-wide list of student learning outcomes, especially within general education requirements. Humphries said the process would simplify students transfers, but campuses could lose unique curricula.

"It would kind of jeopardize the uniqueness of all of the UNC system schools, especially UNC Asheville, because we're the liberal arts university, and that's what makes us different," Humphries said.

**Lohar Dohse, a UNCA math professor who worked on a UNC faculty response to the strategic plan,** said online course expansion proposed for state schools represented an-

other challenge to determining course transfers. Dohse said massive open online courses, or MOOCs, were particularly difficult to accept for transfer credit.

"It's a concern for us, because there is no quality control," Dohse said. "There is nothing we can do to check whether these courses have any value whatsoever."

After UNCA admissions accepts transfer students, the registrar's office decides which courses are eligible to receive credit. Humphries said students can also appeal credit decisions with course syllabuses.

"A lot of times, if you can

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## Assault victims receive support

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The Buncombe County rape crisis service center Our VOICE provided

counseling and other services to more than 250 sexual assault victims in the area last year, according to the agency.

"Our VOICE grew out of a movement that was happening all across the country, providing services for victims of sexual assault. Around that time, there were a lot of other rape crisis centers that were being founded, and it was in the era of the women's movement," said **Leah Rubinsky, Our VOICE's client services coordinator.**

When Our VOICE opened in 1974, volunteers maintained all of Our VOICE's services, but funding from the state and local donors now allow the agency to employ a full-time staff in addition to its volunteers, Rubinsky said.

"We are grant-funded and state-funded, and also we receive funding from individual donors," the Asheville resident said. "We simply would not be able to keep the doors open if we weren't the recipients of the wonderful funding that we receive from the state and local, individual donors."

Our VOICE received \$338,336 from government grants, donations and fundraising, according to their 2012 financial report. The revenue covered the cost of utilities, programs, salaries and other fees associated with running a business.

The center aims to create a community free of sexual violence and works to make that a reality with its programming, Rubinsky said.

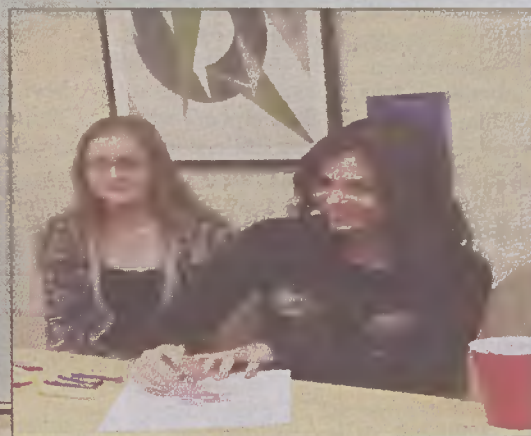
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### Photo Corner:

## Lovefest 2013



Photos by Ricky Emmons - Photography Editor  
Sophomore biology major **Natasha Schwade** makes her own teddy bear for Lovefest 2013. Right, Junior psychology student **Katelyn Crossley** and freshman **Natalie Karr** mix scents to create a sachet.



Photos by Ricky Emmons -  
Photography Editor

Above, Freshman literature student **Sierra Everhart** attends Singles Night as a part of Lovefest 2013.