

New budget will not include faculty raises

Board of Trustees to approve new budget at May meeting

by Joseph Chilton
Editor in Chief

When the Board of Trustees meets in May, they will vote on a new school budget for next year, one in which the salaries of Brevard College faculty members have been frozen.

“We usually have our budget approved in February,” BC President Drew Van Horn said Wednesday. “This year I told the board we couldn’t give them a budget until May, but by doing so we had to say that staff would not see a pay increase. The staff has already been notified of this.”

The salary freeze means that Brevard College professor salaries will stagnate at a level that is slightly lower than most other local liberal arts colleges.

According to chronicle.com, BC full professors currently average \$52,500 per year, associate professors average \$43,000 per year, and assistant professors make a mean of \$41,000 annually.

At Mars Hill College, these rates rise to \$53,100, \$47,400, and \$41,900, respectively.

“According to our info as to how we fall in with our peers, we are not doing great, but we are okay,” Van Horn said.

“But we significantly lagged in other areas so we decided to focus our budget on getting those up.”

When compared to larger state schools in the area, Brevard is significantly lagging in terms of faculty compensation. At Western Carolina University, for instance, full professors make an average of \$89,500 per year. According to Van Horn, however, this statistic is not cause for concern at BC.

“Larger schools are usually research institutions and they pay more than schools that focus on teaching, like we do. In how we

market our jobs we have attracted professors who are more focused on teaching.”

One statistic that Van Horn said the school will need to address in the future is the fact that assistant professor salaries have increased 33% over the last nine years, while full professor salaries have seen only a 5% jump during that same time frame.

“The category of professor that we have the fewest of is ‘Full,’ and when faculty leaves who makes a lot of money and we hire a new faculty member with not as much experience, that changes those averages,” Van Horn said.

According to BC’s Strategic Plan, released in 2007, Brevard College plans to address employee compensation in the near future, although no quantitative terms were attached to the document.

“We will revisit this issue again in the fall,” Van Horn said. “But I don’t think anybody could have predicted what happened with the economy and how that impacted us.”

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Yale's Scaz probes humanity, robots

by Ethan Rodriguez-Torrent
Yale Daily News
U-Wire Content

Bright yellow, with a cartoonish nose and pair of eyes and standing about 4 inches tall above its base, Keepon looks like a cross between a marshmallow Peep and a snowman. And Keepon has become a YouTube sensation — because this robot can dance.

Keepon can improvise to any song with a reasonable beat, said Brian “Scaz” Scassellati, a Yale University computer science professor who received tenure last week, exposing the robot’s inner workings while putting him through his paces. Partially built by former undergraduate Marek Mi-

chalowski ’02 GRD ’03 and imported from Japan, Keepon helps Scaz and his assistants — four graduate students and about seven undergraduates — study when and why humans identify with object motion.

Scassellati splits his time between Keepon and two other robots: Pleo, a cat-sized dinosaur that can be programmed to act out an endless variety of movements and behaviors; and Nico, a metallic replica of the upper body of a 1-year-old child made from motor cables and metal piping.

“The central focus of a lot of [my work] is understanding how kids are able to learn effectively from other people — from their parents and from their peers,” Scassellati said. “We use robots as a way to both model

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