

Budget issues require department cuts, made this summer

BY VICTOR LOPEZ
SENIOR WRITER

In Sept. 2011 the Guilford Beacon reported a robust sustainability program in an article titled "Staffing Changes Strengthen College's Sustainability Program." No one could ever guess that 12 months later the college would notify those in both building and grounds, and sustainability by email that their jobs had been cut.

In July, while most students were away on break, administrators implemented their "worse" case plan, laying off staff positions campus-wide.

All in all, 16 faculty and staff positions were on the chopping block; though some of

of political sciences, said that cutting jobs was a necessary evil boiling down to dollars and cents.

"Trying to balance a budget when the state cuts \$2.5 million in financial aid is always going to involve painful decisions," said Chabotar. "When over half the budget involves pay and benefits, positions and people are almost always going to be affected."

The college took precautions to insulate students from as much impact as possible by boosting institutional financial aid for N.C. students by \$950,000. Even so, not all members of the community were safeguarded from loss. Buildings and grounds took the most significant cuts, with seven positions eliminated.

until recently, had been coping with a young son battling cancer.

Jon Varnell told The Guilfordian that thankfully Dees' son has received a clean bill of health, with his cancer in remission.

"We were sensitive to staff needs and in some cases waited until the last possible minute in order to let people go," said Varnell.

David Petree, director of environmental sustainability, said that the job cuts have been a major downer, which his department is handling with the mental grace of sandpaper.

"Having these kinds of cuts suck," said Petree. "Having seven folks cut from my department left a gaping hole that will be hard to fill."

Adrienne Israel, vice president and academic dean, said that without enough students, some part-time faculty were not asked to come and teach this year.

"We hired 90 part-time faculty to teach in Fall 2011, and have hired 80 to teach in Fall 2012," said Israel. "There simply were not enough students to fill some classrooms, so we did not offer some classes; which means there was no reason for part-time faculty to teach those classes."

Students like senior Tim Leisman, president of community senate, said that they have not had time to fully digest and reflect on the layoffs.

"I regret we lost valued members of our



KEVLA BEEBE/GUILFORDIAN

Jim Dees was the former environmental sustainability coordinator. He was one of seven members of the environmental sustainability department to be cut this summer.

community," said Leisman. "But these are very hard times. We took a \$2.5 million budget cut. The way the administration is doing the cuts is very transparent, in a respectful way."

College administrators told The Guilfordian that the college hopes not to make any further cuts this fiscal year.

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Kent Chabotar, president of Guilford

the staff positions targeted for elimination were already vacant, administrators say.

Kent Chabotar, president and professor

The cuts included former Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Jim Dees, a celebrated favorite of the community who,

SENATE UPDATE

This Week's Developments

- Senate sponsored the Disorientation Zine, released this week! Find it in the Greenleaf or Founders!
- We nominated a student to serve on the committee examining Chik-fil-a — should Guilford divest?
- The student community launched a program to examine diversity in the FYE Curriculum.

Next Week's Plans

Next week we will host a representative from Merriwether Godsey to discuss how the Grill and Quakeria hours can serve students better. We're examining how students should commute or get off campus — bus passes? Rideshare board? All of the above?

Contact Us

We need to hear your voice!

Got an idea? Concern? Great recipe? It's important to us! Join Student Senate Wednesday night at 7:00 in upstairs Founders. For items on the agenda email: senate@guilford.edu

How can you change Guilford for the better?

BY ALAYNA BRADLEY
STAFF WRITER

Guilford College prides itself on its creative faculty and staff. The Innovative Grants were created to harness this creativity in the best way possible: for the college itself.

Innovative Grants are exactly what the name states; it is a program that will fund innovative proposals that benefit the community in some way.

In June, President and Professor of Political Science Kent Chabotar proposed the idea of awarding money to students, faculty or other school organizations to stimulate them to think creatively about ways to better Guilford.

Chabotar said that he created the Innovative Grants "to spur ideas that will increase enrollment, cut cost or add revenue, particularly given the financial situation of the state and the cutbacks that all private schools got in financial aid from the state of North Carolina."

There has been \$15,000 set aside specifically for Innovative Grants — but not to worry — this amount was not taken from student tuition, but instead from a special endowed fund.

However, getting a grant is not as simple as just asking for money. You must submit a detailed proposal and application by Oct. 12 at 5 p.m. to be considered. If you are a student, you need a faculty or staff advisor to

assist you and handle the funds awarded.

The proposal guidelines and application are accessible through a link in the Guilford Beacon's article about Innovative Grants.

Once submitted, Jeff Favolise, assistant to the president for planning and management, will review your application along with a subcommittee of the Strategic and Long Range Planning Committee, called The Grants Fund Award Committee. After this initial review, the committee will recommend projects to Chabotar, who has the final say in who gets the grant.

The award consists of an honorarium — basically pay for the work and research that you did for the idea — of \$250 for individual applicants and \$500 for collaborative projects.

The grant will also fund proposed projects, and Guilford may provide additional and ongoing support for successful ones.

Michelle Cole, grant writer and

coordinator, also helps with the reviewing process. She told the Guilfordian the most important part in applying is "to read the packet and read the packet thoroughly."

Chabotar also has recommendations for applicants. "Definitely keep it narrow, specific and feasible," said Chabotar. "You have to be excited about it to propose it because you are going to have to do the work."

"I'm really excited to see what people have to suggest, because you guys are really creative," said Cole.

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Michelle Cole, grant writer and coordinator