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UNCC requests funds

By Nancy Davis

UNCC can't keep growing without money and that was the reason the N.C. Advisory Budget Commission met on campus Friday, Sept. 29. UNCC officials have a long shopping list for new additions for the University, but the money must first be approved by the N.C. General Assembly.

Millions of dollars were requested by UNCC, with the largest being \$6.8 million for a new physical science building. The Kennedy Building presently houses the chemistry and physics classes and labs. The facilities are cramped as this building is one of the oldest on campus.

The second largest request was \$5.8 million for an architecture building. The Architecture Department, tucked away in a part of the bookstore building, can only accept one out of five qualified applicants. It is now overflowing with 200 students.

UNCC has grown in number and size, but the structures haven't been able to keep up with the enrollment. With a waiting list of over 500 students trying to get in the dorms,

the university is also asking for \$5.2 million for student housing and \$1.5 million for a dormitory cafeteria and amphitheater.

Included in the budget allocation is an additional \$6.4 million to cover urgent needs. They asked \$1.3 million for more faculty, \$1.1 million to pay administrators, presently being paid out of faculty allotments, \$572,568 for library materials and \$96,150 to use in aiding minority students.

A surprise request was for \$170,501 to help WFAE, the campus radio station. Last year, \$26,000 was allocated to the FM radio station out of student fees and presently, the station is waiting to hear from a probable \$180,000 HEW grant.

To use in removing architectural barriers to the handicapped and improving campus safety features, UNCC asked for \$643,000.

The Budget Advisory Committee has been traveling throughout the state preparing budget recommendations for all state institutions. The budgets will come before the General Assembly in January.



(photo by Terry Shuels)

Autumn set in upon the UNCC campus this past week. The sun is setting earlier, but that means the parties begin earlier. Above is a scene from our campus of a typical fall sunrise. It comes as no surprise to our early risers that the campus does in fact have a beautiful view of nature's good features.

News commentary

Student legislators receive salary for what?

By Nancy Davis

Ladies and gentlemen...please focus your attention to ring one where we have a student body president being stripped of his powers bit by bit. And in ring two we have a panel of justices unsure of which Judicial Act to get started under. And in the center ring, some of the world's biggest clowns, climbing up the power ladder, busily knocking each other all...presenting one of the biggest farces on this campus, the UNCC Student Legislature.

Is a three ring circus an unfair analogy to use for student government? Perhaps it is the only analogy the UNCC student body can relate to when trying to understand student government. When it comes right down to it, however, there is realistically no reason why student government, in particular Student Legislature, should be paid any attention. There are reasons for this and perfectly logical explanations. Unfortunately, the truth hurts and while many student government officials show the answers to straighten up that place, there are just as many who won't give a flip.

The Student Legislature, a supposed 41 member governing body, elected by the students, meeting

every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m., and responsible for allocating money to clubs and organizations is in the center ring because they are the ones largely responsible for the mess student government is in right now. Presently, the Student Legislature is over three weeks late in budget allocation.

tions, hasn't been able to get to new business in at least two meetings, is meeting with almost half the representatives because some have terms ended without an election being held to fill the vacancies and several resignations, and (now, get this) are actually paying themselves \$10 a month to meet.

According to Jack Summerlin, chairperson of the Student Legislature, because the legislative budget has not been approved, no one has been paid yet. And even though there was talk about giving themselves a raise, the budget with only the \$10 a month salary didn't pass before the Finance Committee. Legislators have been getting paid for several years (since 1976) for atten-

ding weekly meetings and committee meetings. If they attend, they get paid. Four legislature meetings and four committee meetings a month breaks down into \$.25 per meeting. Looking at that it doesn't sound so bad, but thinking about why they're getting paid is what hurts.

"Giving themselves (Legislature) a salary would be an incentive which would be insincere."

—Wanda Nelson, Western Carolina

It started out, Summerlin said, to simply encourage "regular attendance" of the legislative members. This \$10 incentive, so to speak, has nothing to do with performance, merit or accomplishment. Elected officials by the student body, with the potential to be a powerful student voice, meeting weekly to better the student's life at UNCC, serving as a direct line of communication to the administration are getting paid \$10 a month if all they do is show up. They don't have to be prepared, they don't have to know how to use parliamentary procedure, they don't even have to vote. All they have to do is sit there, say "here" when roll is taken and a \$10 check is handed them at the end of each month.

No other university in the University of North Carolina system pays their legislators. From Cullowhee to Wilmington, I talked to an official in every student government organization and they were just as surprised to find a school paid their legislators as I was to learn we were the only one. The reasons varied, but the two main reasons were because there wasn't enough money in the budgets and because they didn't know what they could base the salary on. Most agreed to use a salary to encourage attendance just didn't sound good.

However, student body officer Charles Powell from Appalachian State University, says he'd like to be able to pay his student senators (equivalent to UNCC's student legislators). The committee chairpersons are paid anywhere from \$150-\$300 a year, but are appointees of the student body president, not senate members. (UNCC pays legislative chairpersons \$10 a month, plus the \$10 for being a legislator. In the recent budget, still unapproved by the Finance Committee, that figure went up from \$20 a month to \$37.50 a month.) "I think," Powell said, "that without some sort of

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