

State budgets faculty raises

BY ELIZABETH DEORNELLAS
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Judging from the provisions of the N.C. General Assembly's latest budget, it's a good year to be a UNC-system professor.

The legislature's budget includes \$90.6 million for academic salary increases, plus \$5 million targeted toward retention of faculty who have received competitive offers.

It is heartening to see increased support from the General Assembly, UNC-Chapel Hill faculty chairman Joseph Templeton said.

"Faculty are delighted with the significant action taken by the state of North Carolina," he said.

Funding for salary increases is important to UNC-system schools because it enables chancellors to recognize good work, said Jeff Davies, chief of staff to system President Erskine Bowles.

"I think everyone generally is very pleased that the General Assembly had the capacity and was willing to be so generous," Davies said.

Each UNC-system school received funds equal to 6 percent of its total salary budget from last year. Consequently, UNC-CH gained \$12.5 million in legislative appropriations.

In addition, the University

received \$3 million in funding from campus-based tuition increases.

All UNC-CH faculty will not receive a flat 6 percent raise; instead, the \$15.5 million in total funding will be distributed according to a merit system.

"We're not spreading peanut butter — it's not 6 percent everywhere," Templeton said.

Executive Associate Provost Steve Allred said deans have broad discretion to determine how salary increases are distributed within their schools.

Merit is the driving force in making decisions, he said, adding that deans also must seek to keep salaries competitive with peer institutions and maintain salary equity within each department.

The funding available for salary increases this year is much greater than has been provided in the past five years, Allred said.

As opposed to previous years when there was not enough money to go around, Templeton said this year's pay increase is generous enough that it is worth taking the time to decide how best to allocate funding.

"The good news is that we have enough money to make decisions," he said.

Bernadette Gray-Little, executive vice chancellor and provost, said the salary increases are a relief after years of budget cuts.

"In past years at the time of budget submissions, academic units have been warned that they should prepare for a cut of a certain level and how they should make those cuts. This year it was possible to send out that notice without saying that," she said.

The money will enable the University to reward excellent faculty, and the pay increases should help UNC-CH stay competitive with peer institutions in the areas of faculty recruitment and retention, Templeton said.

"It will help in recruitment in terms that the general salary levels will be higher, especially if we continue to get good increases in the next few years. It could do a lot to our average salaries in a way that compares better with our peers," Gray-Little said.

Beyond increasing retention of faculty, Templeton said the pay increase will raise job satisfaction. "It's a financial boost, but equally important, it's a morale boost."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

CONSTRUCTION

FROM PAGE 3A

becoming more noticeable.

"I think you'll start to see more and more activity evolving on South Campus," Runberg said.

What's left

Construction soon will begin on

the Arts Common project. The plan includes space for a concert hall, classrooms and office space. Work will begin this fall on the music instructional facility.

The University's top three construction priorities this year are an expansion to the dental school, the Genetic Medicine Building and UNC's proposed satellite campus, Carolina North, Runberg said.

During the N.C. General Assembly's summer session, about \$3 million was awarded for dental school planning and \$28 million to fund planning and some site work for the genetic building.

"It was really all that we had hoped for," Runberg said.

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CLUB CLOSINGS

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ensuring that patrons causing a stir aren't just moved into the street.

"They're concentrating on the inside of the club and don't seem to be as concerned with what's happening outside the club," Jarvies said.

Jarvies said many incidents happen as people leave the clubs, which can be harder to control than at a bar because the crowds are bigger, and there's more space to loiter.

Avalon, unlike many bars downtown, has its own lot. And people frequenting Chi Hi often would park in two nearby parking decks.

"People don't just leave the club and go home," Jarvies said. "They have a tendency to just stay and congregate."

Representatives of Avalon did not return calls for comment last week.

Anyone with information about Swann's murder should contact either the Chapel Hill Police Department at (919) 968-2760 or Crime Stoppers at (919) 942-7515.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

GOVERNMENT

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Allred said he hopes to use some of his remaining time in office to improve community relations, address environmental issues and broaden access to undergraduate research.

Demographics of undergraduate researchers should reflect those of the campus community, Allred said.

"We've seen a real rise, I think, nationally, in the importance of undergraduate research," he said. "We want to empower that process."

He said he will release a summer report by the first day of class. The briefing will detail executive branch activities and examine progress on campaign initiatives.

Judicial branch members also put in time this summer, hearing about half a dozen cases each week, including one in which a student was expelled.

Honor Court Chairman Mark Ihnat said he anticipated "business as usual" this semester.

Student Congress met twice during summer break, addressing finance- and agenda-related legislation.

Some campus leaders have voiced concerns about possible continued partisan squabbling among representatives.

"Hopefully they took summer to, ironically enough, cool off," Speaker Pro Tem Dustin Ingalls said of members of the body.

One issue likely to land on Congress' plate is a set of revisions to Title VI of the Student Code, the section that governs student elections.

The Board of Elections recently announced the formation of a commission to study election laws. The move comes in the wake of a series of election snafus last year.

Problems included software that permitted double voting, instability of the election server and questions about election laws.

Along with Title VI reform, a new online voting system has been in development under the leadership of board Chairman Jim Brewer and is receiving finishing touches.

The system, which is part of the effort to shore up elections procedures, should be in place for elections this fall.

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Club crime

Major incidents from Jan. 29-July 29 at Avalon, 306 W. Rosemary St., Players, 159 1/2 E. Franklin St., and Chi Hi, 136 E. Rosemary St.

AVALON	7
PLAYERS	8
CHI HI	7

Major incidents include assaults, weapons violations, armed robberies, shootings and homicide by club patrons in and around the three downtown clubs.

SOURCE: CHAPEL HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT
DTH/VU NGUYEN

CAMPUS HEALTH

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through," Covington said.

Campus outreach efforts will be bumped up in locations such as residence halls and Greek housing. A satellite office will be located in the Student Recreation Center, and students can choose from programs such as fitness consultation and stress management.

UNC officials announced in December that student health, counseling and health outreach services would be combined into Campus Health Services. The changes were sparked by a review of student health operations last

year by the American College Health Association.

Covington's role was created in an effort to increase communication about student health. She will serve as a member of the provost's executive committee.

Other changes include a merger between Counseling and Psychological Services and the Center for Healthy Student Behavior — now known as Counseling and Wellness Services.

Kathy Hotelling will head the services. Her appointment was announced in June.

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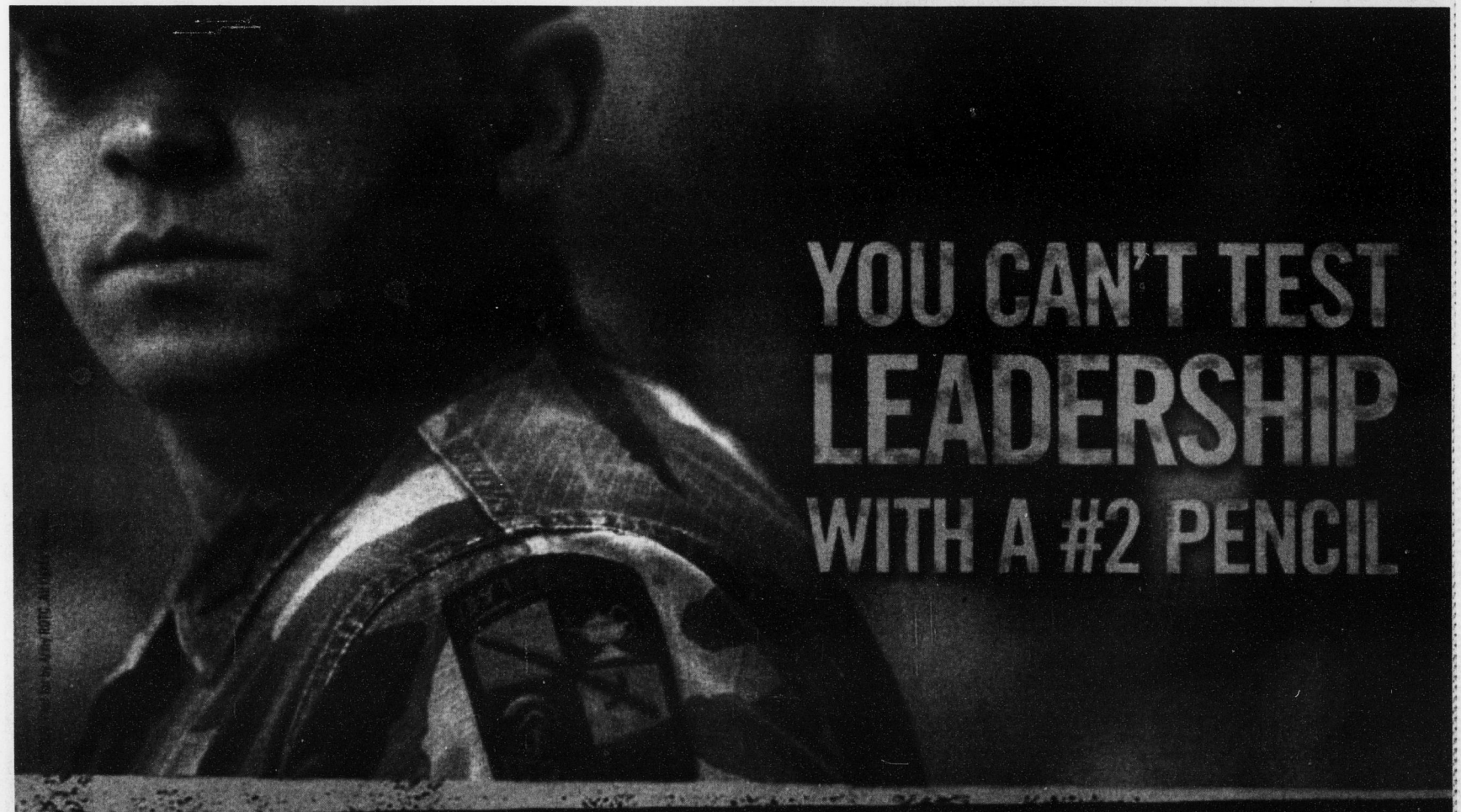
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