

Cuts

of the General Assembly's measures to balance the budget have only delayed a solution to the problem.

"We took some short-term steps in 1989 and 1990 to avoid a General Fund tax increase," he said. "That just means you still have the same problems next year."

Money is allocated by the General Assembly on an annual basis to the University, making it dependent on the state for about 40 percent of its funding.

For the past three years, North Carolina's financial difficulties have translated into cuts in UNC's budget. This year the reduction totaled 4.6 percent, plus an increase in student fees and out-of-state tuition, to help compensate for the projected \$336 million shortfall in state revenue.

The 4.6 percent reduction in the University's funds comprises two major cuts — a 3 percent chunk out of

UNC's base budget and a 1.6 percent cut in its cash allotment from the state.

The cut in cash allotment could fluctuate each quarter depending on North Carolina's financial status, Crofts said.

"If it were decided in January or February of next year that more money is on the table then they (the N.C. General Assembly) could increase fourth-quarter allotments, but it's not very likely," he said.

The General Assembly may never replace the 3 percent deducted from the University's base budget, Crofts said. "It is the intent of the legislature to have as many of the cuts as possible be permanent."

In fact, some legislators are concerned that the cuts they have made from UNC's budget may not be enough, he said. "They're asking, 'Are we really making 5 percent cuts?'"

Newlin said UNC and all other state agencies must return all unspent money to the state at the end of each fiscal year, thereby giving the state legislature a financial cushion on which to begin budget plans for the next biennium. But by not allocating money to the University for vacant positions this year, the General Assembly may receive less money in reversions at the end of the fiscal 1991.

The UNC Management Flexibility Bill, which begins July 1, 1991, will affect the University's monetary reversions to the state in much the same way as cutting unfilled positions, he said.

Providing the University with more control over its money will reduce the amount of money UNC must return to the state and increase UNC's financial efficiency, he said.

One of the bill's changes will allow schools to keep more overhead receipts,

which are allowances for the indirect cost of research that traditionally have reverted to the state. Another change will require the General Assembly to give refunds to the University for sales and use taxes paid on grants and contracts, which North Carolina does for private institutions like Duke.

The General Assembly could cut more from UNC's base budget in coming years to compensate for smaller reversions, but the likelihood of such action is uncertain, Crofts said.

"All we can do is tell you what the numbers show," he said. "But the potential for more spending cuts is definitely on the table. There aren't any sacred options. There aren't any sacred institutions."

General Assembly members are not singling out the University for budget cuts, but are only performing their jobs, Newlin said.

"I don't think the legislature wants to reduce the University's budget," he said. "The difficulty is that while the chancellor, the professors and the students know the needs at Chapel Hill, the General Assembly sees the needs of the state's public schools, its prisons and other areas. And they hear from me and you, from people saying, 'Don't raise taxes.'"

Hardin said the responsibility for improving the University's budget situation is twofold. The state must decide to get the revenues that the University needs, and members of the University community must work to make their plight known to the General Assembly, he said.

"The most important thing is for the faculty and the students to talk to their representatives, to tell them how important the University is and how much it has been hurt," he said. "It's grassroots politics."

Gillian Cell, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said she was optimistic about the University's ability to persevere through the tough times it faces.

"We need to emphasize that the institution is strong, that it has gone through bad times before," she said. "If we allow ourselves to become depressed, then we will do great damage to ourselves."

Helms claims approval of dissent with dignity

From Associated Press reports

DUNN, N.C. — Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., says he doesn't mind dissenters so long as they are dignified.

Helms, making a campaign appearance Tuesday in Dunn, told protesters from nearby Campbell University he respected their right to dissent.

Helms made his comments before entering a private \$100-a-plate fund-raising dinner at the Woman's Club, The News and Observer of Raleigh reported Wednesday.

The group of seven neatly dressed Campbell students carried signs reading, "I'm a Campbell liberal" and "Freedom of Choice."

Helms said: "We can be friends anyhow, will you shake hands with me?" One young woman replied, "I'll shake

hands with anyone."

Added protester Jeff Weeks: "I respect you, but I just don't agree with you."

Helms said: "Well, I'll take that. Keep on ticking. Everybody's got to be somewhere."

Afterward, Helms said he didn't know if protesters helped or hurt his campaign.

"I'm glad to see people express themselves if they do it with dignity, and that's what they were doing," he said. "They don't support me, fair enough. A lot of people don't support me. I just hope one more than 50 percent of the people do support me."

Helms, who used to be a trustee at Campbell, is running for re-election against Democrat Harvey Gantt.

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