

INSIDE:

SPORTS: Men's soccer team defeats Georgia State page 5

OPINION: New funding procedure could cause problems page 2

FEATURES: New music hall in Black Mountain page 4

COMICS: Cultural Idiocy Quiz page 6

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WEATHER: Variable cloudy and dry all weekend. Highs in low 70s, lows around 50.

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ENROLLMENT SHORTFALLS COULD ENDANGER ACADEMIC BUDGET

Janice Sitton
Staff Writer

Lower than expected student enrollment could force a decrease in the academic budget next semester. The cuts could affect the number of classes offered and endanger adjunct faculty positions. Discussion of the issue dominated a major portion of the Faculty Senate meeting held on Sept. 8.

"The guidelines firmly state that, acting upon the direction of the General Assembly, the budget will be adjusted to the actual enrollment rather than targeted enrollment," said Larry Wilson, vice chancellor of academic affairs.

Formerly, the budget was based on targeted enrollment instead of actual enrollment. For the past few years, actual enrollment was under the target, so more funds were available to educate fewer students, according to Wilson. Since the budget is now based on actual enrollment, and enrollment is under the target, the university may have part of the budget recalled.

The university submits an estimate of how many students will be enrolled for a year to the UNC General Administration, and if approved, the

year's budget is based on that estimate, according to Chancellor Patsy Reed.

The process will remain the same, but the budget will be adjusted to actual enrollment, according to Arthur P. Foley, vice chancellor of financial affairs.

"The long-term issue is trying to balance our estimates with our actual enrollment," said Reed.

The budget allocated to UNCA for this academic year was based on a target enrollment of 2,620 full-time equivalents [FTEs]. The university is allowed a 2 percent window, which allows the annual enrollment to be 2,568 FTEs, without losing funds, according to Wilson. Fall enrollment was 2,591 FTEs, and in order to average 2,568 for the year, spring enrollment must be 2,544 FTEs or higher.

One FTE is one full-time [12 hour] student, or part-time students whose hours are added together to achieve one FTE.

"Right now, we are about 50 FTEs short, and if that carries through to spring, that would be about a quarter of a million dollars," said Wilson. "That means that the faculty salary budget will be reduced by about 2.4 faculty positions, or about \$155,000."

"That does not endanger any of the full-time

positions this year, but it does endanger the adjunct budget," said Wilson. "If we cut the adjunct budget, we would have fewer classes."

If all 50 FTEs are short, as many as 45 to 50 classes, which are taught by adjuncts, may be dropped in the spring, according to Wilson. If the FTE is above 2,544 or if the shortage of FTEs is reduced sufficiently, the school will not suffer a cut in the budget.

In order to elevate the potential loss of funding, efforts are being made to increase the number of FTEs. University administrators hope to reduce the fall to spring attrition rate, recruit new students or transfers, attract former students who live in the area, and increase the number of part-time students, according to Wilson's report to the faculty senate.

"We would like to conform to our long-range plan, which is to add 50 students per year for the next 10 years," said Reed.

"We've intensified the work with community colleges to see if there might be students who are graduating in the fall who want to continue in the spring here," said Wilson. "We are calling, or have called, a lot of students who we thought were going to be back this fall, and aren't back. We are trying to follow up with those who are academically

eligible to come back, or who we thought were coming as full-time students."

"The reason we are short this fall is part-time students. We are short about 150 of what we've been running," said Wilson.

In order to attract more part-time students, there are plans to enrich and promote the evening curriculum, and to expand parking close to evening classrooms, according to Wilson.

"What we are trying to do is see if we can't enrich the evening curriculum in hopes that will cause us to make our enrollment. Then, we would not have a problem," said Wilson. "I think we need to offer the courses and make it available to students."

Parking, already an issue on campus, is a major factor in attracting and keeping current commuters and part-time students, according to Wilson. He estimates nearly two-thirds of the student population live off campus and commute to classes.

"We need to make, certainly, more parking available. There will be some more parking available and some less next semester," said Wilson. "We are trying to persuade others on campus that we need some more parking for next semester. I hope we are successful."

"I think we have a glimmer of hope for it [parking] improving," said Reed.

The "Smash" Is A Hit



Nearly 200 students, faculty and staff turned out to see if Chancellor Patsy Reed could pack a wallop big enough to smash walls at an event held this week to mark the beginning of a \$4 million construction project on Ramsey Library.

Photo by Randy Marrs

UNCA Represented at Oxford University

Dan Clifton
Staff Writer

Ten UNCA students and one faculty member, participated in the Oxford Experience Program this past July.

This program is a joint offering from UNCA and North Carolina State University, where students from both schools are given the opportunity to attend classes at Oxford University in England, for college credit.

"The goal of this program is to expand the students knowledge of cultural diversity," said Penny Brenner, computer science professor at UNCA who participated in this year's program. "It is very educational for students to experience other people's culture and heritage."

According to Brenner, Oxford University is made up of 26 main branches, and this program is involved with St. Benet's Hall. The students were not only housed in this hall, but all of their classes congregated in St. Benet's as well.

"It was nice to have the classes taught right there in St. Benet's," said Brenner.

"We felt much more comfortable in class because we were familiar with the hall."

St. Benet's Hall is a Catholic Hall of the Benedictine order. The house was built in 1837, and became St. Benet's Hall in 1897.

"What I remember most about St. Benet's was the beautiful gardens and the architecture of the church and hall," said Brenner.

This summer term, three classes were offered: British history, art history, and a Shakespeare class.

"I participated in the art history class," said Brenner. "The class included beautiful slides of art. Also included were tours of the local galleries and museums. Both experiences really enhanced the class."

Joy Neaves, a UNCA junior who participated in this year's program, said one of her best experiences took place during one of her free afternoons.

"We went on a hiking trip in Wales to Snowdonia National Park," said Joy. "It was so astoundingly beautiful. We would hike to one ridge, and then you could see the beautiful, deep valley,

followed by another raised ridge."

Other free afternoons or evenings were also spent enjoying England's culture. Some students experienced England theater productions such as Phantom of the Opera, Miss Saigon, and Les Miserables. Students also traveled to Stonehenge and as far away as Paris and Ireland.

"There was such a tremendous energy of being at Oxford during the summer," said Brenner. "There are so many programs going on all over the city."

Both Neaves and Brenner agreed that there were differences between the students of UNCA and NC State. Neaves and Brenner both cited the humanities program and its emphasis on art and religion. The NC State students didn't necessarily have the extensive work in those areas.

"During the dinner talks, you could really tell which students were from which college," said Neaves. "We could talk intelligently about arts and religions, while they seemed a little lost."

According to Brenner, this kind of program could benefit all students, and every student should be aware of this opportunity to study abroad.

LECTURE SERIES WILL FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

Greg Deal
Staff Writer

The World Affairs Council of Western North Carolina will offer a series of talks this fall on topics ranging from world population to Western North Carolina's international concerns. Four topics have been scheduled, with a fifth to be added at a later date. All talks will be held at 7:30 p.m. in UNCA's Owen Conference Center.

"The social, economic and political ties between major countries continue to expand and exert a growing influence in our daily lives," said George Yates, management professor and the World Affairs Council coordinator. "To be able to understand what our part of the world is about, we need to understand what the rest of the world is about," he said.

The purpose of this program is for students, faculty and staff, and members of the community to have an opportunity to get insights on international topics, according to Yates.

UNCA Chancellor Patsy Reed opened the series on Sept. 19 with her talk on "Shifting from Communism to a Free Society: The Challenges Faced by Polish Universities."

There are two purposes here," said Yates. "One is [for her] to meet members of the community, and the other is because she has some interesting insights on an international topic." Reed served as a consultant in 1992 to the University of Lodz, Poland, on its transition to a market economy.

On October 3, representatives from four Western North Carolina manufacturing companies will discuss pros and cons of conducting international business from Western North Carolina.

"The purpose of [this talk] is to try to give our members better insight into what we need to do in Western North Carolina to be a more competitive part of the economy," said Yates.

On October 24, the speaker will be Allene McKay, a U.S. delegate to the United Nation's Conference on World Population and Development being held in Cairo. "She will be speaking to us on not only what went on in the conference in Cairo, but the more broad issues of world population and economic development," said Yates.

On November 7, a panel of UNCA international students and UNCA students who have studied abroad will discuss their perspectives on Western North Carolina and its relationship to the global community.

"The purpose of this panel is two-fold," said Yates. "One, we want to get our students introduced a little bit more to the community. Two, we

hope to attract some UNCA students to our program." Yates said that he would like to see more UNCA students exhibit an interest in international affairs.

Yates said that there is no general theme for this fall's series of programs, but there is an overarching theme of international topics that are relevant to Western North Carolina residents.

"The main thing I hope our audience will walk away with is a better appreciation of the complexities of international interaction and the dynamics of international change," said Yates.

He said he hopes the audience will have a better realization that there are a lot of different cultures in the world, and we have to be better equipped to understand these cultures. Yates said we are going to have to interact more favorably with the rest of the world if we [Western North Carolina] want to be an effective part of that world.