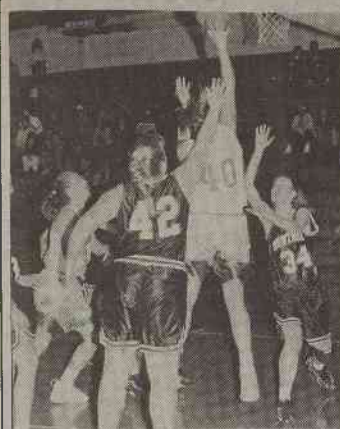


The Blue BANNER

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Students and faculty cry foul over athletic budget

Athletic fees rise 107 percent in five years, director asks for another increase

Paul Buttles
Staff Writer

UNCA has announced it is undertaking a year-long review of its athletics program as part of the new NCAA Division I certification process, at a time when questions have been raised about the athletic department's budget and the university's ability to afford Division I status.

"UNCA welcomes the opportunity to do a detailed evaluation of all aspects of our athletics program and its place in the university community," said Patsy Reed, UNCA chancellor, in a news release issued by the public information office.

According to Dhaval "Doc" Patel, student body president and member of the UNCA fees committee, one area which should be examined is the athletic department's budget.

Records show Laura Johnson, assistant athletic director, is being paid almost \$20,000 a year from a housing services account managed by Pete Williams, director of housing and residence life. When asked if he knew why Johnson was being paid from his account and not the athletics department account, Williams replied, "No. I'm trying to think. Out of housing services? No, you'd have to ask Dr. Iovacchini on that."

"Well, Pete (Williams) is in charge of the housing account," said Eric Iovacchini, vice chancellor for student

affairs. "There shouldn't be anyone in that area (athletics) paid from the housing budget. I think he would like to know why it's missing from his budget, but until I get up with (Arthur) Foley (vice chancellor for financial affairs), I'm afraid I am not going to be able to give you an answer that makes any sense. I'm not so sure that I'm going to be able to give you an answer that makes any sense anyway, but before I open my mouth I want to make sure what his thoughts are."

Steve Mallonee, NCAA director of legislative services, said that NCAA guidelines say that the chief executive officer at the university determines the appropriate salaries and how money is used. He also said that the issues were ethical ones to be addressed by university administration, and he would not comment on whether or not violations have occurred.

Foley said he didn't have time to look into the matter. "I don't think there's any urgency to make a correction on it. We'd need to research it, and I've got other things that I have to do."

Tom Byers, special assistant to the chancellor, said he would have noticed if \$20,000 was missing from his (own department's) budget. "My presumption in these cases is that there might well be a valid reason for that. I do not know off the top of my head what it

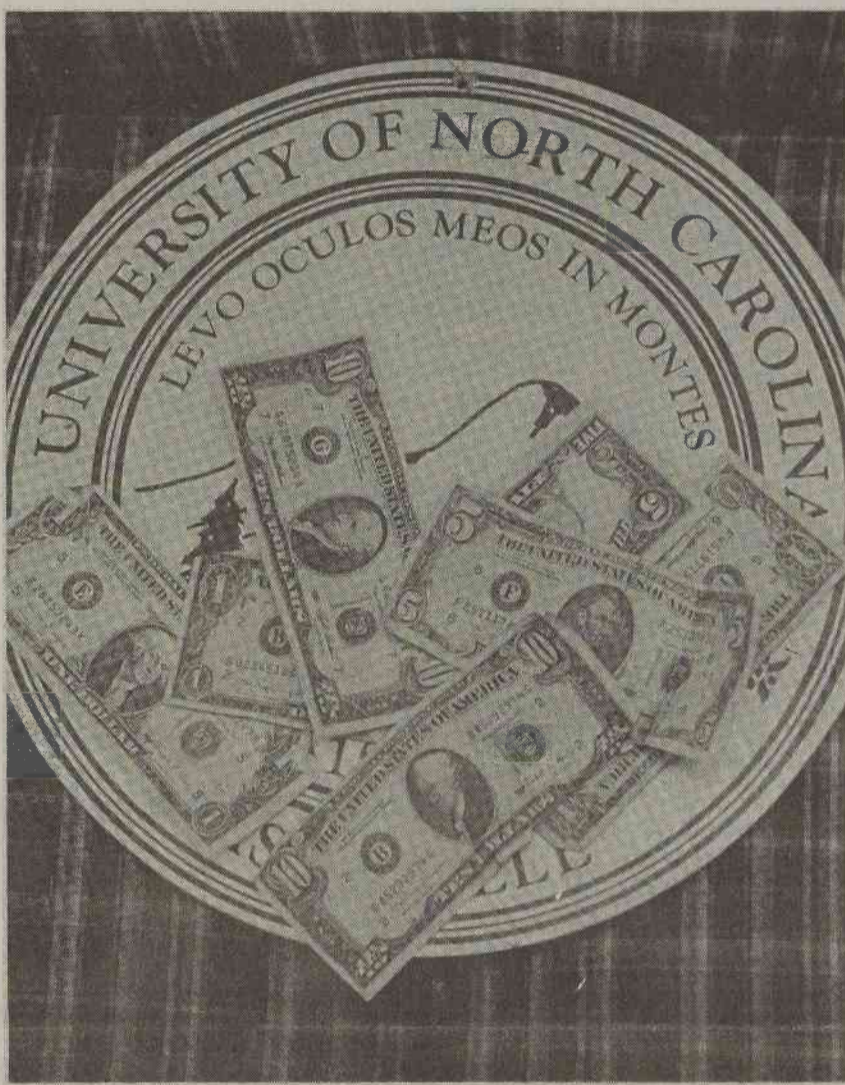


Photo by Lat Ray

According to university budget records, the athletic department has paid eight coaches, two athletic directors, and one secretary from the recreation budget. A total of \$118,535 has been charged to the recreation account. Dhaval "Doc" Patel, SGA president said that athletic fees have increased 107 percent in the last five years, and the department is asking for an \$8.50 increase in athletic fees, and a three-dollar increase in recreation fees.

Faculty reactions vary on athletics controversy

Paul Buttles
Staff Writer

Faculty members have expressed varied attitudes about the athletics department and the amount of money required to maintain Division I status.

"I have a lot of starving students over here that are damn good, that I'd love to see get that kind of money," said James Heimbach, chairman and associate professor of atmospheric sciences.

"Personally, I believe that we, as an institution, cannot support Division I athletics," said Gregg Kormanik, chair of the biology department. "We're not big enough."

"That may well be. That's not for me to say, but I don't think it is," said Tom Hunnicutt, director of athletics.

"It's an enigma here isn't it?" said Gary Miller, director and professor of environmental studies. "Here we are, this broad-based, liberal arts institution that spends most of its scholarship money on athletics."

"I've always instinctively felt that an awful lot of money seems to go (on athletics) for not a whole lot of results," said Sophie Mills, chairman and assistant professor of classics.

"One of the things that they're trying to do right now is build up the athletic

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Student Senate approves funds for members who have not completed work

James Hertsch
Staff Writer

Overriding two presidential vetoes, the student senate voted almost \$6,300 in stipends for the semester for Student Government Association (SGA) members, including those who took office during the semester, and those who have not completed their office hours.

"I feel it's unfair on our part to allocate full stipend to people who didn't earn it," said SGA president Dhaval "Doc" Patel in his veto notice on the origi-

nal bill. "Missing work for half the semester, in my mind, is not earning the full stipend. We are being unfair with Student Fees, if we allocate full stipend to these senators."

Members of SGA taking office during the semester include the three freshman senators, SGA parliamentarian Stephen Gross, senior senator Rebecca Barraclough, commuter senators Matt Guinn and Lisa Ridge, and student senator Eric Felman.

One of the senators in ques-

tion, Carlos Valencia, has had some personal problems this semester, Combs said. According to SGA officials, Valencia has returned to Spain at this time, having been called for service in the Spanish army.

The original bill, initiated by SGA office manager Jeff Greer, did not include full stipends for all SGA members, but was amended to include full stipends for most SGA members, Greer said. After Patel's initial veto, the student senate failed to override the veto and went

into executive session, Patel said. After this session, the senate reconsidered his veto and overturned it, splitting a group of names from the main list, Patel said.

After this, the senate voted on stipends for other SGA members. According to Mark Dann, senior senator, the student senate passed this bill with full stipends for all SGA members. Patel vetoed this bill, and the student senate overrode Patel's veto in the course of the same meeting, Dann said.

Dann said the student senate should not have paid full stipends to all SGA members. He cited a lack of required office hours on the parts of several SGA members. The student senate is required to consider average office hours in deciding the amount of money individual SGA members receive. Additionally, Dann said he did not believe that those who entered SGA midway through the semester should have received full stipends. Dann said overall, SGA had not done its job this year.

"The essence of this is the fact that student fees are being paid by students to have student government work for them, and that work's not being done," Dann said. "And, the student government senate was voting to pay students for not doing that work."

According to Combs, not all members of SGA have been maintaining the required number of office hours. Several SGA members missed hours at the

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Open house provides information for prospective students

Renee Slaydon
Staff Writer

UNCA held an open house to inform prospective students and their parents about the university on Dec. 2. A panel of administrators, as well as students, spoke to the guests visiting campus in Lipinsky Auditorium at 11 a.m.

Before the presentation in the auditorium, the visiting students were given a chance to speak with faculty members representing each academic department. Coffee, juice, and muffins were set up on tables in the lobby of Lipinsky Auditorium, which was full to capacity with the

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Speaker commemorates World AIDS Day

Tracy Singleton
Staff Writer

A speaker who is HIV positive and a Western North Carolina AIDS project case manager spoke on campus Dec. 1 in acknowledgment of World AIDS Day.

"It (living with HIV) has been a very good learning experience for me," said Steve Guyton, an HIV-positive AIDS activist. "The disease has done some progressing. I now have lesions on my face."

Guyton said the visibility of his disease prompted him to take responsibility for his health. He said this process involves more than "just learning about AIDS, how we get AIDS, and what do we do to combat the disease."

"The disease itself, is a very individual thing," said Guyton. "Every individual responds to the disease differently because everybody is different."

Guyton said when he contracted the disease in 1991 he felt "fine."

"I was just going along, doing my thing, but then I developed the lesions which are a very rare form of skin cancer," said Guyton.

Guyton said the skin cancer used to only show up in elderly Jewish Mediterranean men. He said his immune system is so low that the cells were not fighting off the tumors that have developed cancer cells.

"Having talked with doctors, we are (working) very hard to bring my immune system back up," said Guyton.

Guyton said the lesions would disappear as his immune system recovers.

After having been diagnosed with the disease, Guyton said one of the first

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Kathy Whatley and Phyllis Lang welcome a visitor during open house

Photo by Lat Ray