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Budget shortfall threatens adjuncts again

By Nicole Miller
Copy Editor

UNCA faces another cut in adjunct faculty this spring due to a budget shortfall, leaving faculty members uncertain and concerned after Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Tom Cochran's assurance last spring that these cuts would not happen again ("Adjunct positions cut," Feb. 5, 1998).

"We have some money for adjuncts, but compared to last year, we have about \$100,000 less," said Cochran.

According to Cochran, an unanticipated rise in the number of student credit hours this fall created a last minute need to hire more adjuncts to teach the extra courses.

"We didn't have any inclination that we were going to be facing anything like this," Cochran said. He added that, although administrators were aware that there was not enough dorm space for students, they did not see any reason to think they would be facing an enrollment crisis.

Because the university had not planned for the increase, and was not aware of it until late July, part of the adjunct salary budget for next semester was pulled to use this fall.

Unlike the adjunct cuts last spring, which were due a lack of funding that stemmed from the state legislature's delayed 1997 budget report, this spring's cuts will not have a severe impact on students, said Lisa Friedenber, chair and professor of psychology.

Last spring, several students panicked because courses that they needed for graduation had been cut, Friedenber said.

"The good news is we identified the problem earlier this year and were able to make schedule changes before they directly impacted students," said Friedenber.

Due to the loss of adjuncts, many full-time faculty members will lose the depart-

mentally-awarded reassigned time that they had planned for next semester because they will have to teach courses that the adjuncts would have taught. Reassigned time is awarded to faculty members in the form of a lighter teaching load.

Faculty may take a course off in a given semester in order to do research, participate in service projects, work on curriculum, and do other education-related work.

UNCA's current policy for reassigned time has been in place for the last 12 years, said Bruce Larson, chair and professor of economics. He said that, in recent years, administrators had been discussing reevaluating the policy, but had not taken any

measures yet. The severity of the adjunct cut situation may have been reduced if the reassignment policy had been revised prior to now, said Larson.

With reassigned time, Downes said that "faculty are doing things to improve their ability to teach at this institution."

Although loss of reassigned time is a concern for many faculty members, they are also concerned about the loss of some of their colleagues.

"I think that looms larger in faculty minds, or at least as large as losing their own reassigned time. I think that we regret the

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Parking still a problem

Shortages persist, tensions grow

By John Stanier
Staff Writer

A lack of parking spaces on the UNCA campus is causing frustration for students and the Public Safety Department.

"We're living with a crunch," said UNCA Director of Public Safety Dennis Gregory. "We need about 20 to 30 additional spaces."

The worst time for parking is midday from approximately 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. "I think a big part of it is class scheduling," said Gregory. "Probably, it's a lot of humanities programs, which is our biggest program, plus the college for seniors has a program at 11 a.m.. We just have a lot more folks on campus at that time than we normally would have."

"When I show up around 11 a.m. I usually have a problem getting in," said Sean Senders, a senior philosophy major.

Despite the shortage of parking spaces, Gregory said that most students are still attempting to comply with parking rules and avoid violations.

"We're very fortunate. Most of our students at UNCA try to live by the parking rules," said Gregory. "But when lots are full, students have to improvise. Students who are unable to find spaces are forced to park illegally and risk being ticketed. They end up parking anywhere they can, including faculty/staff lots or grassy areas. On an average day, anywhere from 10 to 50 tickets are issued."

Gray Caudill, an undeclared junior, said he makes an effort to get to campus early in order to find a space. "I have to get here 30 to 45 minutes early everyday and drive around," he said. "Sometimes I find one right away, but most of the time it takes a while." Caudill said

there have been several times when he parked illegally in order to make it to class.

"Sometimes I park in faculty parking and just move my car between classes," Caudill said. Last year Caudill lived on campus and still had over \$100 in parking violations.

Because of the parking problem, public safety stops issuing tickets at certain times. "On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at about 10:30 a.m., when every space is full, we stop ticketing," said Gregory. "We feel it is just unfair if there are no spaces."

Gregory said that public safety officers only stop ticketing after they have checked all the lots, including the overflow lots on Division Street and at the Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church on Edgewood Road, to make sure that no spots are available.

"We make a distinction between convenient parking and no parking," Gregory said. "If you're parked illegally just for convenience, we're going to ticket you." Students should make every effort to find a space before they risk a ticket, said Gregory.

Gregory said he is worried that not ticketing students at peak parking times may lead students to believe that public safety is inconsistent in the ticketing process.

"One of the goals we set a couple of years ago was to try to be consistent," Gregory said. "I hate to say that we're not going to give a ticket, but basically that is what it is. You can't feel good about giving a person a ticket if there is no place to park."

Students' reactions to the parking problem are mixed, but most said that at midday it is difficult to find a spot. Students that have early

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PHOTO BY TRAVIS BARKER

Students often resort to illegal parking when there are no legal spaces available. Public safety stops ticketing when all of the parking lots are completely full.

SGA and public safety confront parking crisis

By Samantha Hartmann
Staff Writer

UNCA's Student Government Association plans to work with the Public Safety Department this year to more effectively address student parking concerns. "We have opened up communications with public safety," said Alphonso Donaldson, president of SGA. "We participated in a forum with public safety to discuss student concerns."

Steven Gucciardi, a senior environmental studies and natural resource management major,

said if SGA was successful in remedying some of the campus parking problems, they might be able to make people more aware of their accomplishments.

"So far, it does not seem like they have been able to do very much," said Gucciardi. "An effective change might legitimize their existence."

Jason Allen, a senior teaching certification drama major, said he is not sure how successful SGA and public safety will be in working together. "SGA, in and of itself, does not have that much power," said Allen. "They can present what they want to the administration, but there is not much

they can actually do on their own."

Donaldson said he and other members of SGA have discussed a walking tour of campus to determine sources of alternative parking. "We are trying to find auxiliary parking to ease the tension," said Donaldson. "Hopefully, this will help until the new parking deck is completed."

According to Donaldson, the walking tour will consist of student government representatives, members of the parking appeals committee, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Eric Iovacchini, and any students who would like to participate.

"We thought we would start (the

walking tour) by Mills Hall, go straight back toward the village, and loop around," said Donaldson. "This will give us a good idea of what we have to work with, and whether or not there is something we've been missing."

Allen said he does not see how SGA is going to change the effectiveness of parking until more spaces are developed.

"There was a cartoon printed in *The Banner* last year with a guy in a monster truck driving over a bunch of cars," said Allen. "The

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Change to third shift forces housekeepers to quit

By Sara Jones
Staff Writer

June 1 marked a change in the lives of most UNCA housekeepers due to a schedule shift.

To the dismay of many who previously worked the first shift housekeeping, from 5 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the schedule change now requires them to work third shift, from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

"They kept talking around and about it. They held it over our heads for a year," said

Donna Chandler, a previous employee. She said the housekeepers were led to believe that they would have a chance to bid on the shifts, and that six or seven housekeepers would stay on second shift, but that was not the case.

"I was told to my face, I either worked third or go home. They didn't even give us a choice," said Chandler.

Four housekeepers were kept during the days, two working each shift, to help with unplanned-for needs that arise at times, said Steven Baxley, director of facilities management.

Salaries were increased by 10 percent when

the change occurred, said Baxley. But the extra money was not enough incentive for some.

Chandler said that she and at least two others, Jim Teague and Linda Davis, quit because of the change.

"I worked third long enough to find another job. It doesn't pay enough, but at least it's days," said Chandler.

James Ramsey, who has been a housekeeper at UNCA for five years, expects that five or six more will quit because it is too much of a change.

"It's turned my life upside down," said Ramsey, who works a second job during

the day. Though he doesn't get much sleep, he says he will wait to see if they will change the shifts back before he looks for another job.

George Rice, supervisor of housekeeping in housing and Highsmith, sympathizes with those who now have to work nights.

His schedule did not change, as housing and Highsmith cleaning is controlled by housing, but he knows what such an alteration of a lifestyle entails.

"If you've worked first shift for years, and then you have to go to second, it's a big, big change in your life," said Rice. "I would be a little reluctant, and I would work it, but

I'd be looking for a better job with hours I could deal with, due to the fact of my other commitments with other jobs," he said.

Most of the housekeepers have families and second jobs that make it hard to just turn their days upside down, Rice said.

Chandler, for example, has a handicapped son she can't leave overnight, she said.

The cleaners are not the only ones who think the change was unkind, if not unfair.

Students also expressed concern about the shift change.

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