

# The Banner

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## Cuts affect adjuncts, faculty time

By Sara Jones  
Staff Writer

UNCA faculty and administrators are preparing for cuts in faculty reassigned time and adjunct positions for the spring semester, and debating what effects these changes will have on students and the institution.

"We'll have more courses taught by full-time faculty, and that, for a student, might be a plus. It will be a problem for a number of faculty who are counting on reassigned time to do significant work, scholarship, and course development things, so that's the down side," said Archer Gravelly, director of institutional research.

At present, full-time faculty operate on a 4/3 system, which means that they teach four classes one semester, and only three classes the next to allow for reassigned time. The class that they do not teach for the year allows them to devote time to "scholarly activity," such as writing books, doing research, and developing new courses and curriculum, as discussed in the Faculty Welfare Committee meeting on Sept. 24.

The budget shortfall is requiring UNCA to cut adjunct positions, which means that full-time professors will have to teach more courses.

"We have to do a better job of planning, estimating what the curriculum needs are, estimating what the regular faculty resources are, and looking at how much money is available for adjuncts," said Gravelly.

Gravelly said that the issue of reassigned time is "really not a budget problem," but a budget planning problem. "We need to do a better

job of planning and administering and having accountability for reassigned time so we don't find ourselves in the situation we are now, where halfway through the year we find out we don't have enough money to cover adjuncts for the spring," Gravelly said.

"I would like to think that the administration is really looking hard at other options, because one of the biggest problems I think the faculty feel is that the adjunct cut is really treating (the adjuncts) unfairly. We have a great staff of adjunct faculty. They are a part of the team and for them to lose their positions here because of an administrative oversight is really a tragedy, cutting at the heart of what we are about," said Robert Tynes, associate professor of art.

Although students may have full-time professors instead of adjuncts, some professors do not see the increased teaching load and less reassigned time as favorable.

"In lieu of the adjuncts being able to teach is that the full-time faculty are having to sacrifice their reassigned time, and it's going to affect the quality of teaching. There's no two ways about it," said Tynes.

"The fatigue factor is going to be an issue next semester, for students as well as faculty," said Dwight Mullen, chair and associate professor of political science.

Kevin Moorhead, associate professor of environmental studies, said he felt like the research that he did in his reassigned time was an integral part of doing his job, including providing undergraduate research opportunities and staying on the "cutting edge" of his field.

Reassigned time "allows us to improve our teaching directly, (and) the research helps us in teaching. If

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## Pipes with no purpose

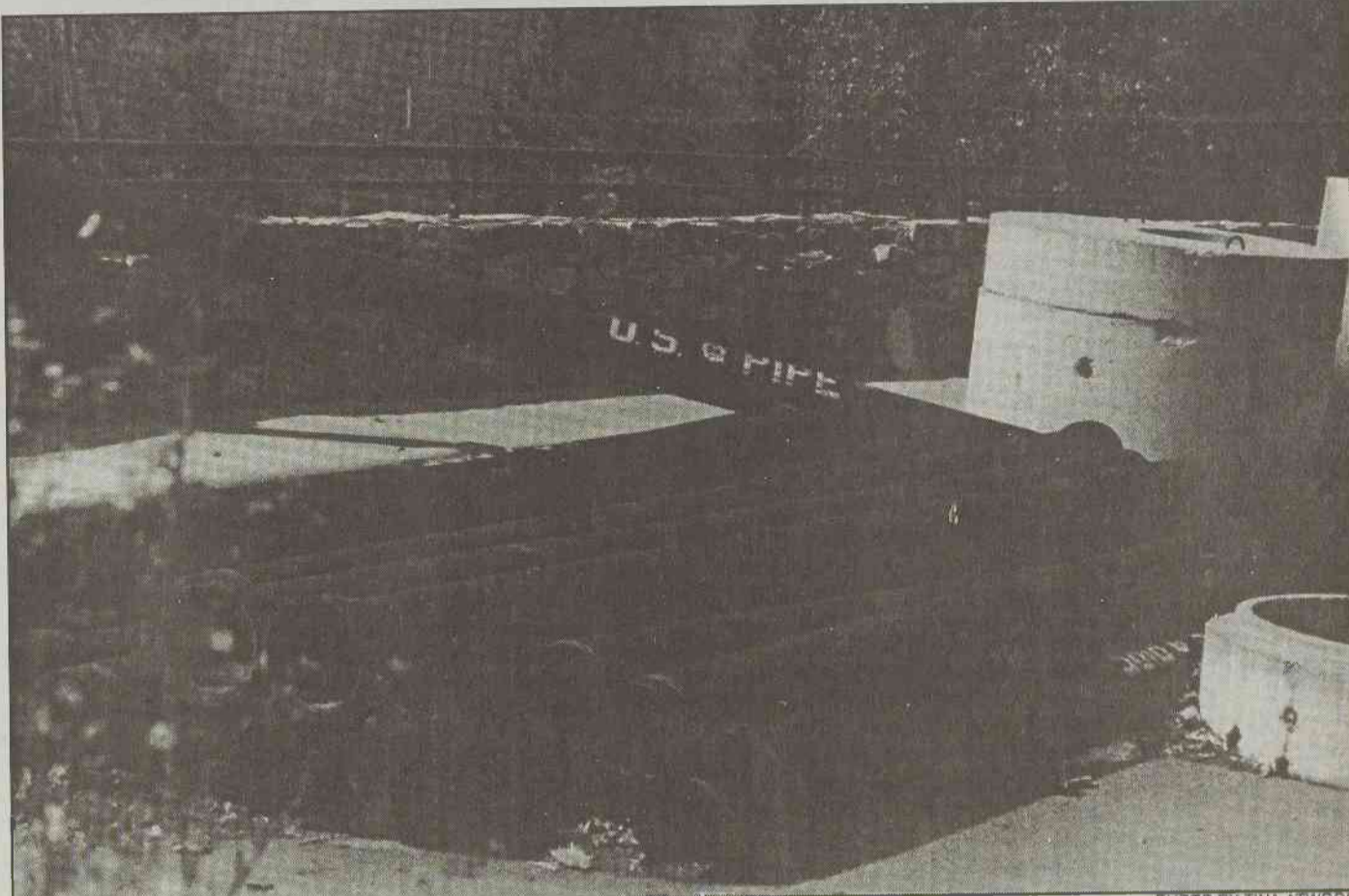


PHOTO BY TINA ATWOOD

Building materials lie strewn about on the deserted conference center construction site. Lack of funding has prevented further progress on the center.

## Conference center construction stalls

By Samantha Hartmann  
Staff Writer

Construction of the proposed conference center near Chestnut Ridge on the north end of campus has come to an indefinite standstill due to lack of funding. The project was designated for UNCA in a public facility bond referendum in 1993.

"Frankly, there is no prospect in view right now for getting any more money," said Tom Byers, special assistant to the chancellor. "The project is not moving forward," said Byers.

Byers said the university would eventually develop additional facilities on Chestnut Ridge, but that is not going to be anytime soon.

"The fact is we spent all the money that was in the pipeline, and there does not appear to be any prospects in the foreseeable future for political funding," said Byers. "It is not being used right now, but eventually it seems probable that the university will need that space."

In addition to lack of funding, construction efforts were stalled by a lawsuit initiated in 1994. UNCA entered litigation with Chestnut Ridge Conservancy, Inc., after land clearing began in July 1994. The controversy arose over environmental issues surrounding the construction of a new road, Division Street, and the conference center on Chestnut Ridge. "The lawsuit has now been resolved," said Byers.

The estimated cost of the center was \$21 million and \$3,974,400 of that was allocated for the initial phase of the project.

According to a supplemental affidavit of Arthur Foley, vice chancellor for financial affairs, funding from the bond issue of \$3,974,400 would complete the initial phase of the project. This included:

- construction of an access road
- installation of underground utilities
- site preparation and related expenses
- design of the conference center
- purchase of lands to widen or relocate Division Street
- the widening or relocation and extension of Division Street.

The affidavit was obtained from the files of the Buncombe County Courthouse as Foley was unavailable for comment.

UNCA received bids for the infrastructure phase in April of 1994.

In a letter dated May 20, 1994 to Speros Fleggas, director of the state construction office, a breakdown of the construction expenses was provided.

The total for all contracts, which included the general and electrical contracting, was \$1,490,506.

Additional fees were allocated for the following: design fee, \$18,500; reserve for property acquisitions, \$600,000; reserve for Division Street extension, \$571,420; reserve for conference center construction, \$1,249,259; and contingency, for unplanned events, \$44,715.

This allowed for a project total of \$3,974,400.

According to Foley's affidavit, UNCA would incur more than \$200,000 in additional costs if construction were halted by a court order during litigation.

"We have now spent almost that total amount mostly for the infrastructure, the road and utilities,"

said Byers. "What has been done, for the most part, will be important to the university in the years ahead, regardless of what happens to the conference center. The road we just opened, Division Street, is giving us new access for campus. It gives us a nice backdoor. This has been made possible by the bond money."

According to Byers, talks concerning the project began in the 1980s. Legislators thought a conference center would facilitate economic development in Western North Carolina. "Chancellor David Brown, who was the chancellor here at the time, said if we are going to have a big conference center in the western part of North Carolina, it really should be on the UNCA campus," said Byers. "The project initiated from legislative sponsorship. Now that there has been turnover in the legislative delegation, the level of support for this project is not the same as it originally was."

In an article published by the Asheville Citizen-Times on July

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## Refund a possibility for Founders' residents

By Mat Peery  
Staff Writer

Continued delays of the promised air conditioning in Founders Residence Hall may lead the university to partially reimburse students by the end of the semester, according to university officials.

Some students remain upset at the status of the air conditioning system now several weeks behind schedule and only providing cool air to some of the building's inhabitants.

"Don't promise somebody something if you aren't going to deliver," said Maureen Dougher, an undeclared freshman.

Residents paid \$100 more this fall to live

in Founders compared to housing costs from last year. That increase was due in part to inflation and was decided upon last December, said Pete Williams, director of housing.

The increase was based on a 3 percent rate of inflation, with the remainder of the increase going toward building improvements such as the addition of air conditioning and the new furniture.

The lack of air conditioning has caused students and officials to consider the possibility of a partial refund based on the amount of the recent increase.

"(The refund) will be some sort of proration based upon the amount of the increase that was targeted due to the anticipated air conditioning versus the increase that would just have been the case whether

or not there would have been air conditioning," said Foley.

Foley also said that there were a number of factors to consider about the refund. These include the portion of the increased cost of living in Founders that was designated to pay for the air conditioning and how much of a delay occurs before the system finally becomes fully functional.

"I would expect Mr. Williams and myself to meet and try to make some determination of what would be a reasonable refund to students in Founders Hall who were expecting air conditioning and didn't have it at the time school opened," said Foley.

Some informal discussions about a refund did take place recently, said Williams. However, both Williams and Foley said an official decision concerning a refund has

not yet been made and that no official statement regarding refunds would come until that decision was reached. The most likely option, however, will be a credit to each student's account for next spring, said Foley.

Foley said that the specifics of a refund have not yet been discussed, "although it would be usual university practice to review the situation once we know the point in time at which the air conditioning is functional," said Foley.

The continued delay of air conditioning is taking its toll on both students and administrators. Williams said that some of the student stress is because of an unusually warm fall semester with temperatures up to 10 degrees warmer than past years, and also because delays pushed the date of air con-

ditioning past the Sept. 15 activation date. "The students were pretty patient up until mid-September," said Williams.

Foley said that there were several reasons the contractors were not finished before the arrival of students in the dorms.

"Part of what happened is that it took longer to do the air conditioning project than we had days in the summer," said Foley.

Williams said that even if the contractors had finished the installation on time, the system would not have been up and running on schedule.

"I really wish that they'd be consistent," said Michael Adams, an undeclared sophomore, "because I know that several people's

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