

The Banner

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Hurricanes lead to funding cuts

By Brendan Dezendorf
Staff Writer

UNCA will lose \$250,000 out of this year's total budget due to monetary relief from the state for flooding damages across Eastern North Carolina, including Eastern Carolina University (ECU), according to UNCA administration.

The state government of North Carolina is calling in a 1 percent loading cut, effective immediately, to help pay for over flooding and hurricane damage, including \$7 million in damage at ECU.

"On the surface, it is not devastating," said Tom Cochran, the dean of the faculty. "We have only, in the past year, been given approval to keep all of our funds. Historically, we have reverted two percent of our budget every year."

Steve Honeycutt, university budget officer, said that the money being lost is approximately \$250,000 out of a roughly \$2 million budget.

All other state agencies, not just education, are going through the same financial cutbacks due to the flooding.

Honeycutt warned that this might not be the only cut coming. He said that he has heard nothing about any more cuts, but it does not rule out the possibility.

"What we have to be careful of is there is another cut coming," Honeycutt said. "I cannot tell you if a larger cut would hurt students."

For the past few years, UNCA has been making a concerted effort to keep all monies on campus, according to Cochran.

This would have been the first year all the money designated to

UNCA would stay on campus. Chancellor Jim Mullen said that the teaching of core classes comes first, and it is the most important priority of the school. He also said that efforts would be made to make sure that academic programs would be hit last for money.

"We were fortunate that we took a conservative line, and put the money into reserve beforehand," said Cochran. "It never went out into the budget, so we are not going to have to ask for money back from departments. On the other hand, because we did put it in reserve, we did not give out as much money."

One area of the budget that will be affected is the operational budget. In UNCA's operating budget, \$850,000 is usually spent, and due to the cutbacks, they will only have approximately \$800,000. However, other projects that money had been set aside for now have to be put on hold. There is also the possibility of an equipment shortage.

"A faculty member might say that they cannot give out extra copies of notes or outlines due to insufficient funds," Cochran said, "or, that a oscilloscope or microscope might sit on a shelf in disrepair until next year's budget."

"There have been some one-time funds," said Cochran. "For example, the purchase of faculty computers. Trying to cut people back from that is a challenge."

"Some departments wonder if they can sustain their plans for this year," said Cochran. "We have new faculty coming in this year, over and above what we had last year, and they need computers."

Cochran said that he did not see a threat to the instructional side of

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Free Speech: a different angle



PHOTO BY JASON GRAHAM

H. K. Edgerton, former President of Asheville's National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), salutes in front of the university entrance on W. T. Weaver Boulevard Nov. 8. Protesting the misuse of the Confederate flag by hate groups such as the Klu Klux Klan and Nazi organizations, Edgerton said the flag has meaning to "southern African Americans, because many African Americans died for the Confederacy during the Civil War."

Greenway construction delayed

By Greg Sessoms
Staff Writer

Construction on a long-awaited section of the Greenway, intended to safely accommodate pedestrians along Weaver Boulevard, may not begin until the end of next spring. Project planners had intended to begin work on the section connect-

ing the existing Greenway from Merrimon Avenue to Barnard Street last spring, but changes made to UNCA's master plan for the campus have delayed the project for several months.

"Right now, things have been put on hold because the university is trying to get some assistance from the N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to build a new entry road. The university master

plan was updated a couple of years ago and calls for the possibility of a new entrance road," said Tom Byers, special assistant to the chancellor.

The new entrance could possibly cross paths with the planned Greenway, necessitating changes in its design that could be difficult to carry out if it were constructed before plans for the entrance are finalized.

"Because it could result in a new street connection (on Weaver Boulevard), and because the city is talking about some major changes to the vehicular road, they said 'Let's wait until we get the NCDOT recommendation before we go ahead and build the Greenway,'" said

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Dante's to become Chick-fil-A



PHOTO BY NAOMI RICHARD

Mark Case, a computer science major, buys a meal from Sheryl Edwards at Dante's, soon to be a Chick-fil-A fast-food restaurant.

By Phoebe Hicks
Staff Writer

Renovations will begin in the Highsmith University Center to make Dante's a Chick-fil-A restaurant over Christmas break, according to dining services.

"Our goal is to open, if all goes well, for the spring semester in January," said Ken

Barefoot, director of the dining services. The decision to renovate Dante's into a fast-food restaurant came during the 1998 food service bid.

The food service committee conducted a survey of students to find out what fast-food restaurant students would most like to have on campus, according to Barefoot.

"Chick-fil-A just blew everybody out of the water,"

said Barefoot. The decision to put a fast-food restaurant in Highsmith Center was just a part of the proposal that called for renovations to all of Highsmith.

"When we found out the Highsmith Center wasn't going to happen as quickly as we had hoped, we decided to go ahead, and do something to Dante's," said Barefoot. "The students need a new alternative. We're hoping to have

Chick-fil-A done by January just so that the students will see something going on."

Barefoot said he was unsure of the total cost to the university for putting in the Chick-fil-A.

The equipment package, which includes the appliances, shelves and cup dispensers, will cost UNCA just over \$42,000, before any real construction goes on to renovate the space into what looks like a Chick-fil-A restaurant, according to Barefoot.

"It's going to be fairly expensive, but I think in the end for the students, it's going to be money well spent," said Barefoot.

The money for the new restaurant is not coming out of the funds given to UNCA for the renovation of Highsmith by the General Administration, according to Sharyn McDonald Grob, student activities.

There is a food service account, and there is money in that account to do renovations to food service spaces," said McDonald Grob.

The restaurant is designed to be a Chick-fil-A Express, which means that it will be self-service.

"To start with, we're going to do the chargrilled chicken sandwich, the Chick-fil-A

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UNCA fires officer

UNCA administration fired Officer Darrell Rathburn Nov. 5 just prior to the end of his two-week suspension. Rathburn is no longer a UNCA employee, and has been "separated from the university," according to a press release.

Rathburn was suspended Oct. 25 following his federal indictment on eight charges of assault and one count of illegal possession of a firearm.

Hired in May 1998 as a Police Officer One, conducting routine campus

patrols, Rathburn did not receive any complaints while employed at UNCA.

No other information is available in reference to his dismissal, in accordance with North Carolina general statutes prohibiting disclosure of personnel information.

Heritage event lacks student attendance

By Johanna Luks
Staff Writer

The first event of November's "Share the Spirit: Native American Heritage Month" (NAHM) at UNCA drew only a small group of students and staff, despite advertising, according to an event organizer.

"I honestly was a little bit frustrated about (student attendance). I expected at least twice those numbers," said Octavia Wright, coordinator of multicultural student programs and an organizer of NAHM.

Most of the people who attended this event were minority students. "These activities are not held

to educate one particular audience, it's meant to educate everyone," said Wright. "All minds, regardless of color, should be broadened by attending and participating in the events and discussions afterwards."

The small student attendance may have been due to a shorter than usual advertising period, according to Wright.

"There's a variety of factors, but one thing we're doing to try and help student attendance is broaden the advertising so more people are aware of it," said Wright.

"I don't really know why most students don't attend events like this," said Sarah Willis, a sophomore psychology major. "There doesn't seem to be a lot of student involvement here, especially

with commuter students because it's harder for us to find out about stuff."

"We want the programs we offer to be reflective of the environment we're in, not only the campus, but the general environment of Western North Carolina," said Wright.

"I think that UNCA students will benefit in terms of challenging their boundaries," said Wright. "These events provide students the opportunity to step outside of their

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