

The Blue Banner

The University of North Carolina at Asheville

Features



"The Huegents, Close to Home" exhibit at Owen gallery

See page 3

Sports



Men's basketball tied for first in BSC

See page 5

Opinions



"Adventures of Ferret and Squirrel," by Shaun Cashman

See page 8

State to cut education spending

The UNC-school system may have to give \$32 million back to North Carolina

Keith Cromwell
Staff Writer

UNCA may have to cut around \$500,000 from this year's budget due to an estimated \$791 million state-budget deficit. Some students said they are concerned that cuts in funding could hurt the quality of education at UNCA.

"If you cut the budget, quality goes down," said Daniel Mahffey, a senior creative writing major. "Getting teachers that are worthwhile will be harder because we can't pay them enough. It won't be good for morale at all."

State universities will have to cut spending due to a fiscal emergency recently declared by North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley. He plans to set up an account to cover the budget shortfall, according to a *Herald-Sun* article.

"Budget cuts are a reality," said University of North Carolina Board of Governors Chairman Ben Ruffin in the article. "If you are on the team, you have to play. How can we complain?"

UNCA could cut salaries, initiate a hiring freeze and delay some construction projects. Building repair and renovation funds may also

have to be cut, according to Wayne McDevitt, vice chancellor of financial affairs.

"We will have to buckle down," said McDevitt.

UNCA will not let the cuts affect classroom teaching, according to Chancellor Jim Mullen.

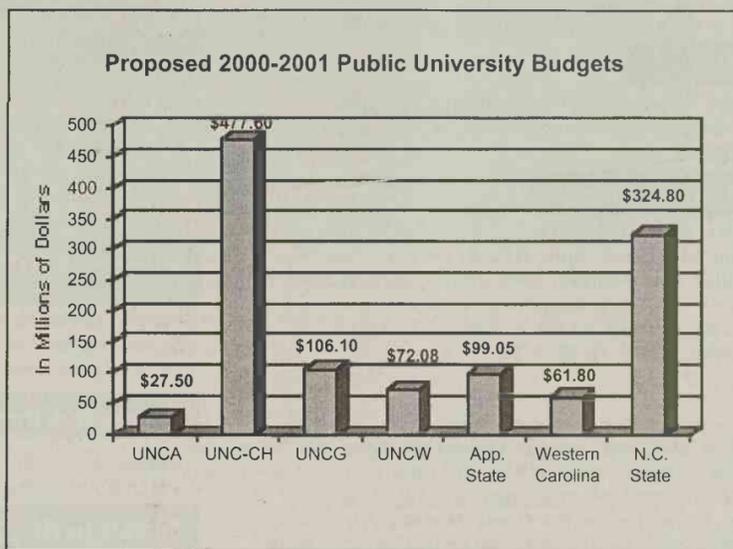
Funding for "academic departments will not be cut," said McDevitt.

UNCA, Western Carolina University, Appalachian State University, and the 13 other UNC-system public campuses are facing a 1.9 percent budget reduction. The UNC system will give back \$32 million of its \$1.7 billion budget to the state, according to UNC-system officials.

The \$32 million in cuts across the 16 campuses should not endanger classroom programs, and chancellors will be given flexibility in how to make the cuts, said Broad.

This flexibility "is absolutely vital," said Mullen. "We understand what is happening at the campus level more clearly than anyone."

In cutting the UNC-system budgets, "our philosophy has been to keep academic programs, student services and student financial aid intact," said Jeff Davies, the UNC system's vice president for finance, in the



KEITH CROMWELL/GRAPHIC DESIGNER

For the proposed 2000-2001 budgets, UNCA receives 27.5 million in funding.

article.

Other state agencies, not just universities, will also have to cut funds from their budget and do their part in this crisis, according to UNC President Molly Broad in the article.

"The governor has assured me that, if not all of it is spent, it will be returned to our campuses," said Broad.

Budget cuts already underway include \$248 million from state agencies and universities, according to the *Associated Press*.

Another \$48 million is being taken from a reserve account set aside by state lawmakers last year to meet rising costs in the state employees health-care plan. Easley also plans to take \$39.5 million from a fund used to repair state buildings, according to an *Associated Press* article.

Other planned cuts include taking \$151 million that would have gone into the state employees retirement fund to help pay off the remainder of the debt. Another

\$95 million, which was set aside for local governments to make up for lost revenue when a state-wide inventory tax was eliminated several years ago, will also be cut, according to the AP.

Easley also plans to pull the remaining \$157 million from the state's emergency reserve, or Rainy Day Fund, according to the AP.

The governor has ordered a hiring freeze and told state agencies to "curtail travel and stop non-essential purchases."

Requirements may decrease

Angela Brock
Staff Writer

UNCA's faculty senate agenda discussed possible curriculum changes, such as requirements for majors to be reduced to allow students to take more electives.

"There are many classes I want to take that I am unable to," said Derek Jones, a junior ecology and biology major. "If you want to get through school in four years, you have to take all required courses and cannot take many electives."

The board discussed different alternatives for students to be able to take more classes that will be counted toward graduation, regardless of their major.

"Do we try to look at every major and think about ways to shrink the number of requirements, or shrink the number of general-education requirements, so students have more free electives," said Peter Caulfield, chair of the senate and associate professor of literature. "That is just getting started, so it will not get decided this year."

The following curriculum changes were approved at the meeting, and will be listed in

"There are many classes I want to take that I am unable to."

-Derek Jones
Junior, Ecology and Biology

the 2001-2002 Student Catalog, such as addition of Earth Science with teacher licensure, Education 315 to count for the General Education Arts Lab requirement, Education 319 to count as both hours of required Health and Fitness credit and catalog changes in mathematics and economics.

There will also be an addition of undergraduate-research courses, modifications of curriculum revision in biology, as well as other course-description changes.

Students will have input on curriculum changes through an SGA report given every month, according to Caulfield.

Curriculum changes have to go through the Academic Policies Committee, and a catalog change will typically come out

See AGENDA page 10

UNCA gives more funding to sciences

Keith Cromwell
Staff Writer

Biology, drama and chemistry departments received the most money out of all UNCA departments from UNCA's 1998-1999 budget, with each section receiving amounts around \$40,000. In comparison, \$3,000 was given to the classics department, according to the UNCA budget office.

"Being a liberal arts university, you would think departments such as art, humanities and English would receive higher funding than the sciences," said Laura Price, a sophomore Spanish major.

For the sciences, most of the money went toward scientific equipment and chemicals. Those departments require more funding than departments such as political science and humanities, according to the office.

Other budgets include \$11,000 for the atmospheric sciences department and \$21,000 for the art department, according to the office. "All departments could always benefit from more funds," said Derek Coulson, a

freshman health and wellness promotion major.

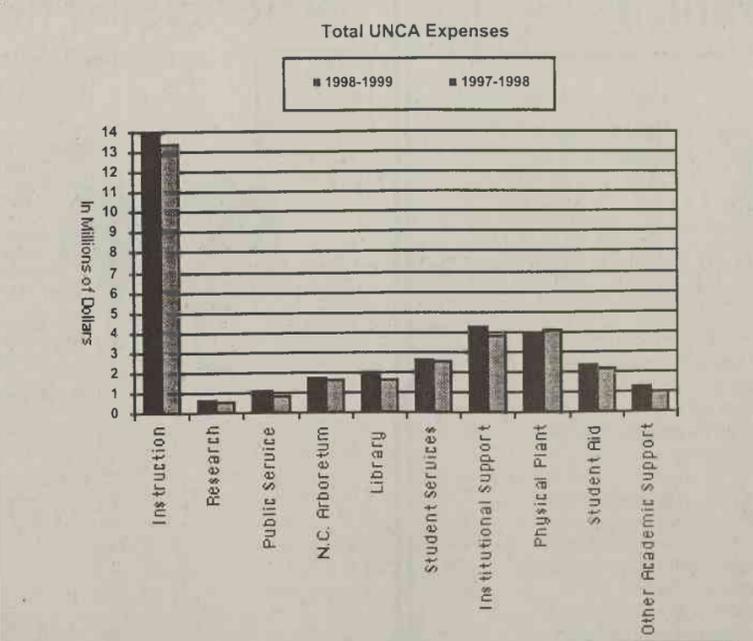
Total state funding given to the university totaled \$23.9 million. In comparison, UNCA received \$5.1 million from student tuition and fees.

The school also received \$10.3 million from sales and service. This includes money from campus bookstore sales and Highsmith Center ticket sales.

Other income sources for the university included \$1.6 million from federal grants and contracts, \$403,000 from state grants and contracts, and \$1.1 million from private gifts and grants, according to the 1999 budget.

In contrast to other 16 public universities in the system, UNCA ranks 13th in total funding. For the proposed fiscal year 2000-2001, UNCA is one of the lower-funded schools. The UNC Board of Governors requested \$1.4 billion from the state, out of which UNCA would receive \$27 million.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill would receive the most money, with total state funds requested at \$477.6 million. Following that, N.C. State would receive the second-largest amount, with \$324.8 million in state



KEITH CROMWELL/GRAPHIC DESIGNER

UNCA's budgets show the majority of expenses go towards instruction.

funds. East Carolina University was ranked third in state money requested, with funds totaling \$188.4 million, followed by the University of Charlotte with \$116.2 million in requested funds.

The North Carolina School

of the Arts was the lowest state funded school at \$21 million. Universities like UNC-CH and N.C. State receive more money because state funding is based on total enrollment of each school, according to the office.

Total 2000 enrollment for UNC-CH was 24,892 students, for N.C. State, it was 28,619 students and ECU had 18,750 students. Total en-

See UNCA page 10

UNCA issues alcohol citations

Keith Cromwell
Staff Writer

Rachel Crumpler
Staff Writer

Several students were charged with underage drinking at a keg party in Mills Hall

Dec. 1. Public safety officers found a beer keg, a bottle of vodka and a bottle of whiskey in the students' dorm room.

"We knew we were going to get caught, (but) we hoped that it was later in the night," said Chris Pittman, a sophomore computer science major. "It was worth the effort, and I would do it again."

Pittman and his roommate, Brian Smith, a sophomore literature and language major, were among seven students

issued citations for underage drinking after public safety officers broke up a party in their room in Mills Hall.

Pittman and Smith decided to throw a Christmas party for their friends. No one was charged money to attend the party, according to Pittman.

"We had anywhere from 30 to 40 people in our room at the party at any given time," said Pittman.

Pittman and Smith thought no one noticed them entering Mills with the keg.

"It was simple to do," said Pittman. "We pulled our car around the back of Mills (Hall) and brought the keg in. No body noticed anything."

Bringing and having a keg in the residence halls "would tend to get someone's atten-

See KEG page 10



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY WALTER FYLER

Several students issued citations for drinking.