

THE BLUE BANNER



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Volume 37 Issue 4

The University of North Carolina at Asheville

February 27, 2003

UNCA plans new science building

Enrollment rises, state funding falls

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UNCA's new science building will house the biology, chemistry and multimedia arts and science departments starting during the 2006-07 academic year.

"I think there are perceptions out there that maybe the biology and the chemistry department want to have a brawl to settle this, but that is not the case at all," said Assistant Professor Herb Pomfrey, coordinator for the biology general education program and secondary biology representative in the Building Committee. "Both departments are really committed to getting the best building in that parking lot that we can get."

A N.C. bond referendum, passed in November 2000, provided the funding for the new science building. UNCA placed the building project on its agenda, and in the fall of 2002, formed the building committee. The 10 members of the committee represent the biology, chemistry, and multimedia departments, along with facilities management and UNCA administration.

"This project resulted from the bond referendum of November 2000 and is just one of a number of major projects for UNCA that were funded by North Carolina voters," said Keith Krumpke, associate professor of chemistry and primary chemistry representative on the Building Committee, in an e-mail.

The Building Committee makes many different decisions concerning the new science building. The committee chose an architectural design company and discussed the location of the building, the choice to hire a construction manager and how many departments to bring



DEARBORN MCCORKLE/NEWS EDITOR

Leo Klausmann, a sophomore ecology major, dissects an insect in zoology lab. The new science and multimedia building will provide new, up-to-date labs, classrooms and research facilities.

into the new building.

"We spent several months considering various possible sites on the campus," said Bert Holmes, Phillip G. Carson Distinguished Chair of Science and secondary chemistry representative on the Building Committee, in an e-mail. "Initially the building was programmed to house only biology and chemistry, but it was determined in the spring and summer of 2002 that a third department should be added to the building to better utilize the money from the bond fund."

The committee chose the multimedia arts and science department

as the third department to share the building because of its growing enrollment.

"There's a lot of space in the building and it's important to have interactions among and between different disciplines," said Professor Gregg Kormanik, primary biology representative on the Building Committee. "Multimedia was of the size and of a nature that it would be a good addition to the science and multimedia building."

Some students have mixed feelings on which department should be placed in the new building. Originally, the committee thought

the math department would join the biology and chemistry departments in the new building, but last semester the committee chose the multimedia arts and science department instead.

"It would be great if the building made more sense (and) gave the math department some room," said Lyla Hance, a sophomore who intends on majoring in biochemistry, in an e-mail. "But as long as the thing doesn't fall down, no complaints here."

Many believe the new building will provide much needed space for the presently cramped departments.

"I definitely think that the new building will be beneficial for all three departments," said Renee Hodge, a senior biochemistry major. "Right now all departments are sort of squished in and spread out and we don't have a lot of space."

The committee plans to build the new science building next to the Ramsey Library, between the Rhoades-Robinson building and the Humanities Lecture Hall. The new building is currently referred to as the new science and multimedia building, but the name could change in the future.

"The building will be erected in the faculty and staff parking lot located next to Robinson Hall, Tennent Park and the Humanities Lecture Hall," said Krumpke. "The building is currently slated to be four stories tall, so as to be somewhat consistent with the neighboring buildings."

Some students feel the faculty and staff will not agree with placing the building in the faculty and staff parking lot.

"I wouldn't take up all those parking spaces," said Tony Vu Jr., a sophomore who intends on majoring in biochemistry. "The faculty and staff agree to need the parking spaces."

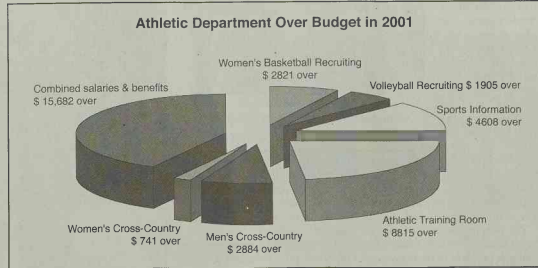
The committee most recently discussed the finalization of how much space and rooms each department will receive in the new building at their meeting Feb. 17.

"Basically what we are working on now, is we just finalized what's called the programming, how many labs we want to have, how many classrooms we want to have," said Pomfrey. "You know, how much does chemistry get, how much does biology get, how much does multimedia and sciences get."

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Athletics receives one third of student fee raise

Laura Logeman
News Reporter



ED FICKLE/PHOTO EDITOR

Seven areas within the athletics department overspent their budgets for a combined total of \$37,456.

The athletics department receives most of their funding from student fees. This year the athletics department expects to get \$11,195,725 from student fees alone, according to their 2002-03 budget.

Despite the large amount of money the athletics department receives from student fees, they have

run on a deficit budget in years past. Although the current budget does not project an overdraft of their account, the athletics department has had trouble in the past.

In 1998, the athletics department overdrafted their account by \$172,674 and had an overall deficit balance of \$220,887. They received

an audit for the balance deficit, according to Steve Honeycutt, university budget officer.

The athletics department had five years to correct the deficit balance. They corrected the balance before the end of the five year period, according to Honeycutt.

The athletics department paid

their deficit by the summer of 2001 by using its own savings and auxiliary accounts from the Chancellor's office. The department did not use any money from student fees or from the state, according to Comstock.

Despite the budget not having an overall deficit currently, some areas of the athletics department spend more than their allotted amount, while others spend a fraction of their original budget, according to transactions made as of June 2001 in the 2001-02 budget.

In 2001, the volleyball team spent 192 percent of their allotted budget for recruiting, or \$1,905 more than they budgeted. "Combined salaries and benefits" overspent by \$15,682. The training room followed with \$8,815 over budget and sports information with \$4,608 over budget, according to the 2001-02 budget.

Various athletics department areas spent a total of \$37,456 over their allotted funds as of June 2001. Areas such as men's and women's

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The economy has affected the recent rise in enrollment. However, if the state were to shift into an upswing, enrollment will likely decrease, according to Honeycutt.

"I think what you will see is that fewer non-traditional students will get fewer transfers from the community college system," said Honeycutt.

Actual enrollment of full time equivalency students has risen from 2,490 in 1991-92 to 2,773 in 2001-02, according to the UNCA Institutional Research Web site.

The university determines full time equivalency estimates by taking all the hours of all enrolled students, then divides that number by 12 hours, which gives a rough estimate of the amount of students enrolled full time at the university, according to Honeycutt.

"I don't want to paint a picture that UNCA is unique, because we're not," said Honeycutt. "The com-

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