

# Construction plans set for UNCW's portion of bond

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With the approval of the \$3.1 billion bond issue by N.C. voters last November, UNC Wilmington has completed a detailed construction scheme and finance allotment plan for the university's \$108 million portion of the bond.

One of the top priorities for the money is the creation of the Watson School of Education Building. The 80,500 square-foot building will allow UNCW to almost double the number of teachers that it currently graduates. Additionally, there will be much more program space and room for community outreach and support services in the new building. The University will receive nearly \$9 million over the next year to begin construction on the building, which will reach a total cost of over \$18.7 million.

The remaining funds requested this year for the other two new buildings, the General Classroom building and the Fine Arts building, will be used solely for planning and designing the facilities.

Approximately \$2.1 million will be set aside for land acquisition in two areas. The first, the wooded corner lot beside Hurst Road and South College Road, is already property of the UNCW foundation. It was purchased by the

foundation when the state was not allotting money for land acquisition.

"Now we need to buy it back from the foundation so that it goes into the university directly for expansion," said Mark Lanier, special assistant to the chancellor and the assistant secretary to the Board of Trustees.

The second piece of land is located at Myrtle Grove and is to be used for further development of Marine Science facilities.

The remainder of the money will cover electrical distribution and infrastructure cost such as water, sewer and gas lines, as well as the expansion of technology infrastructure. The cost will be evenly spread over the six-year period, depending on the progress of the other structures.

Over the next six years there will be approximately eight comprehensive building renovations including Kenan, King, Hoggard, Westside, Friday, James and Alderman Halls and Kenan Auditorium.

Due to the in-depth level of planning involved and the complexities of sequencing the projects to offer enough physical space for student instruction, significant changes to the current project layout are unlikely, according to Lanier.

"The real problem comes in with



Construction will soon be a common sight at UNCW with the passing of the \$3 billion bond referendum in November.

eight renovation projects. You can't really renovate a building with people in it because you are doing the heating and air conditioning systems and so on—the real core of the building. You have to have space for people to move into while you renovate their building. So the sequencing was really critical," Lanier said.

To help alleviate some of the space problems caused by the construction, Lanier expects that a few temporary trailers will be set up for use.

"The project is probably the most complex project ever constructed on UNCW's campus," said Bob Fry, assistant to the chancellor. "I think that the faculty committee has attempted to sequence the projects so there is a logical flow to the project."

Fry also chairs the subcommittee of

facilities, which is comprised of representatives throughout the university department divisions and administration. The committee is largely responsible for the planned building sequence and renovations chosen in the project.

The University Planning and Quality Counsel is responsible for developing strategies of implementation and monitoring progress on the project. The Board of Trustees will oversee approval of any major changes that may occur as the construction and renovation process takes place.

"There's a 90 percent chance that the project will stay the same just because of the sheer complexity of it," said Provost John Cavanaugh, vice chancellor of academic affairs.

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