

SGA president presents university vision for coming year

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STAFF WRITER

With a tough financial year ahead for the university, SGA and administrators are joining forces to involve students more completely in the campus community.

In front of a small crowd of students and staff members, Student Government Association President Adrian Lopez addressed some issues that confront the university, including the budget crisis, as he described SGA's vision for the 2001-2002 academic year.

Some of the themes that surfaced during Lopez's remarks included a commitment to being a proactive student government, a strong endorsement to the entire student body to get involved and to build a sense of community, within the UNCW campus and throughout Wilmington. In his speech, Lopez highlighted four central goals that he hopes will help unite the university under

SPENDING, FROM COVER

Student fees are more easily traced because they are set to go straight into a certain fund, such as student housing fees, which go solely toward financing the department or activity specified in their name, Jordan said.

However, in light of this year's budgetary shortfall, the legislature is altering the plan for appropriations slightly. This year the tuition increase is being subtracted for the state—appropriations normally given across the state to universities to accommodate the total enrollment growth of the 16 system campuses, according to Jordan.

The expense is then further driven up by lack of state aid.

"This institution is... the lowest funded institution in the entire system. We get less state—appropriated funds per student than any other of the 16 campuses," Jordan said. "Also, we are the most utilized institution. By that I mean, we have the

Correction

In last week's edition of *The Seahawk* in "Increased student body causes dorm overcrowding," Bob Fry, assistant to the chancellor for planning, was mistakenly quoted as saying, "Students in overflow are going to be there for a while." This was instead a quote from Brad Reid, director at the Office of Housing and Residence Life. We apologize for the error.

UNION, FROM COVER

centralized location within the University Union.

Other ideas include covering the existing courtyard with a one-story roof, creating covered walkways to the space between the Warwick Center, and the Burney Student Support Center, adding a convenience store and additional food service space.

The old bookstore will be renovated into a new ballroom that will seat 850-900 in an auditorium-style seating.

"This building, more than any other on cam-

a common vision.

The first goal is "building a diverse community."

This is an issue that Lopez campaigned on and one in which she has stressed heavily.

"If our institution wants to excel and be a progressive voice for change, we must reaffirm our commitment to diversity," Lopez said.

For this reason, Lopez has pledged to create a lowest per-square foot to student [ratio]. We have less space per student than any other institution in the system."

One of the most commonly cited examples of university mispending among students is the gateway structure beside Lakeside Hall. The structure was funded completely through state appropriation based on a proposal put into gear several years before the structure's groundbreaking. Some students have mistaken the structure for one funded by tuition instead.

However, not all students agree that such projects enhance campus, regardless of how they are funded.

"There's got to be a better way to use that money," said Susan Bishop, student.

Several administrators said that beautification and ground keeping operations are extremely important to the atmosphere of the university for both present and future students.

"Our faculty and students deserve to have attractive and comfortable environments, and it is not always true that a white tile floor and cinder block walls provide the facility they deserve," said Mark Lanier, assistant to the chancellor. The facility should reflect the feel of the university, Jordan said.

"I think one of the important aspects of this university is its... ambience. I really think it's important that as you walk around this university that you are proud of it," Jordan said. Not only from the standpoint of its intellectual reputation or its academic reputation, but also that its beautiful from an aesthetic standpoint too."

pus, belongs to the university community," Fry said. "What we are trying to do is give people a sense that there is more than academics going on here."

To gather student input, an educational campaign will occur over the next six weeks. This is when Fry, Dick Scott, vice chancellor of business affairs and Terrence Curran, vice chancellor of student affairs, will hold separate meetings with groups such as the Association for Campus Entertainment, the Student Employee Committee, the Student Government Association, the Student Media Board, the Greek Governing Groups, the Student Organizations Committee, the Resi-



Adrian Lopez

mission on race, in order to identify the needs and improve the recruitment of minority students.

The second goal stated was to "build a community focused on students' needs." In this point, she discussed the current issues of how to fund the new student union and the idea of privatizing the bookstore. She expressed concern in rising student fees and said she is interested in investigating whether the increases are "worth the effort."

Thirdly, Lopez said that SGA is committed to "building a community that utilizes technology." She said she wanted to make sure that the entire campus is "adequately equipped with technology."

Her final goal addressed "building a progressive community," which she said meant "giving back and playing an active role in society." She proposed getting UNCW more involved in local affairs and even said that SGA would be convening some of their meetings off-campus in the community.

"I hope SGA can provide the leadership to help students get involved," Lopez said.

Following her speech came a report by Chancellor James Leutze. Leutze praised SGA's ambitious goals and responded to some of the key points that Lopez made in her speech. After he finished her speech, Leutze spent some time responding to some of her propositions and endorsing SGA on the "ambitious goals [they] have set for students this year."

Leutze also spent much of his speech explaining the need for realistic and possible implications of the situation for the university, such as increased tuition and student fees.

"Over the last 10 years, the percent of the cost of education is being born by the state of North Carolina has decreased about one percent, the state no longer pays 50 percent... they pay 43 percent of the state's education," Leutze said.

New residence hall to set for approval

KATIE BLANCHARD

SPECIAL SECTION EDITOR

The construction of a new residence hall will prevent a repeat of this year's housing crunch.

Since the construction of the Honors and International Houses, administrators have been planning another residence hall to complete the set.

University officials have not set dates for the groundbreaking of the hall, and are currently awaiting approval from N.C. Department of Construction and the N.C. Department of Insurance on the building plans. Following final approval, it will take between 18 and 21 months to complete building construction.

"We are hoping to have the new building completed by fall of 2003, but we do not have enough information, as yet, to determine a completion date," said Timothy Jordan, vice chancellor of business affairs.

University officials are working to match the timeframe for construction with the return to school for the semester.

"The problem with building a new residence hall is the timing," said Pat Leonard, vice chancellor of student affairs. "If the construction is completed too soon, then there is no way to pay back the loans because nobody is living in the building. But

ence Hall Association and the University Union Advisory Board. They will also host a coffee break with the Seahawk Perch to reach out to commuter and non-traditional students.

"We will explain the project and the fee usage associated with the project," Fry said. It is that fee usage that has many students concerned. The three phases of the project have a price tag of \$27 million dollars.

"We are requesting a fee increase to be implemented in fall of 2002," Fry said.

Fry said she acknowledges the concern that many students have, when they think of paying for the new union with their fees, but not being

if construction is not completed at the beginning of the term, then there will be no place to else to house the students.

If approved, the building will house about 200 students, the same number housed in both Honors and International House.

The new building will look similar to the International and Honors Houses from the outside, but officials hope to give the inside a unique design.

"We are trying to upgrade the type of housing at UNCW in order to increase the students' desire to live on campus," Fry said. "Students who live on campus generally perform better academically."

The need for student housing was noted by a consulting firm contracted by the university. The consultants looked at the university's total enrollment, the amount of off-campus housing and the available land to determine future housing needs.

"They said that we could probably add 800 more beds and have students to fill them," said Robert Fry, assistant to the chancellor for planning.

According to studies done by the consulting firm, university housing demand is increasing by about 100 residents a year.

The cost of the building will be financed by bond money and capital projects, as well as through university housing fees.

around to enjoy it.

"It is such a tremendous legacy for students to leave," Fry said.

Student Government Association President Adrian Lopez said she realizes that there is no way around a fee increase, but said that she is encouraging funding for the project through subsidization.

"We are already dealing with a tuition increase of 9 percent across the board," Lopez said. "Student involvement in planning for the new union is highly appreciated."

"Student input is critical," Fry said. "It helps us to see this through a different perspective."