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Low enrollment leads to budget deficit for Guilford

Peter Smith
News Editor

College officials are reevaluating their enrollment and budget figures for the 1989-90 academic year due to an unexpected decrease in the number of freshmen who enrolled at Guilford College this fall.

The reevaluation occurred after only 271 first-year students enrolled at Guilford versus 334 students from the previous year.

The college had originally planned to reduce freshman enrollment to 310 students for the fall semester, but found itself with an actual enrollment deficit after losing an unexpected 30 students during the summer months to other schools.

"It appears more schools decided to go to their waiting list this year," said Larry

West, director of admissions. "Normally we lose about 1% of the freshmen during the summer, but this year we lost 30 freshmen to other schools after May 1st."

In a report issued on September 12 to faculty and staff of the college, President William Rogers called for "immediate budget adjustments and fiscal restraint due to the unanticipated decrease in freshman enrollment."

The President outlined two "strategic planning issues" to deal with the enrollment deficit, calling for budgeting adjustments and improved enrollment management. The President stressed the importance for all departments across campus to be extra careful in staying within their respective allocated budgets.

Although it is unclear as to exactly what effect the decreased enrollment will have on the school's proposed budget, current estimates range from a deficit of \$200,000

to \$260,000.

"It's hard to predict right now what the exact deficit will be," said Dick Coe, Guilford's business manager. "We will have to sit down in the Budget and Planning Committee and work through this."

Although the drop in freshman enrollment was substantial, the deficit was offset by an increase in CCE and transfer student enrollment.

Even in considering main campus and CCE enrollment figures, the college will be operating at a predicated 1.47% under its budgeted enrollment calculation.

With the unexpected decrease in freshman enrollment, the college could be forced to resort to a variety of cost-cutting methods in order to meet balanced budget goals.

Normally, the college plans for deficits through Plan B budgets. Plan B budgets often serve to offer more flexibility in determining ways to cut budget costs across

campus.

"We can go to the B budget and decide on a variety of ways to cut cost," said Coe. "Some things are too late to cut cost on, but we could save by limiting travel expenditures, copying costs or by repaying funds to the R & R account. These are just a few of the things we could consider."

Despite the obvious budget deficit, many administrators have kept an optimistic outlook on this year's budget projection.

Nancy Cable Wells, vice president for student development and dean of students, expressed concern over the deficit but believes it will prove good for the college in the long run.

She noted that the college has hoped to decrease its freshman class enrollment, with hopes of stabilizing total enrollment at approximately 1500 students. She be-

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Extensive curriculum changes proposed

Linda Kreem
Staff Coordinator

Now that the chore of choosing classes is over, can you imagine having to do it again in four weeks?

That's exactly what you would be doing under one plan Guilford's Curriculum Task Force looked at. The task force, which was formed two years ago, considered some radical changes

in the basic curriculum structure, including a program in which students take one course at a time, each lasting three and-a-half weeks, with a half week break in between courses.

"We spent about a year asking what the basic structure should be," said Sam Schuman, vice-president for academic affairs. "It was a matter of trying to find our place in the spectrum of col-

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A DAY IN THE PARK



photo by Charles Almy

A roving magician mystifies students during "A Day in the Park" last Tuesday.

INSIDE

A look into
Guilford's future

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Graceland bound

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OF THE SPONGE
IT IS FULL OF HOLES,
YET
IT HOLDS WATER.

LIFE
IN
HELL

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