

Additional budget cuts to UNC wreak havoc with no end in sight

BY AKIRAH JUSTICE
Editor-In-Chief

Recently, the UNC system made more cuts to its already bleeding budget, making this strategy a four-year tradition. Losses from the drastic, but not unexpected, 15 percent budget cuts include 3,200 positions, half of which are exclusively faculty and about 9,000 course sections.

UNC system officials attempted to persuade legislators with examples of how cutting too much could interfere with education.

"We've got hundreds upon hundreds of examples," said Charles Perusse, UNC Vice-President for Finance. "We just took out a handful to put a face on what a 15 percent cut means."

Perusse explained the effects of these cuts in an article entitled "Budget cuts look grim for UNC" on www.newsobserver.com.

"At UNC Charlotte, the average time it takes for a student to graduate would increase by a full semester, mostly because fewer classes and instructors would make it harder to take the courses they need. At UNC-Chapel Hill, job cuts would force the admissions office to close two days a week for about half the year. NC State would eliminate six fire protection and police positions - nine percent of its total. Winston-Salem State would eliminate nine percent of its faculty. N.C. Central University would cut 12 positions in finance, human resources and information technology, infrastructure jobs that could leave the campus open for compliance problems," said Perusse. "The UNC School of the Arts in Winston-Salem might close its filmmaking school."

UNC system's 17 campuses have lost \$414 million in cuts. The North Carolina School of Science and

Mathematics (NCSSM), a high school for juniors and seniors with advanced math and science interest or ability, has 8.5 percent cut from its budget. NCSSM has lost key personnel and the renowned ability to provide its graduates with a free ride to any public North Carolina state school.

"I've dealt with a lot of budgets, but I've never had a challenge quite like this one," said North Carolina Central University Chancellor Charlie Nelms in "The Charlotte Observer," referring to this year and the recent budget cutting trend as "the new normal."

Research schools, like UNC Chapel Hill, have taken a large portion of the blow with 18 percent, almost \$100 million, cut from last year's fiscal appropriations provided by the state. To counter the cuts for UNC Chapel Hill, its Health Care system will provide a one-time \$20 million payoff to which Holden Thorp, Chancellor of UNC

Chapel Hill, said the school bears "difficult choices about our priorities." Thorp has promised to keep employees and students on campus as informed as possible about the cutbacks.

Because all of the campuses will be operating on a smaller budget, there is concern that some buildings may close, and classes may become too large. With fewer professors on hand, universities may turn to enrollment caps and deny students of an education on their campus.

"Our mission is clear, and it is not changing. There are going to be shifts in the way we do things. We're already seeing that, where we're going to have to be more efficient." He hopes that under no circumstance does it come to enrollment caps and any other type of sever change that would hinder the education of UNC system students," said UNC President Tom Ross on www.news-record.com.

Teachers convey mixed emotions about switching classrooms, buildings

BY MADISON CAMPBELL
Reporter

Students noticed some changes upon their return to school this year. Almost a dozen teachers have changed rooms, most to be closer to department members, and a few others just to accommodate class sizes. While some instructors found the need to adapt their teaching styles based upon room sizes and class numbers, others were left unfazed.

Science teacher Daniel Glaze now enjoys a larger room since his class sizes have increased. With 34 students during one class period, it would be impossible to cram them all into his old location. However, he is not exactly thrilled with the change.

"In New Science, there is no such thing as privacy," said Glaze. "We get to hear what is going on in every other

classroom" a major change from his nearly sound proof room back in Old Science.

Science teacher Greg Hamer does not seem very fond of his new room either because the old one was larger.

"My room in Old Science allowed for much more affective group work and much easier movement within the class," said Hamer. "it had a 16' x 16' projection screen and was much more conducive to all of my favorite Martial Tate strategies."

Working adjacent to colleagues in his department seems to be an asset, but at the same time, Hamer admitted that he misses Jonathan Thielen, his good friend and previous neighbor in Old Science.

ROTC instructors and their cadets enjoyed an upgrade, finally making their way from the lower level of the gymnasium. Major Ford is quite satisfied with the change.

"It just feels more like a classroom than being under the gym," said Ford. Though the change in location cut down on his storage space, it also opened up more space for health classes to meet in the same building as the PE classes.

New rooms also meant different courses for a few teachers as well. Drama and English teacher Matt Ringrose and English teacher Evan Post are both tackling such a challenge. Although Ringrose kept his classroom under the stage, he also works out of the WHRL News room in the music building. Having control over the daily news show makes his life a little easier since he has immediate access to announcing upcoming auditions, rehearsals, and shows as well.

Post added philosophy to his list of courses. Although he misses his "English comrades" from the second floor of the main building, he admits

that it is helpful to have both philosophy instructors Michael Courts and Thomas "Freebird" McKinney in "crying distance."

English teacher Darren Corbett moved from his second-floor classroom to the first floor into Room 100.

"For me, it's not really about the room," said Corbett. "it's about what you do in the room that makes it conducive to teaching."

Although Corbett's room size has not changed much, he does have to make adjustments because of his location. Staff and students know how the first floor of main is always packed with students eating lunch on the floor during rainy days; consequently, the hall is very noisy during a fourth-period class.

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