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BSU Budget Request Cut Drastically

By Chip Wilson
Carolina Journal Staff Writer

In the wake of a weekend Ways and Means committee budget-slashing session, the Student Legislature voted Tuesday to stop paying its members a \$10 monthly stipend.

Renee High, chair of the Ways and Means committee, sponsored the measure which passed by a narrow 14-12 margin.

"During our weekend budget hearings, we chopped every budget that came through," High said. "We should be setting an example for other groups."

Others disagreed saying the legislature should not be the only ones in the Student Association sacrificing their salaries.

"The stipends give the legislature credibility," said Ginny Newton, junior class president. "Its a token of appreciation for the work legislators do. And we do work hard."



Renee High

"Look at all the other groups." Newton said, "Justices get paid, even though I think we work harder than they do. The media gets paid. The executive branch gets paid. All these other groups get paid and we should too."

A total amount of \$3,600 or \$1,800 per semester was budgeted for stipends for legislators. The \$20-a month paid to committee chairs was not affected by the action.

Jan Hobbs, a member of the Ways and Means committee, said processing of checks is a expense for the university payroll department and eliminating stipends could result in more money for campus clubs.

"Keeping up with turnover is hard for the payroll office to do," said Joel Kepley, a student government treasurer. "Every time I bring them a payroll sheet for a new legislator, I get dirty looks."

Nursing representative Linda Russell said receiving stipends was a personal option for legislators, "If you don't want the stipend, don't take it," she said.

Arts and Sciences representative Leah Williams called the move very

noble, "But who does it look noble to? Nobody else cares."

"We as a group may be trying to set an example, but we are discounting what we are worth," she said.

After rejecting an amendment proposed by Lee Williams to keep full pay for legislators who miss less than two meetings per month, the legislature passed the measure by a roll-call vote.

In discussion period following legislative business, High commended Kepley for his assistance to the Ways and Means committee budget hearings.

In other action, the legislature:

- Amended the bylaws to state any legislator who is a dues-paying or regularly attending member of a chartered organization cannot vote in action affecting any such group.

- Approved a new chartering act outlining procedures for approving new clubs and organizations.

Legislators Cut Back Most Stipends

By David E. Griffith
Carolina Journal Campus Affairs Editor

The Student Legislature's Ways and Means committee slashed \$12,890 from the Black Student Union's 1981-82 budget request, recommending the organization receive \$6060, a 21 percent increase over this year's budget.

During the Saturday afternoon meeting, BSU President Mike Kemp submitted a budget request of 18,950 for the 1981-82 school year. This year BSU received a budget of \$5,100. The 1981-82 budget request called for increases in all line items and additional funds for telephone expenses, computer printouts (used in mailing notices to the BSU constituency), duplicating and travel expenses.

According to Kemp, BSU currently has 40 voting (i.e. dues paying) members and the organization serves a constituency of 800 students.

Committee member Jan Hobbs asked about the fund raising capabilities of BSU. Kemp told the committee that BSU planned to raise \$205 during the 1981-82 school year through

the sale of buttons, admission price to parties and dues. If BSU had received their full budget they would have been obligated to raise 10 percent of that budget by February 1, 1982, a total of \$1894. Kemp indicated that additional funds could be raised off campus.

"The scope and purpose of the Black Student Union is commendable," Committee member Jim Johnson said, "However your budget request is for 25 percent of our total budget. I think it's totally out of line."

After a near 30 minute recess, Chairperson Renee High read the recommendation of the committee. The recommendation had consolidated the BSU line items and had cut the budget by nearly \$13,000.

Several cuts, in computer printouts, travel expenses and the annual awards banquet drew outbursts from BSU supporters. As the computer line item was read Kemp said, "We've spent more this year on printouts

than that." BSU had requested \$100 per semester and the figure recommended by the committee was \$20 per semester. According to Kemp each BSU printout costs \$14.

In response to this Jan Hobbs told Kemp, "I wish we could switch seats for a moment."

Kemp interrupted her saying, "I've been in your (The Ways and Means Committee's) chair, young lady."

Hobbs continued, "The maximum increase we are giving this year is 15 percent. We gave your organization 21 percent."

"We're not just any organization," said BSU member Reggie Nelson, "We serve 800 people and the entire university is benefited by our programming."

"We don't have the money," Hobbs said.

"I'm going to be very up front and frank," Kemp said. "You don't plan for the BSU to operate at the scope it has this year."

"You've done an awful lot this year

with less money than you've got here," Mike Derby said. "We have 33 organizations telling us what they need."

Picking up a sheet of paper from the table before him, Derby said, "I'm not going to read the name of this organization, but they have proposed a program for 100 people for \$800."

Johnson broke up the exchange between Kemp and Derby saying, "We'll have to fight to give you this much. I wish we could give BSU \$19,000, but we just don't have the money. We're giving everybody as much of an increase as we can."

"I'm disappointed," Kemp said. "We will have to accept this budget, and fight for it in the legislature, but I can guarantee you, we will not be able to do the same kind of things to the magnitude we have done them this year."

"I have no comment for the Carolina Journal at this time," Kemp said following the meeting.

We Were Wrong

In the February 9 Carolina Journal we incorrectly reported that Clayton Miller is a member of UNCC's ROTC program. Miller completed the basic sequence, but did not continue through his junior and senior years. The Carolina Journal regrets the error.

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