The Daily Tar Heel

Serving the students and the University community since 1893

Price of Parking?

TPAC members near a decision about how to raise revenue.

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Who to Vote for?

Read the profiles of the candidates for student body president.

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Out of Reach

Tar Heels fall at the hands of the Demon Deacons.

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Weather

Today: Light Rain; H 46, L 34
Friday: Sunny; H 58, L 34
Saturday: Partly Cloudy; H 61, L 40

www.dailytarheel.com | Volume 109, Issue 153 | Thursday, February 7, 2002

State Asks UNC for $5 Million More

By Cleve R. Wootson Jr.
Staff Writer

UNC-system officials say UNC-Chapel Hill will have to return an additional $5 million because of the state's budget shortfall, bringing the University's total budget reversion for the 2001-02 fiscal year up to $15 million.

Counties Brace For Additional Budget Cuts
See Page 3

Gov. Mike Easley announced Tuesday that many state agencies will be affected by the state's $900 million budget shortfall but said public universities, community colleges and public schools would experience lighter cuts.

In October, Easley asked the UNC system to return 2.7 percent of the funds it received from the state. Many other government agencies were asked to return 4 percent.

On Tuesday, Easley asked most state agencies to revert an additional 3 percent. He asked the UNC system to revert about 1.3 percent, a total of about $21.1 million.

Nancy Suttenfield, UNC-CH vice chancellor for finance and administration, could not comment specifically about where the additional $5 million in cuts will be made but said dealing with the cut will be difficult. "Every budget cut is painful," she said. "People have already made plans on how their departments were going to use the money."

Suttenfield said that in a situation like this, reductions are usually proportional among academic departments, although it is easier for larger departments that have more flexibility and higher turnover rates to reduce funding.

She said one way individual departments have dealt with reduced funding in the past is by not filling vacant positions. "Many (departments) postponed filling vacant positions or postponed traveling or buying new equipment and computers," she said.

Suttenfield said administrators anticipated that the state would call for more cuts and, as a result, asked individual departments to be frugal when preparing budgets for this year.

But Suttenfield would not provide details about how the cut will be distrib-

See UNIVERSITY CUTS, Page 2

A Year of Budget Cuts

With this year's poor economy, the UNC system has received one piece of bad news about funding after another. During the 2001-02 fiscal year, UNC-Chapel Hill sustained $15 million in cuts.

Sept. 22, 2001 — N.C. General Assembly approves a $14.5 billion state budget during the longest session in its history.

Oct. 8, 2001 — Easley announces that budget projections were below projections for the first quarter and orders many state agencies to revert 4 percent of their funds.

November 2001 — Easley agrees to a 2.7 percent budget reversion for the UNC system, a cut of $10 million for UNC-Chapel Hill.

Feb. 5, 2002 — Gov. Mike Easley announces that the budget shortfall has reached $900 million. He cuts most state agencies' budgets by 3 percent. The UNC system will lose $21.1 million — 1.3 percent of its budget.

SOURCE: DTH ARCHIVES

BOG to Hash Out Tuition Concerns

By Mike Gorman
Staff Writer

The UNC-system Board of Governors will meet today to discuss long-range tuition policy and UNC-system schools' requests for campus-initiated tuition increases.

Some BOG members and student leaders have criticized the UNC system's tuition policy, which allows campus-initiated requests in "emergency" situations, for being too vague.

Addison Bell, chairman of the BOG Budget and Finance Committee, said today's tuition policy workshop will serve as forum to discuss tuition-related issues.

Bell said BOG members will examine requests from campuses that have passed one-year tuition increase proposals.

The UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees approved a $400 tuition increase in January. About three-fourths of the UNC-system campuses are expected to bring campus-initiated tuition increase requests before the BOG this year.

BOG member Ray Farris said the board members must carefully examine the tuition increase requests, partly because of Gov. Mike Easley's announcement Tuesday that state agencies would face wide budget cuts to help combat a $900 million deficit.

"We'll be receiving less money from the legislature, which puts us in a very tough situation when examining these requests," Farris said.

Farris said campuses that are asking for a campus-initiated tuition increase for the first time will have a better chance of persuading the board.

But Bell said the BOG will not make a decision on requests tomorrow.

He said board members will continue to examine tuition-increase proposals at a Budget and Finance Committee meeting Feb. 19 and vote on the individual requests in either March or April.

Today, the BOG will also discuss a five-year tuition policy program that Bell proposed at the January BOG meeting.

The five-year program would require all 16 UNC-system campuses, along with the BOG, to coordinate their long-term tuition policies.

Bell said he hopes the BOG will have a solid five-year plan by the end of the summer. He said he will put forth a motion today to start the plan in the fall of 2002.

Anything other than basic discussion of the five-year plan will have to wait until schools submit their individual five-year tuition plans, he said. "We have to have policy information from all the schools in the system before we make any solid plans," Bell said.

But BOG members have mixed feelings about the proposed five-year tuition strategy.

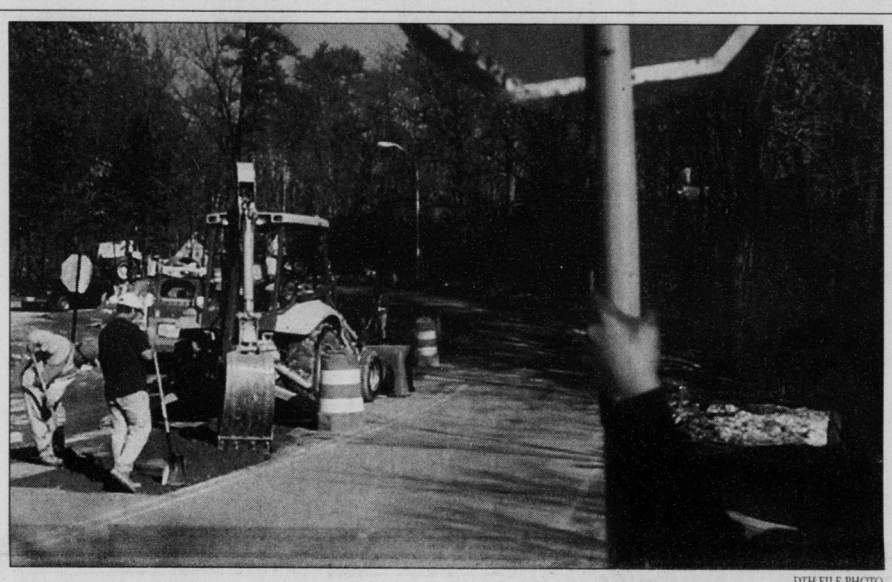
Andrew Payne, a non-voting BOG member and president of the UNC Association of Student Governments, said he supports the idea of long-range tuition planning.

Payne said he will also discuss a set of ASG tuition policy recommendations, which include the adoption of guidelines governing student consultation on tuition issues and a standard tuition rate for campuses in the same institutional category.

Payne will join the workshop via teleconference from Miami. He said two student body presidents, Justin Young from UNC-CH and Darryl Willie from N.C. State University, are slated to attend the meeting in person in Payne's place.

But although BOG member Brad Adcock said he supports the proposed five-year plan, he said the BOG needs to consider that events could happen outside the plan. "If we have a five-year plan that shows little or no increase, but then we have to raise tuition, what does that say?"

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.



DTH FILE PHOTO

Construction on UNC's campus has become a frequent sight during the course of the past year. Student body president candidates say they will work to decrease the impact of UNC's development on students.

Candidates Consider Development

By Jeff Silver
Staff Writer

Next year's student body president will face a changed campus as he or she struggles to contend with the effects of recent expansion and construction.

2002 Student Elections
A five-part series examining campus issues and how the candidates plan to address them.
- Monday: Tuition
- Tuesday: Parking
- Wednesday: Curriculum
- **Today**: Development & Construction
- Friday: Leadership

Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for facilities services, said student body presidents in the past have been involved in a wide range of construction issues.

He said the new student body president and other student leaders will have the chance to work with the administration on projects such as parking and transportation issues and designs for future buildings.

"There are significant opportunities if that's the inclination of the student body president and his administration," Runberg said.

The majority of campus projects stem from the Development Plan, which lays out plans for eight years of future construction at UNC. The Development Plan is the first phase of the Master Plan, a 50-year blueprint for campus growth.

Candidate Fred Hashagen said he is opposed to the concept of the Master Plan. He said he believes that plans for campus expansion should be updated frequently instead of in a one-time decision.

But Hashagen said he acknowledges that he would not have power to change the policy. "I don't know how much there is left to do," he said.

Hashagen said one of his top priorities is ensuring that future projects are completed with attention paid to safety and environmental concerns.

"First of all, what we have to be concerned with is doing no worse than we are now," Hashagen said.

His other goals include making sure that future plans do not diminish student parking on campus and improving the University-town relationship.

Candidate Brad Overcash said he understands that campus expansion is a necessity for the University, but he said he would oppose any project that creates distinct areas of campus with no connection to one another.

"We have to be able to maintain the community of students," Overcash said.

See DEVELOPMENT, Page 2

Broadcast To Discuss Tuition

State legislators will talk with school officials and student representatives in a UNC-TV-sponsored forum.

By Elyse Ashburn
Assistant State & National Editor

State officials and students will have an opportunity to inform the citizens of North Carolina about tuition issues during a broadcast forum that will be held Wednesday at UNC-Chapel Hill.

The forum will be taped at 6 p.m. in the UNC-CH Alumni Center by UNC-TV, the state's public television network, which is organizing the event.

The forum panelists will be UNC-system President Molly Broad; Sen. Howard Lee, D-Orange; Rep. Art Pope, R-Wake; and UNC-system Association of Student Governments President Andrew Payne. Tim Crowley of "Legislative Week in Review," a weekly UNC-TV program on state politics, will be the moderator.

Pope said he thinks a forum is a viable format for addressing any significant issues, including those centering on tuition.

He said broadcasting the forum will make it especially effective and will expand the audience beyond those in the Chapel Hill area.

"I hope the target will be the interested citizens across the state," Pope said.

He said he was not aware of any specific forum agenda and that he thinks the discussion will cover a wide range of issues.

But Payne said the forum should focus primarily on the role of the N.C. General Assembly in tuition affairs because he thinks it is responsible for the tuition situation.

"My hope is that this forum will focus on the General Assembly," he said.

Payne also said the ASG will use the forum as an opportunity to launch its "Keep N.C. Educated" campaign.

The campaign will focus on raising N.C. voters' awareness of the responsibility the General Assembly has to fund higher education in the state.

The campaign launch will take place at 5 p.m Wednesday and is not an official part of the forum.

But Payne said the ASG plans to capitalize on the attention generated by the forum and had scheduled the launch accordingly. "It's an easy message, and we want to start off with a bang," he said.

UNC-CH Student Body President Justin Young said he wants the forum to cover a wide range of issues and to openly address the budget crunch that system universities are facing. "We are definitely taking a lot of hits recently," he said.

Young said he is working to organize a UNC-CH student presence at both the forum and the campaign launch.

"This is an opportunity for us to try to get statewide coverage."

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UNC Alumnus Admits Responsibility for Pipe Bomb

DTH FILE PHOTO

A State Bureau of Investigations officer detonates a bomb on campus Aug. 27. A UNC alumnus has taken responsibility for the device.

By Lizzie Breyer
University Editor

A UNC alumnus has acknowledged his responsibility for a pipe bomb that was detonated on UNC's campus in August, officials said Wednesday.

Christopher Scott McMillan, 37, of 603 Fairfield Road in Durham pleaded guilty in federal court Tuesday to one count of attempting to damage a building by either fire or explosive. The charges were related to an incident involving a device that exploded at the Sprint regional office in Franklin County on Aug. 28.

McMillan, a 1986 UNC graduate, was injured slightly in the explosion.

As part of the plea agreement McMillan signed, he claimed responsibility for the device found on Cameron Avenue on Aug. 27. Court records obtained by The Daily Tar Heel in late August described the Cameron Avenue device as "essentially identical" to the bomb that exploded at the Sprint building.

The device at UNC, described by University Police Chief Derek Poarch as a 5-inch piece of pipe capped at both ends, was detonated by State Bureau of Investigations officials. The incident caused no injuries, but Cameron Avenue was shut down for almost four hours.

Jim Mercer, resident agent in charge of the Raleigh office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, said McMillan took responsibility for the device as part of his plea agreement.

"Part of his plea was the recital of facts of what happened at UNC," Mercer said. "He essentially pled guilty, but there will be no specific additional charges."

Mercer said the plea agreement would be used to help the judge in McMillan's case determine an appropriate sentence. "In that plea, he acknowledged responsibility for the UNC bombing," Mercer said. "At the time of sentencing, he will be sentenced based on that behavior."

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Bowler said McMillan faces a minimum sentence of five years in prison.

Bowler said part of the plea agreement McMillan signed also binds him to extensive interviews with law enforcement officers and a psychological analysis.

Bowler said no sentencing date has been set yet but that it will probably be in 60 to 90 days.

He said the investigation is limited to McMillan, who officials believe acted alone. "We don't have any information that would lead the government to believe there were co-conspirators," Bowler said.

Poarch could not be reached for comment Wednesday, but Mercer said he expects no further charges.

"It is my understanding there will not be any state or local charges because they feel everything has been settled at the federal level," he said. "Upon sentencing, we will go ahead and close the case."

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Government expands to absorb revenue and then some.

Tom Wicker