

The Daily Tar Heel

Serving the students and the University community since 1893

Looking Ahead

Senior class president candidates discuss Commencement speakers.

See Page 2



Know Them Better

Learn more about the candidates for student body president. Check out www.dailytarheel.com.

No End in Sight

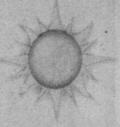
UNC men's basketball players try to cope with poor season.

See Page 7



Weather

Today: Sunny; H 60, L 34
Saturday: Sunny; H 63, L 44
Sunday: Showers; H 62, L 36



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Town to Request Return of Funds Withheld by State

By COLIN SUTKER

Staff Writer

Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy will lobby Gov. Mike Easley next week to return more than \$1 million in funds impounded as a result of the state of fiscal emergency.

The state government is withholding more than \$1.04 million in funds designated for Chapel Hill because of a projected \$900 million state budget shortfall for the 2001-02 year. Foy said the move has sent the town's budget into crisis.

The reduction in funds comes on top

of a \$975,000 shortfall that forced the Chapel Hill Town Council to cut programs in November. Officials say the state cuts, which Easley announced Tuesday, will cause more already underfunded programs to be cut significantly.

The N.C. Metropolitan Coalition, a voluntary organization made up of state mayoral offices, is meeting with Easley on Wednesday to demand the return of funds to local governments.

"This is money that the state collects for the local governments," Foy said. "(The money) needs to be passed on to the local government. We've had no

way to plan for this."

Foy said the withheld money represents 6 percent of the town's budget for the next five months, adding that the state renegeing on its promise makes it difficult to run a balanced budget. He also said the state did not consult local municipalities before announcing the specific budget cuts.

"We've planned for this money in our budget," Foy explained. "This behavior by the state makes it impossible to plan our budgets."

Foy added that the state is acting irresponsibly by putting the burden of its budget shortage on individual municipalities.

"We have been careful over budget responsibility," he said. "For the state's budget problems to be shovled on to us is unfair. This is a state budget crisis, not a local government budget crisis."

Jim Baker, Chapel Hill's financial director, added that the finance department will be meeting with the Town Council on Monday to discuss further cuts in services for the rest of this fiscal year.

"(The budget) is not doing very well," Baker said. "Earlier in the year, we made a report to the council and gave them a list of things we need to do to

shorten our expenditures by \$975,000. "Right now we're trying to assess the impact of the additional \$1 million shortage."

Town Council member Pat Evans said Chapel Hill might be forced to raise taxes in the next fiscal year to provide services essential to the town's daily life.

"I think the state, county and town will be reducing services and increasing taxes," Evans said.

"Some of the services that need to be rendered are very critical, such as education, fire, police and public works," she added. "Capital improvements will

have to be delayed."

Foy said the town, unlike the national government, is unable to run on a budget deficit and that hard choices must be made in the short term.

He said the town will have a hard time bouncing back from this loss of state dollars.

"We don't have any way to raise funds in this short of time, period," Foy said. "We can't raise taxes at this time. I don't know what we're going to do."

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SBP Candidates Analyze Capacities as Leaders

The student body president must juggle dealing with administrators and sharing the opinions of the students.

By JOHN FRANK

Assistant University Editor

Students have been swamped with information about the student body president candidates' views on the issues of tuition, parking, curriculum and development.

Although the candidates have mainly addressed these issues during the campaign, ultimately, it is their leadership qualities that likely will define their term.

Student Body President Justin Young said the job comes down to the candidates' leadership abilities. "You can't foresee (some urgent issues) happening," he said. "It thrusts you into a role you never thought you would fill."

Many of the issues that have defined Young's term likely will continue to remain at the forefront of campus debate. Next year, UNC's mission will be tested again in continuing discussions about keeping at par with peer institutions and expanding the University.

Student body presidents must walk a fine line between their relationship with the UNC Board of Trustees, campus

administrators and their main constituency – the students.

Relations With the BOT

Once a candidate is elected, he or she will have to adjust to the fragile balance between serving as a voting member of the BOT, whose responsibility is to the entire University, and acting as a representative of the student body.

"I think the student body president has the tougher role to fill because on one hand they are trying to represent their constituency, which isn't always consistent with the pan-University point of view," said BOT Chairman Tim Burnett.

Burnett said many students might not understand that the president's job is to consider the University as a whole in addition to the student perspective.

"Every trustee has multiple hats from other points of view," Burnett said. "But when all is said and done, they vote in the point of view of the entire University."

But write-in candidate Charlie Trakas expressed views that were not consistent with Burnett's, saying one of the roles of a student body president is to know when to let the BOT have a final say. "Some things need to be out of the students' hands," he said.

Write-in candidate Nathan Katzin also said he wants to see BOT members publicize more of their decision-making process, even though he does not want to be directly involved.

Former UNC-system President Bill Friday said a student body president's first responsibility is to the students. "A president's first duty is as student representative to speak to the point of view of their constituency," he said.

Candidate Will McKinney said he will speak on behalf of the students, even when it conflicts with the BOT's



DTH FILE PHOTO

Student Body President Justin Young presides over a January meeting of the Task Force on Tuition. Working effectively with administrators and trustees is one of the roles a student body president must fulfill.

ideals. "I am not elected by the BOT, I am elected by the students, and I am responsible to them."

Candidate Bennett Mason said his perspective as a student will help the BOT understand more student issues. "You get student support and go into meetings (with the administration) armed with that information," he said. "You go to the top and try to influence the BOT or chancellor."

Candidate Jen Daum said the board needs to more thoroughly consider the impact its actions has on students, which she said she can facilitate by providing

the student voice. "The BOT needs to make sure they understand their opportunity costs when making a decision."

Candidate Fred Hashagen said he expects the BOT to listen to his representation of the student voice and to act upon it as well. "If students are demanding something, I would not sugar-coat it (as a recommendation)," he said. "If students demand something, we expect (the BOT) to do it."

Several candidates said the most difficult part of dealing with the BOT is gaining members' respect as a tempo-

rary, student member. Candidate Brad Overcash said the BOT members tend to treat the student as an inferior when that is not the case at all.

Write-in candidate Correy Campbell said the way to gain the BOT's trust is to compromise and work together with the board members. "I would get to know the BOT and be professional about it."

Relations With Administrators

But working with the trustees is not

See LEADERSHIP, Page 4

University Cuts Not Yet Clear

Robert Shelton is working from Switzerland, while Nancy Suttenfield works on cuts from UNC's campus.

By NIKKI WERKING

Staff Writer

Despite the fact that UNC-Chapel Hill Provost Robert Shelton is in Switzerland until Feb. 10, he and other UNC-CH officials are working on ways to cut \$5 million from the University's budget.

But it is unclear what, if any, progress administrators have made in determining how the \$5 million in cuts will be distributed among the UNC-CH's various departments.

On Tuesday, Gov. Mike Easley asked the UNC system to return about 1.3 percent of its funds to the state to help offset the state's \$900 million budget shortfall. When added to cuts made in October, UNC-CH has had a total budget reversion of about \$15 million

See ADMINISTRATION, Page 4



Provost

Robert Shelton is in Switzerland, but UNC officials say he is in close contact about budget issues.

BOG's 5-Year Tuition Plan Could Begin a Year Earlier

By ALEX KAPLUN

State & National Editor

The UNC-system Board of Governors moved forward Thursday with its discussion of tuition increases for UNC campuses – with recently announced budget cuts and an ever-worsening economy looming in the background.

The BOG's Budget and Finance Committee made several changes to its plan for dealing with campus-initiated tuition requests in the long and short term.

At its meeting, the committee voted to modify the BOG's earlier proposal that all 16 UNC-system campuses construct five-year plans for tuition and fees, starting with the 2003-04 academic year.

Instead, the committee approved a motion that calls for the five-year plans to start in 2002-03. Because all 16 UNC-system schools have made or will soon make decisions about the 2002-03 year, the motion essentially forces all schools to draw up four-year plans starting with the 2003-04 school year.

While there was some brief discussion about the change, committee members agreed that it was best to move up the time frame for the tuition plans.

The committee's discussion of tuition

since this is the first time that campuses are (constructing long-term plans), that it be for as short of time as possible," said committee member Jim Phillips.

He added that as campuses gain experience with constructing long-term tuition proposals, plans could be made for longer periods of time.

The motion regarding the five-year plan is expected to be voted on by the full BOG today. The committee also decided to require that each campus's five-year plan be submitted to the BOG by next fall so the committee can examine them at the BOG's October meeting.

The committee also discussed adding at least one more meeting between now and March 6 – when the BOG is expected to vote on all campus-initiated tuition increase requests for the 2002-03 year – to give the board more time to consider the issue.

About a dozen UNC-system schools are expected to bring requests before the BOG. In March, the board also is expected to vote on an inflationary, systemwide 4.8 percent tuition increase and perhaps make changes to its tuition policy.

The committee's discussion of tuition

is the single trait that a student body president most needs.

Write-in candidate Nathan Katzin said the most important trait is the ability to be an effective and charismatic leader. "You need to be able to get people involved," he said.

Candidate Fred Hashagen said the student body president's role is to motivate students.

"We need to show the administration and the General Assembly what they're losing," she said.

Candidate Bennett Mason said he wants students to cooperate with the UNC Board of Trustees in discussions about tuition issues. He said that as student body president – and subsequently a voting member of the BOT – he would strive to work with trustees effectively. "If we try to work with them as a voting member, we can really accomplish a lot," he said.

McKinney said he plans to work toward a degree of predictability for tuition increases. "It's not totally infeasible," he said.

Another portion of the program focused on the plausibility of the candidates' platforms actually being implemented.

Hashagen said that while his platform is long, its more than 70 points are all attainable. "Some are feasible in a year,



DTH/MALLORY DAVIS

Student body president candidates relax during a brief commercial break at Thursday night's forum, which was hosted by Carolina Week.

and some are long-term goals," he said.

Katzin said his platform of progressive energy reform is realistic.

"(My platform) aims big with the understanding that maybe not everything will happen, but a lot of it will," he said.

See FORUM, Page 4

You must do the thing you think you cannot do.

Eleanor Roosevelt