

# The Daily Tar Heel

Serving the students and the University community since 1893

## ¡De Colores!

Children learn Spanish in school at an early age. See Page 4

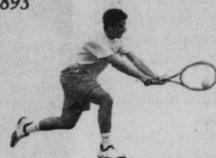


## Hot DTH Days

Pick up an application to work for the summer edition of the DTH. Applications Available in Union Suite 104.

## Dynamic Duo

Nick Monroe and Daniel Pinchbeck rock men's tennis. See Page 9



## Weather

Today: Sunny; H 68, L 42  
Wednesday: Sunny; H 74, L 41  
Thursday: Mostly Cloudy; H 76, L 44



www.dailytarheel.com

Volume 110, Issue 36

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

# Officials Unveil Curriculum Plans

By JAMIE DOUGHER  
Staff Writer

Officials for the first time presented a tentative proposal Monday for a new general education curriculum that might reduce the General College requirement from 44 to 42 credit hours.

At a Monday forum, the Curriculum Review Committee presented a draft proposal for overhauling the General College curriculum.

The findings came from the research of 16 satellite committees, each of which focused on a particular area of the curriculum. The Curriculum Review Committee, which is composed of students and faculty, was formed in fall 2001. According to the proposal, the general

education curriculum will be composed of three new categories of perspectives: 17 hours in "foundations" classes, 25 hours in "approaches" courses and six "connections" requirements.

Courses that fulfill the connections requirements also can count toward majors or minors, elective hours, approaches requirements or the supplemental general education requirement for juniors and seniors in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Students also would be able to take courses or use their experiences from study abroad, service learning or internships to fulfill connections requirements.

Students in the College of Arts and Sciences would go on to fulfill nine hours for the supplemental general education

requirement. Students in professional schools and certain majors – bachelor of science, bachelor of fine arts and bachelor of music – will instead take 66 credit hours and up to 12 elective hours.

The proposed review also would change the name of the cultural diversity requirement to U.S. diversity, which falls under the connections requirements.

Tom Tweed, who sat on the steering committee, said the name change more accurately reflects the intent of the students who initially proposed the requirement in the 1990s.

Other significant changes were proposed Monday. A wellness requirement would combine instruction in concepts of physical activity, nutrition and life-

long health and would be worth one academic credit hour.

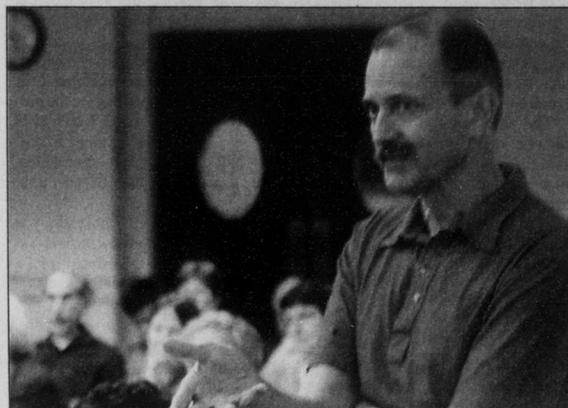
The wellness class would replace the requirement of two one-hour nonacademic credit physical education courses.

But biochemistry Professor Pierre Morell, who also is a teaching assistant for the physical education department, was one voice of dissent toward that proposal.

"We need to direct students to a healthy life, and giving a lecture on body fat is not going to do it," he said.

At the forum, faculty members raised concerns about the removal of a requirement in non-Western history. The proposal states that one history course must include historical analysis, one must

See CURRICULUM, Page 4



UNC linguistics Professor Craig Melchert discusses the proposed course requirements with faculty members Monday afternoon.

# Special Election To Fill Congress Set for Today

The election, which will be from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Student Central, also will include a referendum to increase student fees.

By JORDAN BARTEL  
Staff Writer

A special election is being held today to fill empty Student Congress seats and also to allow students to vote on a referendum that, if passed, would raise student activity fees to \$16.50 per semester for all students.

Board of Elections Chairwoman Emily Margolis said voting is open to all students and will take place on Student Central from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The proposed referendum, approved April 7 by a 20-2 Congress vote, will increase the present fees, which are \$11.50 for undergraduates and \$9.50 for graduate students. The money gained from the fee increase will be used to increase funding for student organizations and publications that received heavy budget cuts from Congress last month.

Congress Speaker Pro Tem Matt O'Brien said that if passed, the referendum will help the student body. "Student organizations are vital to the University and add life to the campus," O'Brien said. "They are so important but, because of the budget crisis, severely underfunded."

O'Brien said the fee increase is long overdue and cited the student fees of UNC peer institutions as examples that UNC should follow. O'Brien said the average student fees for UNC's peer institutions range from \$19 to \$23.

"The organizations and publications that need increased funding are basic services that students need and deserve," O'Brien said. "If the fees had increased with inflation, it would have made a difference, but instead they have been stagnant."

In addition to the referendum, Margolis said there are seven Congress candidates on the ballot and 13 empty seats to fill.

Student Body President Jen Daum said she thinks the election will fill the empty seats. "I hope they will fill up tomorrow," she said. "Given the incredible response that we've had for the open positions, I am sure they will."

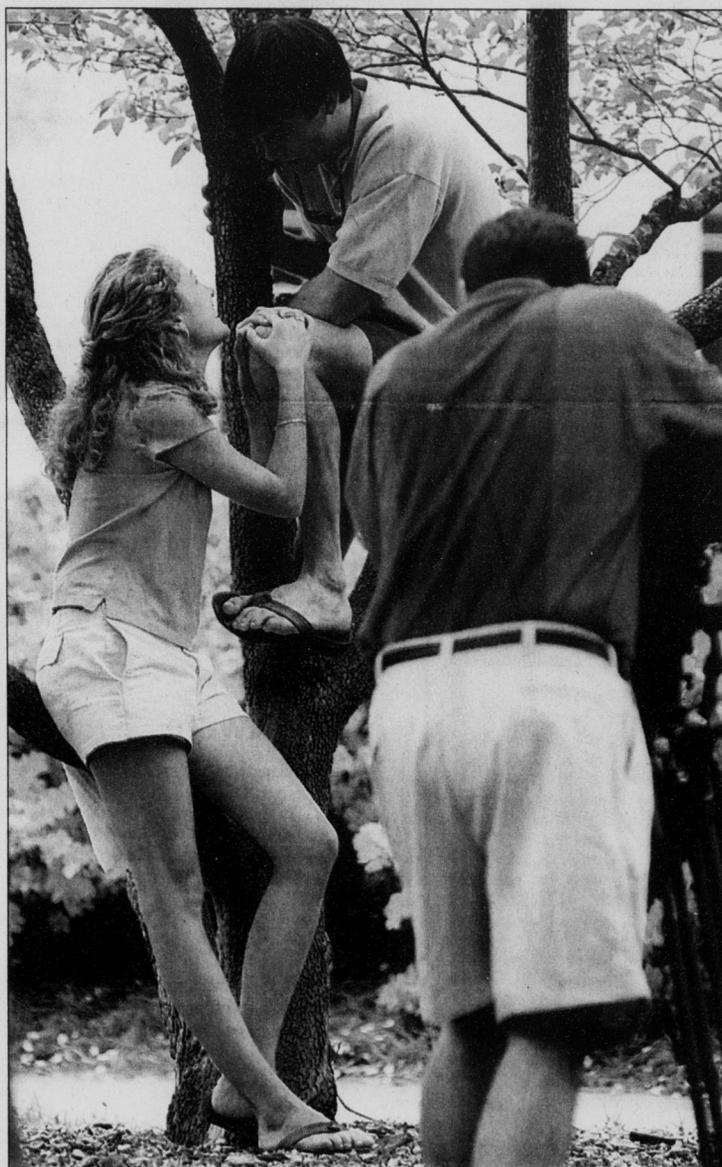
Daum said that if the election fails to fill all the seats, she will order another special election within 30 calendar days of the beginning of the fall semester, as stated in the Student Code. "Congress has done a great job of publicizing the open seats and urging people to run," she said. "I am optimistic that the seats will be filled."

The University Editor can be reached at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).



Student Body President Jen Daum said she will call another special election if needed.

## "I DO?"



Senior Katherine Kinard and 2001 alumnus Charles Gouch pose near the Old Well while Cliff Nichols films their wedding video. The couple is planning their wedding for June 29.

DTH/BRIAN CASSELLA

# Student Leaders To Discuss Conflicts

By LIZZIE BREYER  
University Editor

Student government leaders from the executive and legislative branches will hold a meeting before tonight's Student Congress session to address issues of internal communication.

Dan Herman, chairman of Student Congress' Ethics Committee, said the chairmen of all Congress committees, Student Body President Jen Daum, Student Body Vice President Aaron Hiller and Congress Speaker Tony Larson will get together briefly before the full Congress meeting to address some concerns in the relationship between student government members.

"At this point, what's really planned is to try to improve the working relationship with all the people in student government," Herman said. "We want to try and strengthen the working relationship now, as soon as we can."

Herman said that he was not sure exactly what would be discussed at the meeting but that he expected no type of formal action to be taken.

Blair Sweeney, chairman of the Rules and Judiciary Committee, said he hopes to see the meeting resolve issues between members of Student Congress and the executive branch.

"It's just so the (executive) branch and Congress can do their jobs better—we've had some issues where we've gotten on each other's nerves, and we need

See MEETING, Page 4



Speaker Tony Larson said problems arose during Congress' approval of SACC appointees.

# Transportation Officials Trim Budget to Lessen UNC's Costs

By COLIN SUTKER  
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Transportation Department has cut spending within its budget, which means lower busing costs for UNC's Department of Public Safety.

In preliminary discussions, town officials said these savings in cost will lead to a lower compensation figure paid by DPS for service, said Rick Hannegan, assistant director for Chapel Hill Transportation.

"We've just reduced the cost of providing service," Hannegan said.

DPS expects the reduction in costs to help it solve the \$2 million budget shortfall projected for the 2002-03 fiscal year, said DPS Director Derek Poarch.

Hannegan said Transportation Director Mary Lou Kuschatka started trimming off fat from the department's budget when she was hired a year and

a half ago. "It's something that she initiated when she came here," he said. "It's really a coincidence that this has come with the budget crisis at the same time."

The University is projected to pay \$3.6 million in return for fare-free busing, which is up \$1.1 million from this year but still \$369,582 less than was expected, according to the department's proposed budget for the next fiscal year.

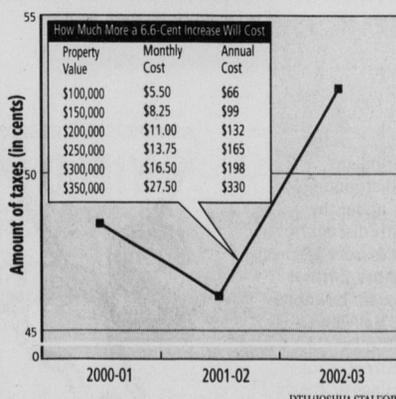
While the department's total costs are expected to increase, new cost-saving policies have helped the town reduce the price of hourly busing service from roughly \$60 to \$50.

The new policies include reducing the number of report drivers, who act as a reserve force should a driver who is scheduled to work a certain day call in sick or have to be relieved from work.

See TRANSIT, Page 4

## Tax Hike's Effects May Differ

The Chapel Hill town manager has proposed a plan that would increase general fund taxes by 6.6 cents. The increase, which would raise the tax rate from 46.1 to 52.7 cents, would affect property owners to differing degrees, depending on the value of their property.



SOURCE: CHAPEL HILL TOWN COUNCIL

DTH/JOSHUA STALFORD

# Town Manager Calls for 6.6-Cent Tax Hike

By KELLIE DIXON  
City Editor

The Chapel Hill Town Council is considering a 6.6-cent property tax increase that town officials have said could help alleviate the town's worst budget crisis in 10 years.

The town also is considering halting pay increases to town employees and some capital improvement projects to plug a projected \$2.9 million budget shortfall. The town plans to finalize a budget before July 1.

Town Manager Cal Horton presented

his recommended budget for 2002-03 to the council Monday night. The proposal calls for an increase in property taxes of 6.6 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Jim Baker, the town's budget and finance director, said the revenue that would be raised from the property tax increase is nearly equal to the amount the state is looking to withhold from the town to ease its \$900 million budget shortfall.

Earlier this year, the state predicted withholding \$1.4 million, which Baker said means the town expects to come in about \$2.9 million short in revenue when that withholding is compounded

with other shortfalls.

The situation is further complicated because Chapel Hill experienced a 2.3-cent decrease in its general fund tax rate during the 2001-02 fiscal year.

But for the 2002-03 fiscal year, officials are projecting a need to increase the general fund rate, of which the property tax is a component, by 6.6 cents to 52.7 cents. The potential increase brings with it the elimination of pay raises for employees, but officials say a pay freeze is necessary.

"Obviously we regret that we aren't able to include pay raises for employees, but that was done in order to hold the tax

rate to the 6.6-cent total increase," he said. In earlier discussions, the original projected tax increase reached as high as 8 cents to 10 cents, Baker said.

Bill Stockard, assistant to the town manager, said that by eliminating pay increases, the town will be able to keep the property tax rate from ballooning at an even more disproportionate rate.

"There's the possibility of no pay increases in the real near future, so that's never a good thing for employees to have to cope with," he said. "But at the

See TAX, Page 4

**Vote for the man who promises least; he'll be the least disappointing.**

Bernard Baruch