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House OKs cuts, tuition increase

BY ADAM CARDAIS
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — After nearly seven hours of debate, the N.C. House on Wednesday passed a \$15 billion budget that cuts the UNC-system budget by \$82 million and increases tuition by 5 percent systemwide.

"Overall, we thought things would be worse than they are, but it's still painful," said Mark Fleming, UNC-system associate vice president for state governmental affairs. The system and other state agencies were spared from additional cuts because members voted to delay \$384 million in tax cuts.

The Democratic bloc was joined by 17 Republicans in a 75-43 vote in favor of the budget. Durham Rep. Mickey Michaux was the only Democrat to vote against the bill.

The bill will receive a final vote today and then head to the Senate.

House Co-speaker Richard Morgan, R-Moore, said the legislators' goal was to balance the budget without hurting education or economic development.

The House was particularly careful to provide about \$47 million to fund UNC-system enrollment growth fully. The budget also includes about \$10 million for need-based financial aid.

Co-speaker Jim Black, D-Mecklenburg, said that even in the event of a revenue shortage, the General Assembly will not consider cutting enrollment funding as a way to raise revenue.

"I think we always want to educate the people who show up, who want to go to school," he said.

Fleming said he is pleased the House protected enrollment growth funding. "Our number one priority is access to the university (system)."

House members also voted against Michaux's proposal to reallocate \$15 million in overhead receipts to the system's seven focused-growth institutions.

Michaux said the funds would go toward putting the institutions on equal footing with other system schools. "Every year we have to come beg to bring these schools up to par," he said. "It's time to share."

Overhead receipts are federal funds provided to cover the costs of academic research. UNC-Chapel Hill receives about \$85 million in overhead receipts and lobbied heavily to keep the funds.

Michaux's proposal ultimately

was defeated. Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, said the budget already includes \$16 million to aid focused-growth institutions, making additional funds unnecessary.

Though legislators were satisfied with how universities fared, they were concerned about cuts to health and human services and about the delay of the half-cent sales tax cut.

Although legislators from both parties said they have problems with the budget bill, they stressed it is the best possible proposal in a tough economic environment.

Hackney said, "I think this budget can be described as a bipartisan budget that keeps North Carolina moving forward."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.



Rep. Edd Nye (left), D-Bladen, talks with a fellow legislator during discussions on the proposed budget Wednesday in the N.C. House.

Former worker appeals firing

BY BILLY BALL
STAFF WRITER

UNC's former sexual harassment officer has filed an administrative appeal against the University for wrongful termination, claiming the University discriminated against her because she was a vocal woman in the office.

Judith Scott was fired Jan. 21 after nearly a decade of working in the office. A hearing on the matter will take place this summer.

Along with her lawyer, Al McSurely, Scott in February filed an administrative appeal in the Office of Administrative Hearings, a state agency that covers discrimination cases.

Scott filed a pre-hearing statement March 12, and the University filed its statement March 17. A hearing is set for the week of June 23 in Raleigh.

In her pre-hearing statement, Scott alleged that she was fired because "she was a woman who stood up for her rights and the rights of other women at the University."

"There was real animosity between people in South Building and her office," McSurely said.

McSurely said Scott served as an active and vocal officer since she was hired in November 1992 and that the University was uncomfortable with her visible treatment of sexual harassment cases.

"(Scott) made herself very visible," he said. "They really don't want to raise these claims. If they do, they want to keep them quiet."

Glenn George, UNC's interim legal counsel, would not comment on the case when reached Wednesday.

According to Scott's pre-hearing statement, she was fired in a letter from Laurie Charest, associate vice chancellor for human resources, for a number of reasons.

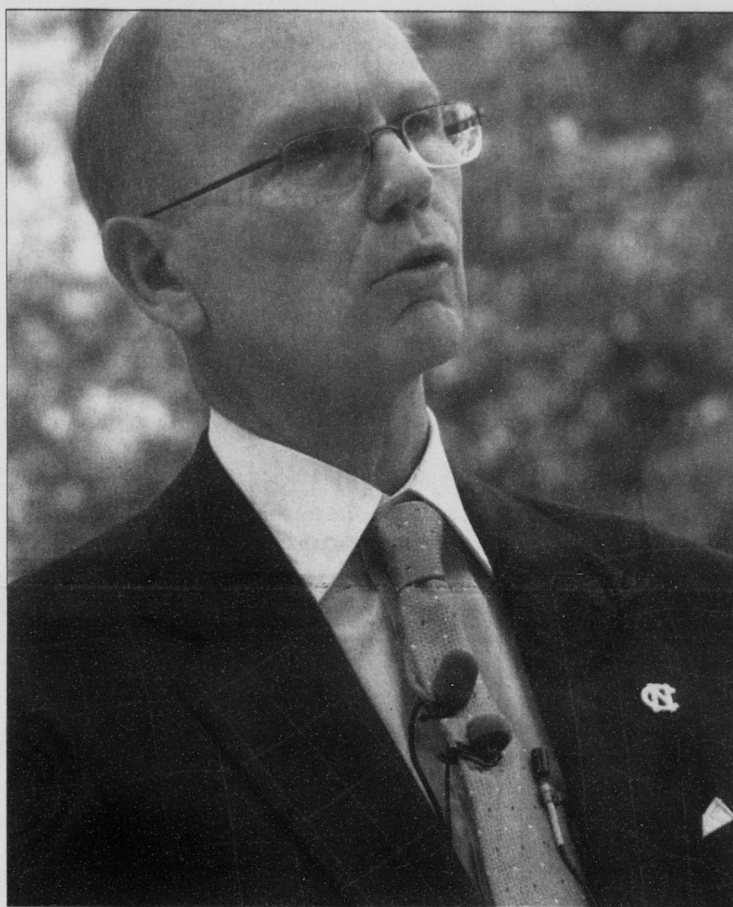
According to Charest's letter, Scott received two written warnings: one March 16, 2002 regarding conduct related to sexual harassment training sessions and another Nov. 8, 2002, on job performance.

The letter stated that Scott had not completed standard evaluation forms for use in sexual harassment training sessions and that she frequently had been absent without notice.

Scott also failed to complete these manuals even after deadline extensions, according to the letter.

"Based on my review of all the information available, including prior disciplinary actions, your current unsatisfactory performance, and (your) lack of participation in the pre-disciplinary conference, you are being dismissed from your position effective Jan. 21, 2003," the letter stated.

SEE LAWSUIT, PAGE 11



Some students and faculty members believe Chancellor James Moeser might be out of touch with the campus community. Below: Moeser greets students before a basketball game at the Smith Center.

MOESER TRYING TO REACH OUT

BY LYNNE SHALLCROSS
STAFF WRITER

Wide smiles and surprised giggles filled the busy lunch line at Top of Lenoir last week when unsuspecting students found Chancellor James Moeser ready to swipe their UNC ONE Cards on their way up the escalator.

"I'm the best swiper — next to Vel," he told one student, referring to Carolina Dining Services employee Vel Dowdy.

Students were surprised to hear an enthusiastic "How are you?" coming from the chancellor at the cash register April 9 instead of Vel's usual greeting.

This meet and greet session in Lenoir, along with recent office hours in the Pit, reflect a strong attempt by Moeser to be more visible and accessible on campus.

The increased effort to spend more time with students comes after almost a year of controversial decisions followed by campus backlashes.

Among the most controversial decisions was Moeser's payout deal in the fall with Sue Ehringhaus, former UNC vice chancellor and general counsel. The contract — which awarded her about \$320,000 for eight months of unrelated work in Washington, D.C., and a year of teaching in the UNC School of Law — angered and upset many faculty members and employees.

The University's selection of "Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations" as the summer reading assignment in 2002 brought complaints from campus, alumni and other factions across the country.

Then Moeser made the decision to let InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's charter



remain unchanged in January after the University found possibly discriminatory phrases in it. InterVarsity requires that all officers abide by its definition of the Christian doctrine, effectively excluding sexual minorities from officer positions.

Most recently, Moeser's handling of former men's basketball coach Matt Doherty's resignation has come under fire with complaints that Moeser and Director of Athletics Dick Baddour were too secretive about the issue and possibly too harsh on Doherty.

At some point this year, with each misstep, people have seriously questioned the chancellor's connection with the campus community.

"I think to some extent, he's a little out of touch," said senior Sennai Habtes. "You can see that from all the bumps he's had in the road."

But across campus, leaders say those bumps have put Moeser more than a little out of touch.

SEE MOESER, PAGE 11

Palm tapped as LSU provost

BY MEREDITH NICHOLSON
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Louisiana State University officials announced Wednesday that Risa Palm, dean of the UNC College of Arts and Sciences, will leave UNC on July 1 to take a position as provost and executive vice chancellor at LSU.

Palm, who originally is from Minnesota and graduated from the University of Minnesota, has held her office at UNC since 1997.

LSU Chancellor Mark Emmert said that LSU conducted a national search for the position and that it had a competitive pool of applicants. "(Palm) rose to the top of that pool very handily," he said.

Emmert said he was impressed by the work Palm has done at UNC and by the fact that with each move, Palm has taken on more responsibility successfully.

Before coming to UNC, Palm served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Oregon and held several administrative positions at the University of Colorado-Boulder.

LSU will pay Palm \$230,000 per year in state funds and \$30,000 per year in private funds. She makes \$194,322 at UNC. Palm will leave behind a position that oversees about 70 percent of UNC's undergraduate education.

She said the new position is a wonderful opportunity for her.

"It really means a great expansion in the area of responsibility,"

Palm said, adding that although she is excited about her new position, she will miss UNC.

Provost Robert Shelton said that he has been impressed with Palm's work and that he is confident she will excel in her new position. "Risa is provost material," he said.

Dee Reid, director of communications for the College of Arts and Sciences, said the college flourished under Palm. "We're all really sad to see her go," she said. "(Palm's) been a really effective dean, but we understand that it's an incredible professional opportunity for her."

Reid said improvements to and growth in the First Year Seminar program, the Office of Undergraduate Research and the Study Abroad Office stand as some of Palm's greatest accomplishments.

Palm also was active in raising funds and has raised more than \$170 million for the college since the beginning of the Carolina First campaign, Reid said.

Shelton said he will discuss the need to appoint an interim dean when he meets with Chancellor James Moeser today in a regularly scheduled meeting.

"I'm confident we'll have a great pool of candidates," Shelton said. "People will want to come here to lead this great college. I imagine we'll have some strong internal candidates as well."

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Study: Universities lack socio-economic diversity

BY ALEXANDRA DODSON
STAFF WRITER

As the U.S. Supreme Court deliberates the constitutionality of race-based affirmative action in higher education, some experts are examining other means of diversifying the college admissions process.

A study commissioned by the Century Foundation, a New York-based research organization, looked at the effect of socio-economic status on admissions, especially for lower-income students.

The study began as a collection of essays about lower-income students in higher education, said Richard Kahlenberg, a senior fellow at the Century Foundation. But the study ultimately focused on the level of college preparation these students receive, their financial situation and the access they have to information on colleges.

Kahlenberg said the study's information comes from the 146 most selective schools in the country, as ranked by Barron's Profiles of American Colleges. He said it was gathered with the purpose of improving the admissions rates of lower-income students.

Anthony Carnevale, vice president of Educational Testing Service and co-conductor of the

study, said he was interested in determining what sort of admissions criteria will promote racial and economic diversity.

But the end results were not favorable to schools' claims of racial and economic diversity.

"There isn't much of either," he said.

Kahlenberg said low-income students are virtually absent from competitive schools. He said only 3 percent of student representation at these schools comes from the lowest economic quartile, while 74 percent of students come from the top quartile.

Although many schools say they give needy students a leg up in the admissions process, Kahlenberg said the study proves otherwise.

"For one thing, the university doesn't do much to provide affirmative action for lower-income students," he said, adding that this could change depending on the ruling in two University of Michigan-Ann Arbor cases before the Supreme Court. Socio-economic status could replace race as an admissions criterion.

But some experts say all affirmative action is discriminatory.

"My sense is it's an attempt to

SEE STUDY, PAGE 11

ONLINE

UNC study finds lack of exercise responsible for nation's problem with child obesity. Visit www.dailytarheel.com for more stories.

SPORTS

CRUISE CONTROL
Tar Heels jump out to 8-0 lead in victory over East Carolina. PAGE 4



INSIDE

CURTAIN CALL
Diversions presents the final part of its coverage of the Lab! Theatre season. PAGE 5

WEATHER

TODAY Partly Cloudy, High 72, Low 48
FRIDAY Rain, High 67, Low 52
SATURDAY Partly Cloudy, High 75, Low 52

