BOG seeks \$170M for fixes

BY CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR. STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

The UNC-system Board Governors on Friday officially asked the N.C. General Assembly for about \$170 million for repairs and renovations to state universities, particularly two universities

with severe mold problems.

In one resolution, the board requested \$25.8 million in emergency funding to take care of mold problems that have forced hundreds of students at N.C. Central University into hotels this semes-ter. That resolution also requests \$3.5 million to pay for emergency remediation of a mold problem discovered at UNC-Pembroke earlier this month.

The other request is for \$138 million slated for the system's repairs and renovation fund. The money is the system's share of a fund used to repay bond debt.

System officials expected to receive the money at the end of the 2003 legislative session in a bill that

corrects mistakes in past legislation. Ultimately, however, the bill did not pass the legislature, but both of the original draft.

the House and Senate versions of the legislation indicated that 46 percent of the total fund should go

to the UNC system.

Budget and Finance Committee Chairman Jim Phillips said the money is sorely needed by individual universities.

"The needs are urgent," he said.
"We have facilities and students who, in one department, have wonderful new or renovated facilities and, in others, still have roof

Jeff Davies, UNC-system vice president for finance, originally presented a draft resolution to the board's Budget and Finance com-mittee last Thursday that grouped the mold and the repair and renovation issues together.

But committee members, espe-cially former BOG Chairman Ben Ruffin, indicated that the original resolution did not communicate adequately the emergency nature of the mold problems at NCCU and UNC-P.

"This is a nice, vanilla resolu-tion," he said after the presentation

gency situation. It is not an emergency resolution. ... If we don't call it an emergency, (legislators) won't understand."

The new resolution states that NCCU has implemented emergency procedures of its own: closing two residence halls, putting students up in hotels, "requiring significant expenditures of funds and denying students an on-cam-

pus housing experience."

The BOG's resolution also makes the point that emergency money to address the mold situations should be taken separate from the relatively routine repairs and renovation funding the state

"N.C. Central and UNC-Pembroke have problems that need to be dealt with immediately," Ruffin said.

"We don't want to fix the mold problems on the backs of other campuses that have repair and renovation needs."

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

Summer book selection begins

Members of the 2004 Carolina Summer Reading Program Book Selection Committee are considering carefully a list of about 500 books after two years of controver-

sy regarding previous selections. The committee, which compris es three students, three faculty members and three administra-tors, met for the first time Thursday to discuss the list of

The list is drawn from a mixture of student, staff and faculty suggestions made during a week-long call for ideas, as well as recommendations from the incoming freshman class based on its experiences with the program.

Although a final decision isn't expected until mid-February, Judy Deshotels, program coordinator and director of new student pro-grams for the Division of Student Affairs, said that she is enthusia tic about the group and that she

expects positive results.

There has been no decision regarding any of the books since the committee still is working to

coordinate its efforts.

"There's no leaning in any direction. What we're really looking for is the best book that meets the guidelines," said Jan Bardsley, chairwoman of the selection com-

Those guidelines call upon committee members to select a book that provokes discussion and is

By Gordon Seaberg

13 Jotted down 18 SUV gear 19 Undercoat 24 Desktop image 25 Short, pointed beard 27 Have on 28 Messy person 29 Jimi Hendrix's "Purple"

intellectually stimulating, pleasurable and easy to read, among other criteria.

"It has to be a really special book," Bardsley said. Even with the strong public interest in the committees decisions, the meetings are being kept confidential.

Committee meetings are closed to the public and press, and members aren't permitted to discuss the decision process.

members Committee strongly about being able to discuss the books in private, without worrying about public scrutiny, Deshotels said.

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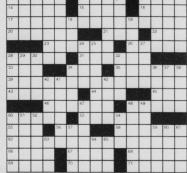
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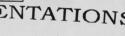
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