

Arts Carolina loses funding BOG calls for out-of-state tuition raise

BY NICK PARKER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

SEPT. 3 — The arts community has never been a cohesive unit. Each of the eclectic fields of the fine arts — dramatic, studio, musical, performance, written — has its own lingo, its own advocates, its own world.

Weaving together a song and dance in front of a massive modern mural is a logical step in creating a mixed media production, but bringing it all together is another story.

"It is very difficult to bring a bunch of different, ego-driven performance folks together collectively," said Jim Ketch, chairman of the UNC Department of Music. "Everyone has their own goals and own idea of what message they want to tell."

Art, no matter the form, is a vehicle for expression. It is sacred because it is so individual. Therein lies the problem in bringing the arts community together for a single, collective goal.

But for the past three years, Arts Carolina — an umbrella arts organization established in January 2000 — has made such collaboration possible. Arts

Carolina, or more specifically its director, Amy Brannock, focused voices, events, volunteers, ideas and creations from across the campus community on a central goal. And it worked.

Arts Carolina consistently updated a Web site promoting the arts, printed a tabloid section every semester highlighting almost every campus arts event, established a balanced working relationship with town and University officials and organized massive events of its own, combining the skills and expertise of various University departments.

"Arts Carolina and Amy really pulled their weight," Ketch said. "She exceeded the initial hopes and even the idea of the program."

But a dream can't last forever. As of June 30, Arts Carolina is no more. The nation is experiencing its worst budget crisis since World War II, and its effects can be seen everywhere.

UNC alone lost \$23.7 million in funding this year, and cuts have been felt all over campus. From computer labs and class funds to HEELS 4 Health and the First Year Initiative, administrators faced a series of tough decisions

about what to nix.

Arts Carolina, with a \$120,000 annual budget, was one of the largest cuts. When it was established three years ago, it was a pilot program funded by the College of Arts and Sciences.

But in December 2002, Arts Carolina received a glowing review from a committee headed by Darryl Gless, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and officials decided Arts Carolina should become a permanent program.

Its funding was renewed temporarily for the spring 2003 semester while leaders searched for permanent funding. The money was never found.

"Between December and May, clearly not enough efforts were made to find new funding," Brannock said. "I was never allowed to commission directly to the administration and was never given a satisfactory answer about the money I asked about. Apparently, other things took priority."

Those other priorities, administrators say, were exactly the motivation for the program's elimination.

Gless — the same Gless who so

vehemently praised Arts Carolina in December — had to make cuts within his college, and he chose to preserve as many classes as possible.

"There was just no money this year for extra programs," Gless said. "I drafted that (December) report myself, but my responsibility is to protect, first, programs that serve an educational purpose."

Brannock said that she understands and accepts the cuts but that she is frustrated by what she views as the sudden and cruel nature of the process.

"I have been disappointed in the way that I was treated," Brannock said. "I was given no severance package, only a two-month notice that Arts Carolina would be eliminated, and no preferential treatment in finding another job in the University. The job ended, and I was left on my own."

But since the University is, first and foremost, about academics, administrators said they believe the core curriculum — not extracurriculars — must be its primary focus.

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

BY BROOK R. CORWIN

UNIVERSITY EDITOR

NOV. 20 — The University's governing board delayed a vote to raise tuition and student fees Thursday, directing campus officials to draft a more long-term proposal that emphasizes an out-of-state tuition increase.

The move sends the University's Tuition Task Force back to the drawing board just three months before the UNC-system Board of Governors plans to vote on campus tuition increases.

The UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees was expected to vote on a proposal, crafted by the task force last month, to raise tuition across the board by \$300 each year for three years.

But trustees strongly objected to such an increase, advocating instead a percentage-based increase that would raise tuition by a greater amount for out-of-state students.

Talk of raising out-of-state student tuition by at least \$1,500 has surfaced during debate on whether the UNC system's nonresident enrollment cap should be raised from 18 percent to 22 percent.

The BOG has tabled the cap issue, but UNC-CH Chancellor James Moeser has said he will continue to push for the increase.

Given the University's stance on the out-of-state enrollment cap, trustees advocated an increase that demonstrates concern for North Carolinians.

"This (proposal) sends absolutely the wrong message," said Nelson Schwab, chairman of the BOT's Finance Committee. "It's not what we tried to convey with the 82-18 discussions."

Trustees said many members of the public got the impression that UNC-CH wasn't prioritizing the education of North Carolinians during that discussion, something the board has the opportunity to reverse with a tuition proposal favoring in-state students.

"We could be doing the out-of-state community a favor by raising

tuition," said Trustee Robert Winston. "That could ultimately be one of the things that gets us to the ultimate goal of raising the cap."

Matt Tepper, student body president and ex officio member of the BOT, expressed concern that the BOG or the N.C. General Assembly could tack on tuition increases that would burden out-of-state students further.

"We could be setting ourselves out of the market for out-of-state students," Tepper said. "Unfortunately, there are a lot of these factors beyond our control."

Moeser said a sharp increase in nonresident tuition could make athletic and merit-based scholarships too expensive to fund fully.

"Unless we can hold harmless the costs for these programs, we will wreak havoc on the athletic department and cripple merit scholarship programs," Moeser said.

The trustees also had been scheduled to vote on several increase proposals for graduate and professional schools and an 11 percent increase in student fees.

Both votes were delayed so they can be taken in the context of the University's undergraduate tuition increase. Despite a request by the BOG for at least preliminary figures for a campus-based tuition increase, the BOT decided to commission a new proposal for consideration at its January meeting. The BOG then would vote on the proposal in February.

"The task force should come back with new proposals," said Rusty Carter, chairman of the BOT University Affairs Committee.

The extra time is needed, trustees said, so the task force can craft a long-range plan that implements a major increase gradually.

"This needs to be long-term," Trustee Paul Fulton said. "We're talking about a fundamental shift in the way we charge out-of-state students."

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Tepper defeats Shin to lead student body

BY JENNY IMMEL

AND ROB LEICHTNER

STAFF WRITERS

FEB. 18 — Matt Tepper narrowly defeated Sang Shin on Tuesday to win the student body president race with 56.6 percent of the vote.

But from their embrace 30 minutes after the announcement, it was hard to tell if Matt Tepper or Shin was the victor.

The look of nervousness on Matt Tepper's face instantly faded into one of shock and amazement when Board of Elections Chairman Brian Fauver read the results in the packed "Carolina Week" studio.

"It is an amazing feeling," Matt Tepper said. "It was a really hectic campaign."

After the announcement Matt Tepper said that he planned to consider the other candidates' platform ideas for incorporation in his upcoming term.

"I'll definitely have to sit down

and look at all of them and see which points fit into my platform."

His own platform is the first priority, Matt Tepper said, especially establishing his proposed student wish list and setting up bike pumps at the Student Union.

Although he said he does not yet have any specific people in mind for his administration, he wants to follow Student Body President Jen Daum's lead and select a diverse group.

"I want to make sure we pull from a large group of people so we have a diverse voice, representative of the entire student body," Matt Tepper said.

Ending the campaign and taking office will be a great relief, Matt Tepper said. "Hopefully, I'll have time to get some schoolwork done ... before I get to work on my platform," he said.

Before he takes office in April, Matt Tepper said, he plans to work

with the current administration and to ask for advice on selecting his administration and taking office. "I'm sure I'll be talking a lot with the Jen Daum administration, and they have a lot they can tell us," he said.

Most of Matt Tepper's supporters watched the announcement from 111 Carroll Hall after arriving too late to find a seat in the crowded studio. Matt Tepper said his campaign staff was instrumental in helping him win the election.

Matt Tepper said his sister, freshman Megan Tepper, lifted a lot of the burden from his shoulders during the campaign. Her support and campaigning in the residence halls provided a great help, he said.

"She rallied the freshman class, and it was good to have some familial support through this whole thing."

Megan Tepper said that

although she does not plan to get into campus politics, her brother's campaign will be beneficial to the school.

"I think he has some really great ideas that are really new and will help the school a lot," Megan Tepper said. "It was hard to keep motivated through some of it, but it was a lot of fun."

Shin sat by as the results were read, clasping hands with his supporters gathered around him, who had been waiting more than an hour. "I'm not going to lie," he said after the results were read. "I am very disappointed. We were above qualified for the job."


Shin said that he congratulates Matt Tepper on a hard-fought campaign and that there is a chance he will work with him next year.

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