

Some state workers get pay hike BOG okays Hill, UNC land swap

\$4.5M fund will help lowest paid

BY BRIAN HUDSON
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

After two years of waiting, some UNC employees will be getting a much needed hike in pay, although workers say the funds should be only a first step in providing fair wages.

On Jan. 1, Gov. Mike Easley announced that \$4.5 million will be used to raise the salaries of state employees. The money will go toward the lowest-paid workers. One goal of the increase is that no employee shall earn less than \$18,312, which is 20 percent higher than the federal poverty line for a family of three.

These would be the first increases state employees have seen in almost two years. Last year the UNC Employee Forum urged state

lawmakers and University administrators to give increases in both salaries and benefits.

Katherine Graves, vice chairwoman of the Employee Forum, said she is appreciative of the increase, but she made it clear more increases are still needed.

"It is a step forward," she said. "I think they should announce a raise for all state employees. The first item on the agenda for the budget should always be state employees."

Although the guidelines determining the distribution of the money are not yet published, officials said housekeepers and groundskeepers are the UNC employees most likely to see an increase.

"It's not all employees, it's a select group. It affects facility

workers, housekeepers and a few other areas where there is high turnover," said Tom Arnel, an Employee Forum delegate.

Lavonda van Benthuyssen, communications officer with the N.C. Department of State Personnel, said the guidelines will be sent to state agencies sometime today and will be available to the public soon afterwards.

Tommy Griffin, chairman of the Employee Forum, said he is very glad employees are receiving some attention from the state, and he feels the money should go to anyone earning below a living wage.

"Anyone working with lower than \$27,000 should get it," he said. "Those with the lowest pay should get it first."

Although all state employees need pay increases, those living in the Chapel Hill and Carrboro area greatly need it due to the high cost

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KATHERINE GRAVES, EMPLOYEE

of living, Griffin said.

He said the forum would continue to petition the state legislature for pay increases.

"We're going to keep on doing what we've been doing, keep on asking for more money," he said. "It's going to take a while but it shouldn't take a while. If they can find \$4.5 million, they can find a little more."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A committee of the UNC-system Board of Governors approved a property swap between UNC-Chapel Hill and the Chapel Hill Town Council member Cam Hill.

The University will use the 0.19-acre Cam Hill property, located at 606 Cameron Ave., to construct a parking lot in conjunction with four other parcels of land the University already owns.

The property has received appraisals ranging from \$153,000 to \$200,000, although UNC-system staff members told the board it could be worth more pending the completion of improvements now underway. The 0.276-acre UNC-CH property Hill will receive in return is located at 412 E. Rosemary St. in Chapel Hill and has a 1,716-square-foot house the University uses as rental property. The property has been appraised between \$237,000 and \$300,000. The University's Board of Trustees approved the controver-

sial trade Nov. 19.

N.C. Central's mold problem to be eradicated by August

UNC-system staff said N.C. Central University will be fully operational by the end of this summer after a mold problem shut down several academic buildings and two residence halls.

"N.C. Central will be fully mold free in all the academic facilities by the time the students return in late summer," said UNC-system Vice President for Finance Jeff Davies.

He added that residence halls also would be open. The residence hall closings have forced hundreds of N.C. Central students to stay in area hotels.

The BOG Budget and Finance Committee Chairman Jim Phillips said the primary reason for the increased action is Gov. Mike Easley's additional attention to the issue.

U.S. begins troop rotation

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The military has begun a rotation of forces in Iraq and Afghanistan that amounts to the largest movement of U.S. troops in decades, Army officials said Thursday.

The changes present an enormous logistical challenge not only for the Army and Marine Corps, but also for the Air Force and Navy, whose planes and ships are ferrying the troops to and from Iraq.

They also add to the security concerns of commanders on the ground in Iraq, who worry that fighters opposed to the U.S. occupation will look for security gaps created by the monthlong rotation.

The transition began this week with the return from Iraq of the first 200 members of the 101st Airborne Division to their home base at Fort Campbell, Ky., and the departure from Fort Bragg, N.C., of paratroopers of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne. Ships carrying equipment for the 25th Infantry Division left Hawaii this week, officials said.

In a related matter, Army officials said a military team has arrived in Iraq to advise ground commanders on ways to cope with

the homemade bombs that insurgents have detonated along roads used by U.S. convoys over the past several months, often killing or maiming soldiers.

The Army, working with the other military services, has been planning the rotation of forces in Iraq for many months. The approximately 130,000 U.S. troops in Iraq now will be heading home during the coming four months, to be replaced by a more mobile, less heavily armed force of about 110,000. That force will include about 20,000 Marines and an increased proportion of National Guard and Reserve troops.

A senior Army official provided details of the rotation Thursday on condition of anonymity. He said the movement would involve the equivalent of eight of the Army's 10 active-duty divisions.

It also includes Marines of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force from Camp Pendleton, Calif., and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing at Miramar, Calif. — some of whom participated in the invasion of Iraq last March and the dash to Baghdad. Marines left Iraq late last summer; they are being called on again because the Army is too

stretched to meet all the troop requirements.

The Navy's 3rd Fleet announced on Wednesday that the helicopter carrier USS Boxer will head for the Persian Gulf next week from San Diego with equipment for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

The Marines are to operate in the area west of Baghdad, replacing soldiers of the 82nd Airborne, the 1st Infantry Division and the 2nd Light Cavalry Regiment.

Two brigades of the 1st Infantry, along with a brigade of the 25th Infantry and the 30th Infantry Brigade of the North Carolina National Guard, will operate in the area around Tikrit and Kirkuk in northern Iraq, replacing the 4th Infantry Division and the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

A brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division, known as the Stryker Brigade, will operate in the Mosul area of northern Iraq where the 101st Airborne has had its headquarters. The 101st is one of the last major Army units left in Iraq that also participated in the initial invasion and defeat of Baghdad.

The 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Hood, Texas, will replace the 1st Armored Division in Baghdad.

TUITION

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dents at the Kenan-Flagler Business School.

Tuition revenues and state supplements will be used at the business school to maintain the quality of education, business school Dean Steve Jones said.

At the law school, the minimal tuition increase will fund two of the three faculty positions eliminated after state budget cuts.

"Why not do more?" asked Gene Nichol, dean of the law school. "Because this small increase will not fix the problem, will not make salaries compatible."

Across the board, rates will work differently toward the same goal by using tuition revenue to compensate faculty salaries, maintain the quality of education and keep schools' national rankings.

The School of Social Work also is examining a tuition increase. The proposed \$3,500 increase, which would be billed during a two-year period to all new students pursuing a master of social work degree, would support faculty retention and student recruitment.

"If we don't raise compensation, then students won't come," said Dean Jack Richman.

Trustees echoed this same sentiment, noting that tuition hikes will play an important role in UNC's long-term goal of becoming the nation's leading public university.

"The point is, we have built a franchise," Winston said. "Why would we ever want to let ourselves slide?"

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

BOG

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point is. ... I'll leave that to (UNC-CH Director of Admissions) Jerry Lucido."

Board members will get their first glimpse of the 15 other campuses' tuition and fees requests today at a workshop.

UNC-system President Molly Broad said BOG members also might get their first look at options for a systemwide tuition increase.

"We have the committee process under way," she said. "There are several variations."

Last year, BOG members opted not to allow any tuition increases, though the N.C. General Assembly, which has the final say on system tuition rates, pushed through a 5

percent across-the-board increase anyway.

Phillips said BOG members, who probably will want to have a say, should give the increases some thought during the next month. He encouraged them to clear their calendars for an additional evening of wrangling potential increases.

But he also said BOG members must be ready to face the fact that the General Assembly ultimately can amend the BOG's actions as it has in the past.

"I think that's something that we have to be very mindful of," he said. "Our action will not be the final say."

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

STUDENTS

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"They should wait because they don't even know how we feel yet," she said. "If they go ahead and increase it, they wouldn't know how people like me wouldn't be able to attend (UNC) anymore."

Student Body Vice President Rebekah Burford also supports more research before making a decision.

She said she is concerned that current out-of-state students could have trouble affording tuition if the increases are approved.

"(Out-of-state students) already planned financially for their edu-

cation," she said. "Most families I know cannot just come up with that money out of the blue."

Tepper, who is from Cary, said he sympathizes with current out-of-state students such as Digs who likely would incur an increase if the tuition hike is approved.

"It's incredibly unfair that students come to Carolina with the impression that they would be getting a bargain, and then in the middle of their time here tell them their tuition will increase," Tepper said.

"I'd feel exploited if I were a nonresident."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

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- IBM Corp.
- Cintas
- Department of Juvenile Justice
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PEARSON

FROM PAGE 1

personal friends who sent e-mails to Chancellor James Moeser asking for the charges against Pearson to be dropped.

Osment said the Orange County District Attorney's office would have to drop the charges, although such action could come after discussions with the University.

She expressed hope that many students, along with others interested in the issue of free speech, will travel to Hillsborough next week to see the trial in person.

"The statute (Pearson) was charged with directly pertains to higher education," Osment said. "If people want to see what constraints are placed on their freedom of speech in a college setting, this would be the trial to see."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

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