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UNC system may see more cuts

STATE SEEKING PROJECTIONS THAT CUT UP TO 3 PERCENT

BY STEPHANIE JORDAN
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

The Office of State Budget and Management sent budget reduction scenarios to the Office of the President last week, asking UNC-system schools to prepare for cuts of possibly as much as 3 percent. "This is a pattern that has hap-

pened in previous years," UNC-Chapel Hill Provost Robert Shelton said.

But he added that he was surprised at the request.

"(Unlike previous years,) state collections receipts are on target," Shelton said. "This sends a very depressing message. It says that

the budget is going as predicted but plan for more cuts."

He said the state budget office might be asking for the figures just to be safe or it might be an annual requirement.

Jeff Davies, vice president of finance for the UNC system, said State Budget Officer David McCoy sent over the request for the scenarios.

"These projections will let the governor know what we need," he said.

Davies said UNC-CH has not yet had a chance to examine the budget reduction scenarios, which ask the president's office what would happen if 1 percent of a university's budget was cut, what would happen if 2 percent of the budget was cut and so forth.

As of Sunday, none of the 16 system schools had received the requests. Shelton predicted the universities should see them either Monday or Tuesday.

Because of the requests' impor-

tance, Shelton said, the schools would act promptly, and UNC-CH probably would have its response ready the same week.

The process involves speaking with vice chancellors and deans and asking them how they would handle budget cuts, he said.

The requests were announced at the UNC-system Board of Governors' monthly meeting Friday.

"We have heard a lot of conversations about going to the (N.C.)

General Assembly to get what you need," said UNC-system President Molly Broad. "But we have to be realistic here."

"There's evidence that there's not going to be anything relevant coming to the University in terms of new dollars."

Because only the president's office has received the requests, Shelton said, he did not know whether the cuts would be perma-

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SBP role goes far beyond campus

Diplomacy plays big part in office

BY AMY KINGSLEY
STAFF WRITER

Student body president campaigns often focus on campus issues, but the success of the office often depends on diplomatic savvy at many levels of government.

In addition to mediating between student groups, the student body president must communicate student interests to the UNC administration, the Chapel Hill Town Council and the N.C. General Assembly.

In Chapel Hill, "The student body president may be second only to the mayor as an elected official," said Jonathan Howes, special assistant to the chancellor.

Recent tension between residents and students, particularly in the Northside neighborhood, underscore the need for better student communication with town officials.

Other issues, such as transportation and parking changes, affect both students and residents, Howes said.

Both candidates in the runoff for student body president advocate increasing student participation on town boards and committees.

Candidate Lily West said she plans to create a government relations executive assistant who would oversee student relations with Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Orange County.

"We have to go beyond the University walls," West said.

Candidate Matt Calabria emphasized the importance of respect and communication between Town Council members and the student body president.

"It is important to maintain collaborative relationships," he said.

Howes echoed this sentiment. "The Town Council looks to the student body president as someone who speaks to students," he said. "There is no substitute for personal contact."

Both candidates stressed the importance of collaborating with council members sympathetic to student issues.

Calabria cited council members

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DTH FILE PHOTO/PALIN WEDEL

If elected, student body president candidate Lily West plans to create a position to improve relations between students and the town.

VALENTINE'S DAY RUSH



DTH/NANCY DONALDSON

John Dickey works to prepare flower arrangements for customers at Chapel Hill Florist on West Franklin Street on Saturday in the midst of the Valentine's Day rush. The store was packed with customers searching for last-minute gifts and deliverymen scurrying to complete orders throughout the day, which

is well known as the busiest holiday of the year for florists. According to CNN, a 1998 survey by the Society of American Florists found that 30 percent of men wait until Feb. 13 to purchase gifts for Valentine's Day, which is celebrated as a day of romance only in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Great Britain, France and Australia.

Quality requires hikes, officials say

Ducote still skeptical about raises

BY CHRIS COLETTA
AND CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.
SENIOR WRITERS

One of the UNC system's top officials said Friday that tuition increases likely will be necessary to ensure that students receive a quality education.

Brad Wilson's statement came just hours after the system's Association of Student Governments demanded accountability measures for campus-based tuition increases.

Wilson, the chairman of the UNC-system Board of Governors, said the board must weigh the cons of rising costs against the need to provide schools with adequate funding.

"Low tuition without high quality is no bargain," Wilson said. "So this tuition debate is really about whether this board is going to permit the continued erosion of the quality of public higher education in this state."

He added that although he does not necessarily support tuition increases, lagging faculty salaries, larger class sizes and fewer course sections have made it necessary to consider the issue.

But ASG President Jonathan

Ducote said he sees the issue differently.

Balking at nonspecific terms such as "academic excellence" as justifications for increases, Ducote said that since North Carolina's hikes began in earnest five years ago, students have not seen an increase in the quality of their education — something he said the proposals on the table wouldn't fix.

He added that the system does not have a set process for ensuring that individual universities spend the money from tuition hikes in the ways they say they will, which allows campuses to use their funds to support "business as usual."

"Students and families are tired of writing blank checks and seeing nothing in return for their hard-earned money," he said.

All of the system's 16 schools have proposed campus-based increases of between 9 percent and 19 percent to the BOG, which also is considering a systemwide increase of about 2 percent. UNC-Chapel Hill has proposed a \$300 hike for in-state

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Compton, Liles endorse West

BY BROOK R. CORWIN
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Citing her leadership abilities and willingness to reach out to the entire student body, former student body president candidates Matt Compton and Matt Liles, along with the executive board of UNC's College Republicans, endorsed Lily West last weekend for student body president.

Compton and Liles finished third and sixth in the general election, receiving 17 percent and 4.9 percent of the vote, respectively.

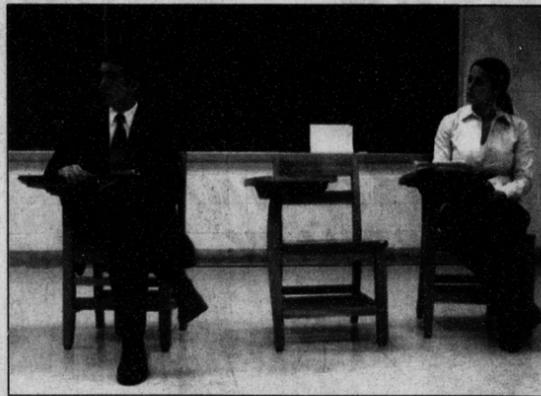
Former candidate Faudlin Pierre, who finished fourth with 7.8 percent of the vote, endorsed candidate Matt Calabria.

Compton praised the platforms of both candidates and said either would make a good student body president but said that West would do the best job of getting students involved with student government and in administrative decisions.

"It came down to experience and the way she leads," Compton said Sunday night. "Lily will make student government more accessible, and that's what we need."

Compton's endorsement letter noted the challenges the University will face in the coming year, including mounting tuition and the implementation of plans for Carolina North. He said West is the best candidate to lead student interests on such issues.

"The students at this school are going to need a president who will



DTH FILE PHOTO/SAMKIT SHAH

Lily West (right) earned endorsements from former SBP candidates Matt Compton and Matt Liles. Matt Calabria got a nod from Faudlin Pierre.

bring both the force of personality and the knowledge of this place that command respect," the letter states.

In his official endorsement letter, Liles also commended Calabria's qualifications but lauded West's strength in bringing students together.

"Lily unites and motivates everyone she comes in contact with to be the best," the letter states. "That is what we need next year when the student body president will be called upon to lead the fight both on campus and off."

Pierre said his endorsement of Calabria is not motivated by politi-

Panel passes North funds

BY LIZZIE STEWART
STAFF WRITER

With a record amount of funding available to allocate to student organizations, Student Congress' Finance Committee appropriated more than \$15,000 last weekend to the UNC College Republicans to bring retired Lt. Col. Oliver North to campus.

The organization received the most funding during the committee's annual finance weekend, securing \$15,556.70 of the \$212,720.35 appropriated to 70 student organizations.

After evaluating proposals from each organization, the committee was left with a surplus of \$91,604.72, Finance Committee Chairwoman Natalie Russell said.

The surplus was caused both by an increase in the student activity fees collected and a decrease in the number of student groups seeking funds.

The increase in the student activity fee to \$19.50 per semester, approved in a student referendum last year, allowed Student Congress to have a budget of \$304,325.07 to allocate to 70 student organizations.

Last year's budget provided \$164,000 for almost 90 organizations.

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Dance Marathon works to raise money for sick children **PAGE 3**

SPORTS

LET DOWN
The Carolina women's basketball team falls to Duke **PAGE 10**

WEATHER

TODAY Partly cloudy, H 36, L 23
TUESDAY Snow, H 35, L 27
WEDNESDAY Sunny, H 46, L 30

