

SYSTEM BUDGET

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tions during the past three years and wants to restore each one within the next few years.

But while there's room for rebuilding and, in some cases, growth, the cuts still hurt.

"The reality is, yes, there's new money for growth, so this may make it less painful," Davies said. "But overall, this cut is still on top of multiple budget cuts over the years."

The 1.47 percent cut translates into a loss of \$2.65 million at East Carolina University, said John Durham, the school's director of public affairs.

The cuts will add to a loss of \$46 million during the last five years.

"The budget reduction will reduce the number of new faculty positions that ECU can hire by about 18," Durham said.

But ECU did get \$60 million

in a separate capital projects bill for a new heart and stroke center, which Durham said will have a positive impact on health care and economic development in the state.

Lanier said UNC-W won't be able to implement all its plans for rebuilding in the wake of the harsh budget cuts.

But, he said, the university is going to try to use its new funds to address those issues.

Davies said the system's leaders fear that campuses will decide to reduce academic programs because administrative budgets have fallen victim to cuts during the past few years.

"It varies so significantly from campus to campus, depending on the other revenues they have available and the areas in which they have reduced budgets in the past."

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

STEM CELL

FROM PAGE 3
Democratic candidate John Kerry has said he would reverse Bush's policy on stem cells, if elected.

At stake is research that proponents say could cure degenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

The technology also has the potential to create transplant organs compatible to anyone who needs them.

But those who oppose abortion on the grounds that life begins at conception say the same logic applies to research using human embryonic stem cells.

"One of the approaches to stem cell research is to use the aborted fetus," said Gary Chamberlain, professor of Christian Ethics at Seattle University.

"So essentially if abortion is wrong, then stem-cell research is wrong."

But he added that linking the two could be simply about politics.

"I'm sure there are a lot of politicians who are milking this because they know it appeals to their constituency and the population isn't going to make these distinctions," Chamberlain said.

Grabel said that most of the research is in fact done on leftover embryos from couples undergoing in-vitro fertilization and that the link between abortion and stem-cell research is unfounded.

"People that are making that link are people who don't see the

distinction," she said. "But there is a clear distinction."

Public perception of stem-cell research might have shifted, and party lines certainly have blurred since Ron Reagan, President Reagan's son, spoke at the Democratic National Convention and urged listeners to support the research.

"It's a very emotional, personal issue," Grabel said. "Everybody knows somebody who's dying of the kind of degenerative disease that potentially could be cured by stem-cell research."

But with the contentious abortion issue still looming, such emotion is unlikely to sway staunch abortion-rights opponents who contend that not implanting all embryos from in-vitro fertilization is also immoral.

For them, Bush's unwavering position against abortion is a good sign that stem-cell research will continue to be stunted by federal guidelines.

For stem-cell research supporters, Kerry's position holds the most hope. While he is personally pro-life, he supports abortion rights and stem-cell research.

Regardless, tensions surrounding both abortion and stem-cell research could make or break this election for either candidate.

"It's going to be a significant issue because there are going to be people who cast ballots surrounding the abortion issue," Steffen said.

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

Foreign students on the rise

Strict visa rules don't deter applicants

BY KELLY OCHS
FEATURES EDITOR

Some graduate schools at the University will see a 13 percent increase in enrollment of international students, in spite of recent legislation that has made obtaining a visa more difficult for students.

The increase since last year's enrollment comes after a 12 percent drop in the number of international applications that graduate schools in the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Public Health received last year.

Linda Dykstra, dean of the Graduate School, said that UNC was not alone in the loss of applicants last year.

Many colleges nationally saw a drop in the number of applications received from international students.

Dykstra said that even though the number of applications that the graduate schools at UNC received decreased, the number of students who were accepted and the number who will be attending the University did not decrease.

The drop in applications doesn't concern Dykstra, she said, because

the quality of applicants did not seem to change from that of previous years.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks led the government to tighten national security, the passage of the USA PATRIOT Act made the process of obtaining a visa more difficult — something many international students have noticed.

Burce Ergel, a junior undergraduate student from Turkey, has been to America twice before and said the visa application this time around contained more extensive questions about her plans while in the country.

"Some precautions must be taken, but sometimes it can be too much," said Ergel, who is studying biology and genetics.

"It's important to determine the line between security and freedom."

Zhu Huanian, an international scholar who sat in on classes at UNC's School of Journalism and Mass Communication last semester, said she had to wait several hours for an interview to get her visa application.

"These kind of measures will make some young people lose

the chance to come to the United States," she said.

Zhu, who is now working at The Shanghai Daily in China, said that even though she had some trouble getting her visa, she understands why the United States government has to know who is in the country and what they are doing while in the country.

UNC's Office of International Student and Scholar Services, formerly the International Center, had to create two new full-time positions last year to handle new government regulations on students studying in the United States.

One of the biggest changes last year was the enactment of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, a computer database that holds information about all international students studying in America.

"(The system) has been an adjustment, but it's gotten smoother," said Elizabeth James, the SEVIS compliance officer at the office.

"We're just really excited to start the new year."

This year, the University will also see students from more countries than in previous years, including Vietnam, Armenia, Estonia and Georgia.

According to statistics from the graduate school admissions office, 55 countries will be represented by international students this fall.

"It's nice to know there's a lot more breadth to where the international students are coming from," Dykstra said.

Although the University is not actively recruiting international students, Dykstra said, fellowships and scholarships have attracted many students to UNC.

Ergel said that she thinks international students bring new cultural perspectives to campus.

"You see that from no matter which country you are, we're all the same actually," Ergel said.

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