

Storm relief could be on its way

Senate approves \$214.5M in aid

BY MICHELLE MENDONÇA
STAFF WRITER

With the western areas of North Carolina still recovering after last fall's damaging hurricane season, the N.C. Senate unanimously passed a \$214.5 million aid package last week to continue recovery efforts in those areas.

This aid was a \$123.5 million addition to the relief money that already was allocated. The flooding from those storms was responsible for 11 deaths, 140 destroyed homes and 16,200 damaged homes.

As a part of the earlier relief effort, the N.C. General Assembly asked state agencies — including universities — in November to return 0.75 percent of their budgets.

"We were given a number very early in the year, so every campus at that time set aside funds

to be reverted," said Jeff Davies, UNC-system vice president for finance.

Where the funds came from was an option left open to the individual schools.

"It varies from campus to campus," Davies said.

"Each chancellor made a decision based on what would least affect that school."

UNC-Chapel Hill had about \$2.85 million taken from its budget. "We took it from everywhere," said Provost Robert Shelton.

"I sent it out in proportion to everyone's state budget, so it was an across-the-board cut," Shelton said. "For example, whatever the budget of the College of Arts and Science was, they had to give back three-quarters of a percent of that."

Though no University program was singled out for budget cuts, it's always difficult to give back funds, Shelton said.

George Wooten, vice chancellor for administration and finance at Western Carolina University, said

the \$349,000 cut from its budget was taken from lapsed salaries and fringe benefits — dollars that had accrued over time.

"We didn't have any programs detrimentally affected, but the money could have been used for new scientific equipment, research or other such programs," he said.

N.C. State University cut about \$2.7 million from funds allocated to fall semester programs, said Charles Leffler, vice chancellor for finance and business.

It is hard to assess the total harm of the cuts because officials cannot know what the money would have been used for, he added.

The budget cuts were handed down early in the academic year, giving the 16 campuses the opportunity to anticipate the loss and minimize its effects.

"I think that the deans and vice chancellors were able to absorb this cut without any permanent damage to programs," Shelton said.

UNC-CH adapted to the cuts by delaying purchases and hiring to

fill vacant positions until after this fiscal year, he added.

Leffler said there were similar missed employment opportunities at N.C. State.

"Those were funds that could have been used to supplement competitive salary offers," he said.

Although no school was devastated by this budget cut, all are glad that it is a nonrecurring one.

"Over the last 12 to 15 years, when you take into account our enrollment growth, the budget has been reduced, so we have less money per student per year," Leffler said.

Shelton said it is hard to be upset about money going toward hurricane relief, even if it does throw the University's budget off balance.

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

Book prices rising, report confirms

BY VICTORIA WILSON
STAFF WRITER

A recent report confirms what many college students have long suspected — textbook publishers often increase their prices unnecessarily.

After surveying the most popular textbooks at 59 colleges and universities nationwide, the State Public Interest Research Groups, a citizen-funded advocacy organization, released the report, "Ripoff 101: 2nd Edition."

According to the report, increased costs come from gimmicks, including the frequent release of new editions, some of which are 12 percent more expensive than their predecessor.

Companies also produce textbooks bundled with supplementary materials like CD-ROMs — at a price 10 percent more than that of their unbundled counterparts.

Yet such supplements rarely see the light of day, as 65 percent of the faculty interviewed for the report said they do not use the materials.

Keith Sipe, publisher of Carolina Academic Press in Durham, said the low prices offered by used bookstores provide competition for publishers. Publishers, unlike the used dealers, have to compensate for shipping costs, royalties and marketing. And they make their new editions attractive by providing free texts for professors.

"Mostly, if you want books adopted, the only thing that matters is giving free books to professors," Sipe said. "As a publisher knows, giving away books is the only thing that works in generating sales."

Publishers give many free books

to professors near the middle of each semester. From these choices, professors try to pick the best quality for the least cost.

But only new editions are available, even if professors request the old ones, said John Stewart, a UNC economics professor.

Dave Rosenfeld, organizing director of the California Public Interest Research Group, said the group hopes to convince publishing companies to price books fairly, to publish new editions only when new information on the subjects becomes available and to offer unbundled books to students.

"The best thing students can do is work with their professors," Rosenfeld said. "Demand that they use only current editions and use new editions only when needed."

He also called on professors to turn in book requests early so that student bookstores have time to look for best available prices.

Dara Edelman, UNC-Greensboro's student body president, said the UNC-system Association of Student Governments is aware of rising textbook costs and is trying combat the problem. Members of the student advocacy group are attempting talks with publishing companies and are encouraging universities to adopt textbook rentals.

The effect of textbook prices on education is significant, Rosenfeld said. "The education market should be held at a higher standard than other markets."

Contact the State and National Editor at statnat@unc.edu

Tar Heels look to remain No. 1 in ACC

Game and Time: No. 2 North Carolina at N.C. State. Tipoff is at 8 p.m.

Site: RBC Center.

TV/Radio: The game will be televised by Raycom/Jefferson Pilot. The Tar Heel Sports Network will provide radio coverage; the broadcast will air on 100.7 FM and WCHL-AM 1360.

Records: North Carolina is 22-3, 10-2 in the ACC. N.C. State is 15-10, 5-7 in the ACC.

Series: North Carolina leads 131-74.

Probable Starters:

North Carolina

G: Raymond Felton, 6-1 JR
G: Rashad McCants, 6-4 JR
F: Jackie Manuel, 6-5 SR
F: Jawad Williams, 6-9 SR
C: Sean May, 6-9 JR

N.C. State

G: Engin Atsur, 6-3 SO
G: Tony Bethel, 6-2 JR
F: Julius Hodge, 6-7 SR
F: Ilian Evtimov, 6-7 JR
C: Jordan Collins, 6-10, SR

The Key Matchup: N.C. State's Jordan Collins and Ilian Evtimov against North Carolina's Sean May. May has been the best Tar Heel — and maybe the best player in the ACC — during the last few weeks, recording double-doubles in four straight games.

He hasn't been barely reaching double digits either — in those four games, he averaged 17 points and 15 rebounds.

May almost matched those numbers when North Carolina beat the Wolfpack by 24 in the Smith Center three weeks ago, as he had 16 points and 14 boards. May and Marvin Williams, who posted a career-high

20 points in that game, wreaked havoc in the post as the Wolfpack had a tough time keeping up with the Tar Heels' speed.

If Collins — who needed just seven minutes to foul out in the previous meeting — and Evtimov can't handle May, the Pack will be looking at another blowout.

Final Analysis/Prediction: N.C. State was pretty much left for dead after losing to the Tar Heels and then dropping its next two ACC games after that.

But the Wolfpack has crawled

back into the NCAA Tournament picture with wins at Georgia Tech and versus Maryland.

At the very least, N.C. State needs to get to 8-8 in conference to even think about going to the tournament. A win against the Tar Heels would move them closer to the .500 mark and serve as a nice line on a resume that is relatively devoid of any big victories.

But after Duke upended Wake Forest on Sunday, North Carolina now is in position to win the ACC outright and to claim a likely top



seed in both the conference and NCAA Tournaments, so the Tar Heels have something tangible to play for as well.

UNC proved in the Smith Center that it was a faster, more athletic team than N.C. State. Look for the Tar Heels to show that where the teams play doesn't matter.

The Bottom Line: North Carolina 82, N.C. State 69.

— Compiled by Daniel Blank

THE LOWDOWN ON TONIGHT'S GAME

	North Carolina at N.C. State	
(22-3, 10-2)	RBC Center, 8 p.m.	(15-10, 5-7)

HEAD TO HEAD

<p>Backcourt</p> <p>N.C. State couldn't keep up with the Tar Heels' speed in the previous meeting, and that had a lot to do with Raymond Felton, who was able to dictate the pace of the game practically from tipoff. Edge: UNC</p>	<p>Frontcourt</p> <p>Sean May has been unstoppable of late with four straight double-doubles. If he keeps up his current pace, he'll be the first Tar Heel to average a double-double since Antawn Jamison in 1997-98. Edge: UNC</p>
<p>Bench</p> <p>Marvin Williams didn't look too hobbled by his sprained toe against Clemson, with 14 points and nine rebounds in just 16 minutes. He scored a career-high 20 against N.C. State while fighting off the flu. Edge: UNC</p>	<p>Intangibles</p> <p>Both teams have something to play for — UNC for a championship, N.C. State for its postseason life. The RBC Center can be a hostile arena, but UNC won there last year when it was a bad road team. Edge: UNC</p>

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COMPILED BY DANIEL BLANK

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