

# Construction progressing quickly

BY DON CAMPBELL  
STAFF WRITER

The large-scale campus construction portion of the University's master plan is moving ahead of schedule.

By 2008, more than 53 percent of the construction in square footage will be finished, said Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction.

The Building and Grounds Committee of the University's governing board will see a progress report on the plan Monday.

"Implementation of the master plan has gone much faster than anyone had expected, especially the early years," Runberg said.

"The average University would update every 10 years, but our case has been so quick that we took a look at it and said we need to re-evaluate everything now, rather than waiting."

The campus master plan, proposed as a 40 to 50-year process, is a large-scale update and development project for the University. It has been developing since 1998 and was approved in March 2001 by the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Roger Perry, chairman of the committee, said he is delighted with the progress.

"I think things are moving incredibly quickly considering all that has been done," he said. "This is something that will always be a work in progress, but the majority of the buildings should be done in three to four years."

The Rams Head Center, the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History, the new Student Union and the second phase of certain residence halls are among the completed projects.

The master plan also includes additions and renovations to a

number of buildings on campus. Classrooms in buildings including Peabody Hall, Alumni Hall, Fetzer Gym, Phillips Hall and Hill Hall have seen repairs under the plan.

Despite the long-term need for development, Perry said he understands that the current construction can be frustrating for students.

"I know the campus is torn up right now, but the overall campus plan is so promising," he said. "In the long term, it'll be a far better campus — more pedestrian-friendly, more user-friendly and more efficient."

Bob Winston, vice chairman of the committee, recognized that current students are inconvenienced by the construction but emphasized the long-term benefits of progress and change.

"It will absolutely be a positive development," Winston said. "We understand that it's hard for students right now to walk through all the construction sites, but in the long run it's absolutely necessary, and it'll be worth it."

Winston said the plan is well on its way towards achieving the University's vision.

"I feel very good about the pace we've been going at," he said. "I think it's reasonable. We're trying to move at a pretty aggressive clip, but we don't want to get too far ahead of ourselves."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

# Community colleges face \$18.8 million of slashing

BY STEPHEN MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

For the fifth straight year, the N.C. General Assembly is asking the state's community colleges to swallow a budget cut.

Members of the legislature's joint appropriations subcommittee on education asked the system Monday to trim 2 percent to 2.5 percent, or about \$18.8 million, from its budget.

Kennon Briggs, vice president for business and finance for the N.C. Community College System, said that he initially expected a budget cut of 4 percent, or \$29.4 million, but that legislators knocked that number down considerably.

"The committee is going to take a look at options," Briggs said. "The Senate will begin debating on how to take the \$18.8 million out."

But even with the smaller cuts, community college leaders are scrambling to find areas that could be trimmed.

Briggs said that about 350 full-time positions might disappear — causing a domino effect among the students who can no longer take their classes.

"Every faculty member is equivalent to 100 students,"

Briggs said.

"This could affect around 3,500 students."

The reductions also could mean fewer class sections, larger class sizes and an end to the establishment of any new programs, said Jarrett Chandler, senior vice president of Rowan-Cabarrus Community College.

He added that budget cuts are hard to swallow, especially in a system that is always growing.

"Obviously you try to trim back to the lean," Chandler said. "Any cuts will affect us."

Frank Sells, president of Surry Community College, said the budget cuts have kept his college from getting programs and faculty it thought necessary.

"I can name a couple of times within the last three years we did not employ instructors because of the budget, did not start programs because of the budget," Sells said.

Stephen Scott, president of Wake Technical Community College, said his college might be losing between 15 and 30 professors.

"Our salary schedules are not competitive within the market-place," Scott said.

"Other educational institutes have higher salaries than we do."

The programs and people who are affected ultimately will depend on what the General Assembly cuts and doesn't cut.

Briggs added that the numbers changed as the committee considered community colleges proportionally with the UNC system and public schools.

He noted that community colleges are overwhelmingly the smallest of the three groups, using the least amount of state funds.

"It wouldn't make a lot of sense to take the most from the least," Briggs said.

But after the community college system accepts the cut, the system will be reimbursed \$7.9 million for enrollment growth.

Sells said he hopes the legislature will come to a decision to minimize the money taken from community colleges.

"At this point we are going to be optimistic enough that our legislature has all the options before them, and the survival and sustainability of community colleges in this state will be important enough that they will look elsewhere for money."

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## POLICE LOG

■ A Chapel Hill High School student who was charged Jan. 21 with assaulting a girl while at school has been arrested and charged eight more times in connection with two more victims, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, Mario La-Chad Burgess, 17, of 205 N.C. 54 West, was charged with second degree sexual offense, attempted second degree sexual offense and second degree kidnapping, all felonies, related to an assault on a female student in August and September.

He was also charged with attempted second degree sexual offense, false imprisonment and second degree kidnapping — all felonies — and sexual battery and indecent exposure — both misdemeanors — for three incidents

in the late fall and early winter involving another victim, police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said.

The attempted assaults occurred in a boys' locker room, a bathroom, a classroom and a hallway, Cousins said. Burgess knew all the involved girls, Cousins said.

Two of the three victims reported assaults Jan. 19, and the other came forward Feb. 4, she said.

Burgess was released on a written promise to appear at the first opportunity Wednesday in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ A Garner man was arrested at 1:10 p.m. Wednesday and charged with breaking and entering, larceny, possession of stolen goods, financial card theft and financial

identity fraud, all felonies, related to an August residential break-in, Carrboro police reports state.

According to reports, Mark Timothy Griffiths, 33, of 806 Lawndale St., Apt. 4, came to police with his lawyer to be served on warrants.

The Aug. 22 incident resulted in the theft of a guitar, a digital camera, a camcorder, several camera cases, a video and a credit card, reports state.

Victims of the larceny reported charges on the card that they did not make as early as Aug. 24, reports state.

Griffiths was released on a written promise to appear at the first opportunity in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

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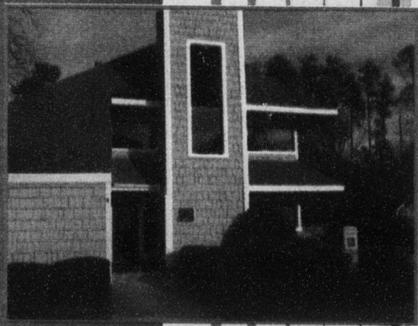
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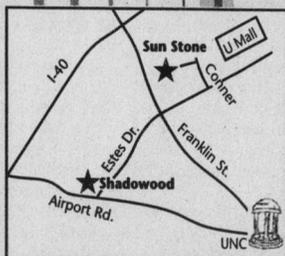
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