

Alumni Center meeting schedule

By JAMES BURROUGHS
Assistant University Editor

Construction of the University Alumni Center is progressing according to schedule, and a successful response from alumni contributors has placed the Alumni Association at its fund-raising goal of about \$12.5 million, officials said Tuesday.

"We've pretty much concluded the public phase of the campaign," said Douglas Dibbert, executive director of the Alumni Association. "We're hoping, and we've been advised, that (completion) will take 18 to 24 months." Dibbert said the construction may be completed as early as the spring of 1991.

Groundbreaking for the new center took place on Commencement Day, May 14, but the actual clearing of the site began later in the summer, Dibbert said. The center will stand adjacent to Kenan Stadium on Stadium Drive, an area commonly known as the "Big Woods."

Many students opposed the location of the center after its proposal about two years ago, and most students living near the construction site are displeased with the new appearance of the area.

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students," said Mary Beckom, a senior who lives in Carmichael Residence Hall. "We need parking and everything else but an alumni center."

Others agreed that the center was inconvenient and not beneficial to students.

"I don't understand why they have to take up campus land for something that doesn't benefit students," said Chris Locklear, a senior also in Carmichael.

Kathleen Hester, a junior in Carmichael, insists the alumni already have such a center. "They already have one, otherwise known as the SAC."

But Dibbert said that alumni do care about the appearance of the campus, and that the new center upholds a great many student interests.

"I believe very strongly that our alumni care deeply about the aesthetic quality of the campus," he

said. "We've designed this building to accommodate a number of student concerns."

The center was designed to preserve the path that connects the stadium area with South Campus, and the building will not exceed the tree level of the area, Dibbert said.

The center will provide a site for many events during the celebration of the University bicentennial and will also be a means of uniting the entire University community, including students, alumni and faculty, he said.

"Of course, today's students are tomorrow's alumni," he said.

More than 17,000 alumni have responded to the fund-raising drive and have pledged or contributed more than \$11.5 million, Dibbert said. The campaign began with a \$3.5 million gift by alumnus George Watts Hill, who then challenged other alumni to support an effort for the construction of the center, he said.

The center will include meeting rooms, a banquet hall, dining club, and a library and memorabilia room, he said. All contributors to the center will be recognized on an honor roll inside the building, while opportunities to name areas of the building will be granted to several contributors of \$25,000 or more, he said.

Budget cuts force delays on campus construction

By MIKE SUTTON
Staff Writer

Because the N.C. General Assembly slashed the UNC system's construction budget to about a sixth of what the schools requested this year, construction on projects, such as a new School of Social Work here, will be delayed at least a year.

The UNC system's original request for \$411 million in construction funding for 1989-91 was cut to \$72 million when the state legislature ended its session Aug. 12.

Because state-appropriated money accounts for less than half of UNC-CH's construction funding, the budget cuts won't severely curtail overall construction at the University, said Gordon Rutherford, director of facilities planning and design.

"Between now and next spring, we will probably put under construction \$75 million in buildings," he said. "A small portion will be state-appropriated money."

Facilities like the Alumni Center are funded through the sale of bonds, and the debt is retired through donations, he said. Bond sales funded construction of the Craige parking deck, and the debt was recouped through parking fees.

"In the immediate term, there is

not going to be an apparent cut in construction," Rutherford said. "We're not going to mothball everything we're doing."

Rutherford said he didn't want to give the impression that projects stalled by the cuts weren't important. He acknowledged that the need for a School of Social Work building was urgent, but added, "People walking around campus will not be aware of any cut. Nobody's going to notice that we're not digging a hole over there when we're digging so damn many other holes."

On the positive side, Rutherford said, UNC-CH received state funding to begin planning work on a new School of Business building with a price tag estimated at \$25 million.

Rutherford said he wasn't sure what the difference between the requested funding and the amount received was because his recommendations were passed to the General Administration, which evaluated the suggestions and formed its own request to send to the legislature.

The School of Social Work received \$4.1 million, about half of the \$8.21 million it asked for, and the School of Dentistry received none of the money it requested, he

said. Renovation plans at the Undergraduate Library also had to be put on hold.

John Turner, dean of the School of Social Work, said the state legislature already had allocated \$480,000 for architectural and engineering plans, and he was optimistic that the school would receive the rest of the construction money next year.

The School of Social Work, now in the old Administration Building on Franklin Street, is unable to accommodate all of its faculty in the building, Turner said.

"We've been operating at rather a severe handicap when it comes to space, not only in terms of room but in terms of how functional it is," Turner said. "A lot of it is not terribly functional."

David Taylor, head of the Undergraduate Library, said the effect of the budget cuts on the library's renovation plans is clear. "It means that there are no renovation plans. We'd hoped to at least have planning money to start talking with an architect," Taylor said the library had requested about \$4 million.

"Just what the library will do in response to this kind of setback, I don't know. But I hope we'll keep trying."

Lawsuit

believe that his daughter had been accepted.

The suit is unlikely to be resolved soon, said Deputy Attorney General Andy Vanore. "Lawsuits proceed very slowly through the courts, and timewise this is still very early in the process. This could take one to two and a half years for the trial level of the case to be finally resolved."

Hall has gone beyond the state level by filing a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights alleging racial and sexual discrimination and demanding an investigation of the admissions policies practiced at UNC.

Hall said last month he believed

that most people realize there is a discrepancy in admissions policies, but that they are unwilling to challenge them. "Everyone just turns their heads and goes right on. I'm not going to just lie down and accept it."

"It's time to re-evaluate our priorities and consider that the school is an educational and not an athletic facility primarily."

Students said that applicants need something outstanding to get admitted if they have average academic ability. Alan Baldwin, a track team member from Winterport, Maine, said, "You need a gimmick to get in — something original. I took someone else's place because I had the gimmick of athletic ability. But

you've got to have something to get into any good school, and obviously the admissions people didn't think this girl had anything that stood out."

Edward Moreadith, a sophomore political science major from Durham, said UNC admissions policies did not discriminate. "You need some exceptional talent to make up for academics. For example, a great oboist gets in because of his talent and what he can add to the University. It has nothing to do with black or white."

Joe Holt, a varsity soccer player from Tahiti, said he didn't agree with the discrimination argument. "I think they need to stop trying discrimination and have her take an SAT prep course."

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