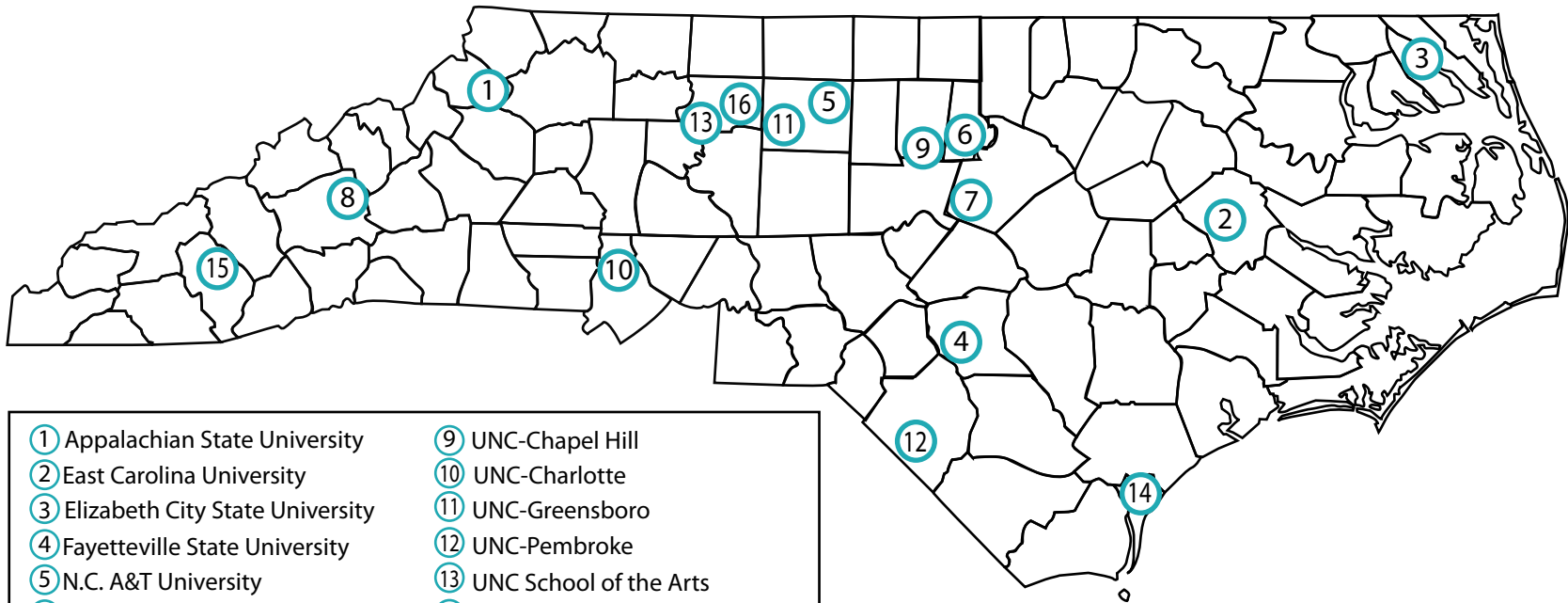


UNC system boasts recent successes

The UNC system consists of 16 higher education institutions across the state. The system is overseen by the Board of Governors, which approves tuition increases, funding proposals and educational policies for the schools. Thomas Ross took office as the 17th system president on Jan. 1 this year.



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Appalachian State University | 9 UNC-Chapel Hill |
| 2 East Carolina University | 10 UNC-Charlotte |
| 3 Elizabeth City State University | 11 UNC-Greensboro |
| 4 Fayetteville State University | 12 UNC-Pembroke |
| 5 N.C. A&T University | 13 UNC School of the Arts |
| 6 N.C. Central University | 14 UNC-Wilmington |
| 7 N.C. State University | 15 Western Carolina University |
| 8 UNC-Asheville | 16 Winston-Salem State University |

- 1 Students will compete in the Solar Decathlon at the National Mall in D.C. in September. Twenty teams will attempt to build the most affordable, attractive and energy-efficient solar home.
- 2 Received \$3.5 million in the state budget for faculty, staff and operating costs at its dental school, which will enroll its first class of students in fall 2011.
- 6 Recently hosted President Obama's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness for a discussion about job creation.
- 9 AIDS research by Dr. Myron Cohen has gained national prominence after his study's success with early treatment.
- 11 Ranked as the most affordable public or private institution for low-income students by The Education Trust.

SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.NORTHCAROLINA.EDU](http://www.northcarolina.edu)

DTH/SUSIE MANN

ASG retains 2011 leader

By Elizabeth Johnson
Staff Writer

The UNC-system Association of Student Governments will continue its work as a student advocacy group despite concerns raised about its effectiveness.

The association was established to give the system's students a voice in policy decisions made by the Board of Governors — the body that approves tuition increases and budget proposals for the schools.

UNC-system students pay an annual \$1 fee to help fund the association that is made up of representatives from all 16 of the system's universities.

After heated debate, Atul Bhula was re-elected as the association's president in April. Bhula has been criticized by some association members for not holding executive officers accountable for their job responsibilities.

Members have also questioned the association's ability to lobby on behalf of students at the state legislature in Raleigh. UNC Student Body President Mary Cooper said the association doesn't have the experience to be successful in its lobbying efforts with legislators.

Cooper said she received some emails from the association about its lobbying efforts but ultimately decided to take matters into her own hands.

She traveled to Raleigh once a week during May and the first part of June to meet with legislators and lobby for lower state funding cuts to the system. She said she only saw Bhula once during that time.

Now that the state budget has become law, the UNC system will lose 14.6 percent of its state funding — \$407 million.

Chancellors and provosts will determine how to implement cuts on individual campuses in the coming months.

Chandler Thompson, the student body president at N.C. State University, also lobbied legislators with Cooper. The association's budget will not be affected by the cuts, Thompson said.

"It is a pivotal year and ASG should step up and be a strong voice for the whole UNC system," she said.

Bhula has said his goal for this year is to improve how the organization works internally.


Bhula is also guaranteed a spot on the Board of Governors as president of the association. In his report at the board's meeting earlier this month, Bhula urged members to avoid supplemental tuition increases — a position also advocated by system President Thomas Ross.

"I would like to remind the board — please don't raise tuition to offset these cuts," he said.

Contact the State & National Editor at state@dailytarheel.com.

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