

# NC House amendment cuts aid funds

By Stirling Little  
Staff Writer

As state legislators deliberate measures to close a state budget shortfall of \$2.4 billion, budgetary adjustments could benefit K-12 education at the expense of the UNC system and community colleges.

The N.C. House of Representatives budget, passed earlier this month, included a last-minute amendment that eliminated millions of dollars in need-based financial aid for community college and UNC-system students.

The amendment eliminated need-based scholarships totaling \$34.6 million for community college students and reduced need-based financial aid for system schools by nearly \$10 million.

The funds, which are appropriated from the North Carolina Education Lottery, were redirected from scholarships and financial aid to the construction budget for K-12 public schools.

Rep. Tim Moore, R-Cleveland, sponsor of the amendment, said counties would struggle to meet their debt payments for public school construction without the added lottery funds.

"It was a tough decision," Moore said. "There were tough choices to make all around."

Shirley Ort, associate provost and director of scholarships and student aid for UNC, said in an email that 750 students at UNC would lose an average of \$1,400 each in scholarship funding from the amendment, totaling about \$1 million for the next two academic years.

She said the amendment will cost students across the state at institutions within both the UNC and community college systems.

In the 2009-2010 academic year, about 15,300 community college students statewide received \$15.9 million in scholarship funds from the education lottery, said Bo Gray, vice president for college and community initiatives at Tri-County Community College.

The lottery provides about half of the state funding for need-based aid to community college

BY THE NUMBERS

**\$34.6 million**  
Cut from community colleges

**\$15.9 million**  
Aid received by students in 2009

**15,300**  
Students that received aid in '09

**\$1,400**  
Per student aid cut at UNC

students, Gray said.

He said he hopes legislators will lessen the proposed cuts for community college scholarships.

"Just to do an across the board elimination for anything is a dangerous precedent," he said.

Rep. Hugh Blackwell, R-Burke and vice-chairman of the House appropriations subcommittee on education, said he initially supported the amendment after counties complained that legislators "were pulling the rug out from under them" by not providing expected funds for debt payments.

But he said he did not fully understand the impact of the amendment until after it was included in the budget.

"The people who made this amendment had to get this money from somewhere," he said. "I think that they probably went to the wrong place."

Moore said counties rely exclusively on state funding for public school construction. College students have access to other resources — scholarships, financial aid and loan programs — that are not funded by the state, he said.

But while the N.C. Senate works on its own version of the budget, Moore said legislators will likely find other sources of financial aid within the education budget.

"I believe that a good bit of that scholarship money will be restored before the final budget," he said.

Contact the State & National Editor at [state@dailytarheel.com](mailto:state@dailytarheel.com).

## DRAWING FOR KIDS



DTH/PAULA SELIGSON

Children gathered at the Ackland Art Museum on Saturday for Drawing for Kids, an art program for 9- to 12-year-olds. The program is offered the second Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon. "I liked it because I could draw a lot of things," one participant said of the program. "I could use my imagination a lot."

# NC Senate eyes wind farm construction off coast

By Meghan Gilliland  
Staff Writer

With the largest offshore wind energy potential on the East Coast, North Carolina could make wind farming its first successful renewable energy industry.

An N.C. Senate bill, titled Offshore Wind Jobs and Economic Development, would require the construction of wind farms off the coast. The first farm would be required to begin producing energy by 2017.

The bill also states that N.C. has the fastest growing population on the East Coast but is not currently equipped with the power generation required to meet its energy demands. Wind energy has the potential to produce 130 percent of the state's current energy needs, according to the bill.

Sen. Josh Stein, D-Wake, one of the primary sponsors of the bill, said wind energy resources will be vital in meeting the state's future energy needs.

"It's only a matter of time before we harness them, and we need to get ahead of the curve," he said. Though offshore wind farms

are more costly per unit than fossil fuels, wind farms and other forms of renewable energy could be a long-term economic boon, he said.

"We have the chance to be where turbine manufacturers locate," he said.

The bill outlines a long-term vision for wind companies interested in building farms off the coast. Companies would need to produce 2,500 megawatts of wind energy in about 10 years and 5,000 by 2030.

Apex Wind Energy, a national developer of wind energy facilities based in Charlottesville, Va., is one of the companies interested in constructing the wind farms.

Rob Propes, a development manager at Apex Wind Energy, said wind energy provides a stable economic alternative to the price fluctuations of fossil fuels.

"Wind energy development off the coast has the potential to be an enormous economic opportunity and job creator for the state," he said.

But there are also several environmental and logistical issues associated with the construction of wind turbines. Joseph

BY THE NUMBERS

**130 percent**  
Potential energy needs met

**5,000**  
Megawatts of energy by 2030

**2017**  
Required date for first wind farm

**2010**  
Federal bureau forms task force

Kalo, a UNC law professor who researches coastal development, said turbine placement has the potential to adversely affect the fishing industry and migratory bird populations.

Kalo added that the wind farm industry faces an uncertain future since federal leases for coastal waters only last for 20 to 30 years.

"Probably 20 years from now there's going to be a lot better stuff out there," he said.

The bill is currently being reviewed in the Senate Committee on Commerce. But before wind farm construction could begin off the state's coast, companies must also comply with federal regulations governing U.S. coastal waters.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement developed a task force in 2010 to coordinate inter-governmental relations and evaluate the potential for wind farms off the state's coast.

The task force met in Raleigh last week to review concerns about wind farm construction. The group is still in the process of identifying regions off the coast that would be feasible for wind energy development.

Contact the State & National Editor at [state@dailytarheel.com](mailto:state@dailytarheel.com).

# Student Artery in need of space

By Tyler Confoy  
Staff Writer

Some art enthusiasts strolling down Franklin Street last Friday for the 2ndFriday Artwalk might have noticed the absence of the University's only off-campus, student-run art gallery.

Leaders of the Student Artery, which has relocated twice in the past two years, will spend the summer looking for a new place to call home.

The Artery left its most recent space at 136 E. Rosemary St. on April 20. It previously opened next door at 137 E. Rosemary St. in November 2009.

The second move came about in late March, when a fire marshal notified the students that their space wasn't up to code.

"To bring it up to fire code, it would have cost a lot of money," said Kate St. John, the Artery's summer curator and next year's co-director.

St. John said the Artery hasn't had much luck finding permanent venues.

"We don't know where we're moving. We have a few options," St. John said. "What we've done in the past has been kind of like squatting."

"The goal is to find a place that we can permanently pay for so that this can be a thing that lasts beyond us leaving and doesn't fizzle out, because it's a great idea," she added.

Although they would prefer to find a permanent address in Chapel Hill, members are considering locations in Carrboro, said St. John. The officers are actively searching for a new locale, she added.

"I want to have a place by August," St. John said. "I intend to have a place by August."

In the past, the Artery has been supported primarily by grants through the Department of Art's Beatrice B. Pearman Undergraduate Research Fund in Art, said Natalia Davila, Artery curator for the 2010-11 academic year. Since opening, the gallery has received three of these grants — \$500 per semester — she added.

During the 2010-11 academic year, funding came mainly from a private donation of \$1,500, Davila said.

The Artery hosted more than 10 events in the past academic year, Davila said. But for the summer, members are considering less conventional means of presentation.

"We had definitely mentioned using open-air galleries, which would just be that day," said Sheridan Howie, co-curator for next year. "(They) can be really stressful but it's better than nothing, and I definitely want to keep the Artery in existence."

St. John said she hopes that, above all else, the Artery will uphold its image.

"I want the aesthetic of the Artery to be, 'We are college students, we are broke, we are anti-establishment' because that's what contemporary art is now," she said.

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