

POOL BALL



DTH/ERIN HULL

Peter von Stein escapes from the heat as he catches a football thrown by Curtis Moore in Kessing Outdoor Pool. Von Stein said they plan to make more visits to Kessing because of its convenience.

GRADING

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Departmental reception

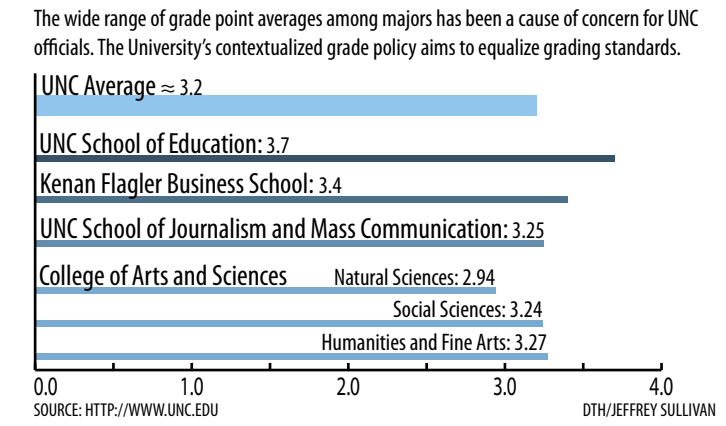
During the Board of Trustees meeting last week, members discussed the wide range of grade point averages between schools and departments. Carney reported to the University affairs committee of the board on May 25 that the GPA in the School of Education is 3.7, while the average among physics majors is 2.9. But University officials said they do not anticipate serious objections from departments. Carney said there has not been animosity between departments and schools over the change. Some officials said their grades are not telling in all class scenarios. Bill McDiarmid, dean of the School of Education, said while

the grade point average in the school is high, students are frequently assessed in other ways. "There's no correlation between college grades and people's abilities as teachers," he said, adding that grades are not completely without relevance. McDiarmid said a student's portfolio is more important than a student's grade point average. While the policy will be widespread across campus, Carney said classrooms with less than 10 students will not be included in the policy. "Transcripts are pretty indeterminate on that sort of thing."

Final preparations

Informing the faculty about the policy and its purpose will be crucial to its implementation, said Bobbi Owen, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "I expect there will be a lot more

GRADE POINT AVERAGES ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY



discussion in the fall," she said. Owen added that she had heard concerns from the faculty that the new policy would include a quota system in which professors could only allot a certain number of As. Grade rationing is not a feature of the new system.

Perrin said while the University is aiming to implement the policy by fall 2012, it could be delayed. "It really depends on the registrar's needs and what the system can handle," he said. Contact the University Editor at [university@dailytarheel.com](mailto:university@dailytarheel.com).

COOPER

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learn about the impact of the cut and determine a course of action. Her first step was to form a student listserv and send emails urging students to contact legislators in their districts before important votes on the budget. About 900 students joined the listserv before the end of the semester, she said. Her staff sent emails to students before representatives voted on the House budget in early May, but it passed with bipartisan support and the 17.4 percent cut still intact. The Senate then began working on its version of the budget, and some senators said they were aiming to spend less on education than their counterparts in the House. So Cooper decided to take action, traveling to the legislature

on Tuesdays with members of her staff to advocate for lower funding cuts to universities. Cooper said she has met with more than 20 senators both formally and informally in the past three weeks. Though a reduction in funding might be unavoidable, the cuts and their effect on students can be minimized, she said. "It's my job to say that these cuts will damage them," she said. "If I don't come in and remind people about the importance of education, then I'm not doing my job." The Senate's budget does restore some funding to the UNC system, calling for a 12 percent cut or \$347 million for universities. Cooper said her small role in lessening the cuts for the system is part of a larger lobbying effort that includes other student body presidents, chancellors and sys-

tem President Thomas Ross. Sen. Dan Soucek, R-Alexander and one of the senators who Cooper has met with, said he enjoys meeting with students like Cooper that put a face to the difficulties universities cope with in troubled economic times. "They are the people who are being affected right now," he said. "They are some of the sharpest students I've run across." Soucek, who serves the district in which Appalachian State University is located, said talking with university students and administrators influenced him to suggest lower cuts for the system during committee meetings. The school's administration was not prepared for a cut higher than 15 percent, he said. "They kept describing that cut as being from difficult to harmful — or even catastrophic," he said.

A target of 10 percent

Though the Senate's budget would provide some relief for universities, Cooper said she had hoped legislators would settle on the University administration's target of a more manageable cut of 10 percent. And the budget would reduce funding for the system's need-based financial aid program by \$37.9 million.

Sen. Jim Davis, R-Cherokee and another senator that met with Cooper in his office, said he hadn't talked with any students before Cooper, but that it's important to keep the state's budget shortfall of \$2.4 billion in perspective. "We got elected to come down here and try to make a difference for the state," he said. "What's the use of giving you an education if the state is broke?" Davis said the state's deficit makes it difficult to further decrease funding cuts for the UNC system, and tuition increases will likely be the only solution for cash-strapped universities. "We just have to get our fiscal house in order, and then we'll be allowed to better fund programs that work," he said. Cooper said she will continue to meet with legislators while the House and Senate conference on a final budget to send to Gov. Bev Perdue's desk. Perdue could veto the bill, lengthening the budget debate and delaying action on potential supplemental tuition increases for university students. Students on the listserv were encouraged in an email Tuesday to contact the governor's office in support of a veto.

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

BUDGET

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member of the Senate appropriations committee on education, said he expects the conferencing process between both chambers to take about two or three weeks. "Our goal was to have a budget before the governor before the end of the fiscal year," Soucek said. "We're on schedule to do that." But if Gov. Bev Perdue vetoes the bill, decisions on the final amount of state funding for universities and supplemental tuition increases would be put on hold. The Republican leadership might have to make concessions on cuts to education to craft a bill that Perdue will sign, or they could seek bipartisan support to override a veto. Soucek said schools in the state simply want certainty about the sacrifices they'll have to make as

the state attempts to plug a budget shortfall of \$2.4 billion. "They'd much rather have the difficult news today so they begin planning here rather than having a two-week continuation budget on top of uncertainty," he said. The UNC system would shoulder the burden of those sacrifices in both the Senate and House versions of the budget. The Senate's budget would reduce funding for community colleges and K-12 public schools by 10.7 percent and 5.8 percent, respectively. Sen. Jim Davis, R-Cherokee, said the endowments, grants and tuition payments that universities receive influenced legislators to spare the state's other education levels with less resources. "You don't have an opportunity to get a Pell grant for K-12 students," he said. Contact the State & National Editor at [state@dailytarheel.com](mailto:state@dailytarheel.com).

PLAN

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ment that reduce our dependency on the automobile," he said.

Development stages

Mary Jane Nirdlinger, assistant planning director for the town, said the new comprehensive plan is still in its early stages. The plan's initiating committee, which is made up of 15 residents intended to represent the diverse interests of the town, held its

second meeting Tuesday night to begin determining the plan's development process. Nirdlinger said she hopes to see the plan adopted by June 2012. With future conflicts sure to arise, Merklein said the new comprehensive plan should be updated periodically. "In today's world, things accelerate so rapidly that we need to look at the plan every five to 10 years," he said. Contact the City Editor at [city@dailytarheel.com](mailto:city@dailytarheel.com).

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14 TU JOINNY (Norman Blake of Teenage Fanclub and Euros Child of Gorky's) w/ Aspen Manor\*\* (\$15)

16 TH DAVE ALVIN and the GUILTY ONES and LOS STRATJACKETS\*\* (\$17/\$20)

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