

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Cooper lobbies for smaller cuts

**The student body president's influence is admittedly small in the face of a \$2.4 billion shortfall.**

By Daniel Wiser  
State & National Editor

Lobbying at the N.C. General Assembly is a waiting game.

Sometimes it's possible to arrange set meetings with legislators, but their fixed schedules rarely allow for extended office hours.

The best — and maybe only — chance to catch a senator on a daily basis is after he or she leaves a committee meeting, or a representative after he or she leaves a session in the N.C. House chamber.

A lobbyist's entire day might be consumed by chasing legislators down the hall, but that's what he or she is trained to do. Lobbyists line up outside committee room doors, neatly dressed and waiting for the moment to plead their case.

But not all lobbyists are employed by the most powerful companies in the state. Some are just concerned constituents, or even students.

For Mary Cooper, lobbying is worth the wait. It's about the chance to introduce herself to legislators as the president of a body of students who are paying attention to decisions made about 30 miles away, in Raleigh.

But the challenge comes with inherent limitations, legislators said.

Rep. Bill Faison, D-Caswell and former member of the student government at UNC, said meetings between legislators and students are beneficial to universities but unlikely to alter the political agenda of a party's leadership.

"Every time that they see a constituent and see someone such as Mary speaking for a large population group, that is very helpful," he said. "In terms of changing them, I'm not sure if you had a nuclear bomb over there you could change them."

### A legislative strategy

When the Republican leadership in the House proposed a cut of 17.4 percent or \$483 million in state funding for the UNC system in April, Cooper began to meet with University administrators to

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DTH/ERIN HULL

Sen. Dan Soucek, R-Alexander, speaks with Chandler Thompson, N.C. State University's student body president, and Mary Cooper.

## Chapel Hill to assess future

**The comprehensive plan has not been updated since its 2000 creation.**

By Chelsey Dulaney  
Staff Writer

While creating a budget for the upcoming fiscal year, Chapel Hill officials set only one new goal: to update the town's comprehensive plan.

Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt said the new plan will create a long-term vision for the town and establish guidelines to help the community reach its goals over a 10- to 15-year period.

The plan will address issues like where new development will occur, how to integrate other municipal functions into a changing community and how the town's relationship with the University will evolve, he said.

It has been more than 10 years since the town has reevaluated its comprehensive plan. Since then, the town has faced dramatic changes.

"Everything is on the table for reassessment," Kleinschmidt said.

### The new issues

Although support for the previous plan was widespread, many officials agree that it fails to address issues that were not foreseen when the plan was created.

"The May 2000 plan is vague and appears to offer few tools which allow either planning staff, council members or citizens to evaluate land use applications," Chapel Hill Town Council member Ed Harrison wrote in an email.

The changing face of development in the town is one issue that council member Matt Czajkowski said he is concerned about.

In the past few years, Czajkowski said several large, mixed-use developments like Greenbridge have been approved in the face of resident opposition.

"There is this general theory that the only way Chapel Hill is to grow is vertically," he said. "A lot of people are asking, 'Is this really the future we want?'"

Environmental awareness has also become increasingly prominent during the past 10 years but is not currently part of the plan.

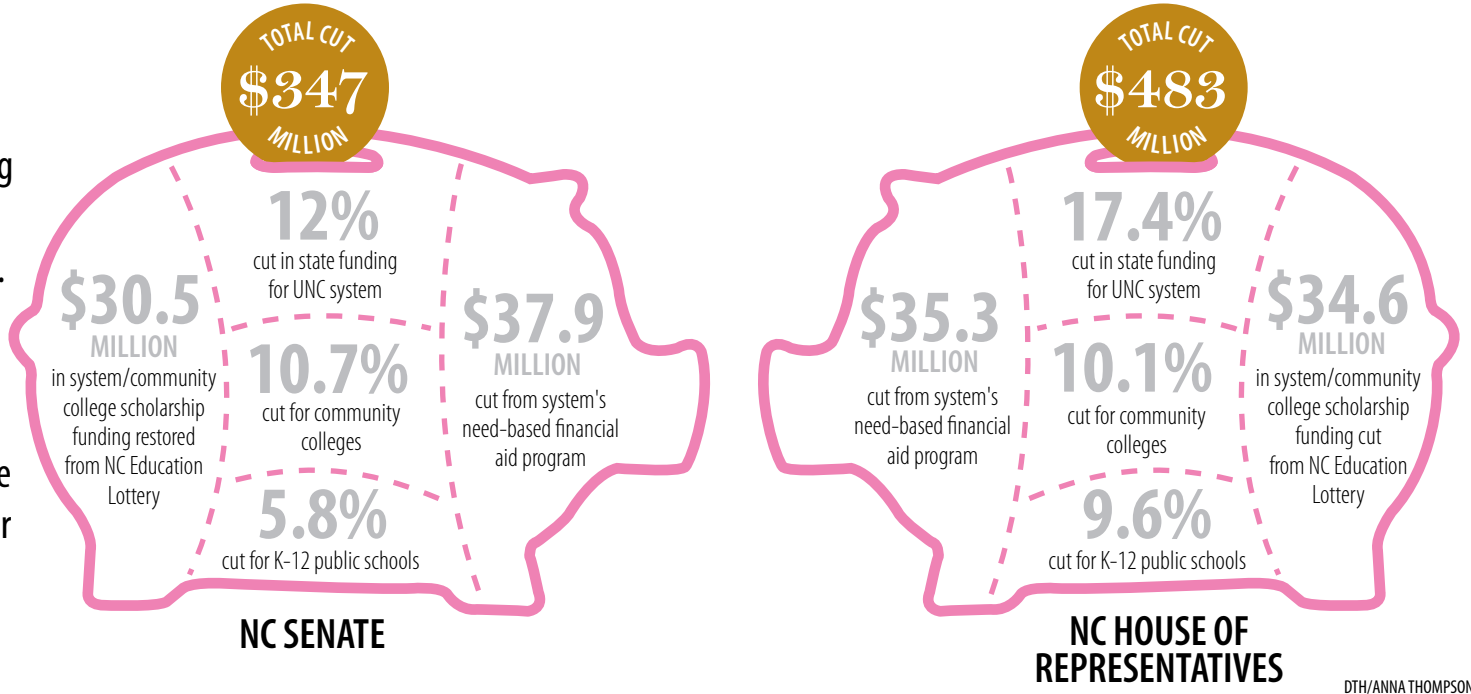
Gordon Merklein, a member of the plan's initiating committee and executive director of UNC real estate development, said he hopes the plan will look at ways to reduce dependence on oil.

"As a community, we need to look at different types of develop-

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## LEGISLATORS PROPOSE VARYING CUTS TO UNC-SYSTEM SCHOOLS

The Senate and House versions of the state budget differ on funding cuts for UNC-system schools by \$136 million. Both bodies must compromise on a budget to send to Gov. Bev Perdue's desk before the end of the fiscal year on June 30.



SOURCE: STATE BUDGET MONEY REPORTS

DTH/ANNA THOMPSON

## NC Senate proposes decreased cuts for UNC

**Despite concessions to the cuts, tuition hikes are still likely.**

By Daniel Wiser  
State & National Editor

Although not as deep as a 17.4 percent cut, the latest proposed reduction in state funding would still puncture the academic core of universities, UNC-system administrators say.

The N.C. Senate's version of the budget would reduce state appropriations for the system by 12 percent or \$347 million, compared to the N.C. House of Representatives proposed cut of \$483 million.

The Senate's proposal includes a cut of \$37.9 million for the system's need-based financial aid program.

Bruce Carney, executive vice chancellor and provost, said the cut in the Senate's budget would actually represent a 13.5 percent

cut for the academic side of universities because some state funds are specifically allocated for building construction.

Carney said any cut above 5 percent would impact instruction, requiring tuition increases to maintain the quality of the University's faculty and course selections. The system's Board of Governors has already proposed hikes averaging \$208 for undergraduate residents and \$650 for nonresidents.

Last year's budget included

a provision that allowed individual campuses to approve supplementary tuition increases up to \$750 to offset cuts in state funding. Carney and Chancellor Holden Thorp chose to increase tuition by the full \$750.

But another supplementary increase this year might not be enough, Carney said.

"I would support a tuition increase to help save the kinds of things that matter to students, faculty and staff," he said. "But there's no way we will be able to

cover even half of the cut."

The Senate's budget does restore scholarship funding from the North Carolina Education Lottery for UNC-system and community college students that was eliminated in a last-minute House budget amendment.

The House and Senate must compromise on a final version of the budget by the end of the fiscal year on June 30. Sen. Dan Soucek, R-Alexander and a

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 4

## Transcripts to include grade distributions

**Officials hope the new transcripts will help ease grade inflation.**

By Lyle Kendrick  
University Editor

As the University prepares for the implementation of a contextualized grading policy, officials say they are striving to make the new transcripts both accessible and informative.

The new policy, which will provide more statistics on transcripts in an effort to combat grade inflation, passed the Faculty Council in April and was presented to the Board of Trustees last week.

In the board meeting, Chancellor Holden Thorp said the issue has been a problem 28 to 30 years in the making.

Andrew Perrin, associate chairman of the sociology department and chairman of the committee that created the plan, said the new transcript was influenced by the grading systems of Indiana University and Dartmouth College.

But the University is aiming to use a more informative transcript than Dartmouth and a more simplified transcript than Indiana, Perrin said.

Meredith Braz, registrar at Dartmouth, said the college's system of including median grades and enrollment sizes has pushed faculty members to grade to higher standards.

But the transcript has not been perfect in equalizing grade standards, she said.

"We still do have a problem with grade inflation," Braz said.

She said students look at the information about classes, which is included on the registrar's web-

### NEW TRANSCRIPT WITH CONTEXTUALIZED GRADES

COURSE	GRADE	MEDIAN	HRS	QUAL PTS	PERCENTILE RANGE	SIZE
2010 SPRING TERM						
PROGRAM: COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, BACHELOR OF ARTS						
MAJOR: EXERCISE AND SPORT SCIENCE						
MINOR: BIOLOGY						
BIOL 402	INFECTIOUS DISEASE	A-	[C+]	3.0	11.10	[18%-25%] 66
EXSS 188	EMERGENCY CARE	A	[A-]	3.0	12.00	[0%-36%] 48
CLASS MEDIAN						
AHRS	EHRS	QHRS	QPTS	GPA	SPA	ABOVE AT BELOW
CURRENT	16.0	16.0	16.0	63.10	3.944	[3.070] 4 0 0
CUMULATIVE	161.0	161.0	130.0	497.60	3.828	[3.101] 34 7 1
STATUS	DEAN'S LIST					
STATUS	GOOD STANDING					

SOURCE: HTTP://FACOUN.UNC.EDU



These are five of the components that will be added to the new transcript:

- 1 Median grade attained
- 2 Percentile range in which the student's earned grade falls
- 3 Total number of students taking the course section
- 4 Schedule point average (the GPA of the average person taking the course)
- 5 Number of course sections in which the student achieved below, at and above the course section median

DTH/ANNA THOMPSON

site, to determine which classes have the easiest grading.

"Hopefully they look at other pieces of information too and that's not the driving force," she said.

The University's plan will

include a similar database, said Bruce Carney, executive vice chancellor and provost, in the board's meeting last week.

While the new system will improve the transcripts viewed by graduate schools and employers,

it is aimed at improvement within the University, Perrin said.

"The actual goal is to increase the fairness and accuracy of grading at Carolina," he said.

SEE GRADING, PAGE 4

## Inside

### FELLOW PHASEOUT

The N.C. Senate budget proposes eliminating the N.C. Teaching Fellows Program by 2015. **Page 3.**



### TAR HEELS HOSTING

UNC baseball earned a No. 3 seed in the NCAA Tournament, and will host No. 4-seeded Maine tomorrow. **Page 7.**

### ROSEMARY FLIP

A woman's Chevrolet Suburban flipped at the corner of East Rosemary and Henderson on Tuesday morning. The woman was arrested on charges of texting while driving and DWI. **Page 6.**

### This day in history

#### JUNE 2, 1913

The statue honoring students who served in the Confederate Army, now known as Silent Sam, was dedicated in McCorkle Place.

### Today's weather



The ground is lava  
**H 93, L 66**

### Friday's weather



Getting kind of avant garde  
**H 87, L 67**

“OK, Houston, we’ve had a problem here.”  
JACK SWIGERT, ASTRONAUT ON NASA'S APOLLO 13 MISSION, AFTER AN OXYGEN TANK EXPLODED