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Guest column: **UHS, ECU ready to face health care reform challenges**

Sunday, May 16, 2010

It is hard to believe that, after more than a year, the health care reform debate is behind us. But it is. More than a month has passed since Congress approved and President Barack Obama signed the sweeping bill into law.

Whether you support or oppose the new law, there is no denying that it promises to transform American health care.

For at least as long as Congress and the public debated the merits of health care reform, we at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina have been preparing for its effects.

Above all, we expect to see sharply increased demand for medical care in eastern North Carolina. By requiring people to buy health insurance and mandating that insurers remove barriers to coverage, the new law gives millions of Americans easier access to health care. We expect the previously uninsured to take full advantage of that new accessibility.

This crush of new demand coincides with a period of great growth for UHS and ECU. Much of that growth is easy to see. In the last few years, we have jointly built the $220 million East Carolina Heart Institute and an endoscopy center.

At ECU, we have built a new Health Sciences Building, where the next generation of nurses and allied health professionals learn their crafts. In progress are a new Family Medicine Center and a dental school.

In the last three years, UHS has added two managed hospitals to its eastern North Carolina network. The system has also brought cutting-edge technologies and medical expertise to rural areas and is planning a major expansion of the children’s hospital at Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

But our organizations have also grown in subtler ways. UHS has steadily increased its workforce, which now includes more than 9,500 people. Brody is in the midst of an enrollment boom, welcoming 8 percent more students in 2010 than it did in 2006.

As economic circumstances allow, we plan to continue growing to meet the needs of the region. Though many of the specific policies and programs in the law are new, the issues they address are not. Gaps in health insurance coverage, underfunding of preventive care, the primary care shortage — these concerns have been with us for decades. If we succeed in addressing these issues, novel ones will emerge in their wake.

Rest assured that UHS and ECU stand ready to face these challenges. For more than 30 years, we have been here for eastern North Carolina. For all that health care reform does change, nothing can alter our commitment to this region.

Dr. Paul Cunningham is the dean of the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. Dave McRae is the chief executive officer of University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina.
EC Scholars selections include two Pitt seniors
The Daily Reflector
Friday, May 14, 2010
Two Pitt County high school students have been selected as EC Scholars at East Carolina University.
Taylor Lawless of D.H. Conley and Kofi Monney of J.H. Rose were among 11 students to receive the four-year merit scholarship, the flagship merit scholarship awarded by the university. EC Scholars receive a scholarship for four years of study plus a stipend for study abroad, worth approximately $45,000.
Each year, 10 to 12 incoming first-year students are selected for the scholarship based on academic achievement, community involvement and leadership potential.
Taylor, the daughter of James and Lisa Lawless of Grimesland, plans to major in biology and Spanish. At Conley, she has been a member of the track and cross country teams and has participated in Beta Club and National Honor Society, as well as Spanish and science honor societies. She also served as a member of Link Crew.
Kofi, the son of Joyce and Ekon Monney of Greenville, plans to major in biology. At Rose, he has played varsity basketball and been a member of the National Honor Society. He also served as a marshal and participated in the Summer Ventures program. A volunteer for Special Olympics, Kofi also taught math and science to students in Ghana, Africa.
During their four years as EC Scholars, students participate in classroom, campus and community activities designed to foster their intellectual curiosity, personal leadership and an appreciation of global issues.
The students live during their first year in the honors residence hall and participate in the University Honors College.
During their second year, the scholars focus on creating and implementing a civic engagement project; in their third year, the focus is on personal leadership development.
Fourth-year scholars complete a Senior Capstone Project in their major discipline. Projects vary from research theses to juried recitals or shows to supervised field experiences.
The EC Scholars merit scholarship program was established in 1998 to attract students possessing the greatest potential to become scholars and leaders.
Recent graduates have continued on to medical, professional and graduate programs and received Fulbright Scholarships to support graduate study abroad.
Regional health issues concern for ECU med school

By William F. West
Staff writer

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Eastern North Carolina is facing the potential of losing doctors and increasing major health issues in a region already beset by disease and poverty.

“We have sicker, more expensive patients to take care of with an aging physician population being paid with indigent care, Medicaid, Medicare funds,” Dr. Paul Cunningham, dean of East Carolina University’s Brody School of Medicine, told The Daily Advance earlier this week. “That’s not so good.”

The school, which is 35 years old, is No. 2 nationally in producing family doctors, but the school has faced $43 million in non-restored budget cuts over time, Cunningham said.

And Cunningham cited increasingly high costs in treating those with no income.

The state last year provided $2 million for indigent care, “but when you’re losing close to $10 million, that’s really a small, small component,” he said. The latter was a reference to annual amounts the school spends on indigent health care.

He said that 68 percent of the school’s budget is generated by doctors seeing patients, with 21 percent of the school’s funding coming from the state.

And the school has had to deal with aging facilities while remaining committed to serving economically challenged counties east of Interstate 95, with Bertie and Columbus being the two unhealthiest counties in the state.

Cunningham went on to show several statistics, including that the heart disease mortality rate is 19.5 percent higher in the eastern part of the state than the rest of North Carolina.

Cunningham expressed concern about residents, particularly minorities, being extremely overweight, along with the related health risks.

“Somewhere between 60 and 80 percent of our African-American kids in eastern North Carolina are going to have diabetes,” he predicted.

The Advance asked Cunningham about the difficulty of educating the public about the importance of taking better care of themselves in a region lacking resources and when many residents do not readily see the benefit compared to a more wealthy area.

“That has so many dimensions to it that we can probably barely only scratch the surface of that discussion,” he replied.

He emphasized the importance of educating mothers and noted the schools have a role to play in the proper nutrition of students.

“We can’t have schools serving kids food that you probably wouldn’t want to eat on a regular basis,” he said.

“It’s going to require a huge cultural shift, but it has to be persistent and it has to be effective and it has to be slick,” he added. “This is going to require Madison Avenue-levels of penetration in order to make it work.”

Another problem, Cunningham said, is that while 17 percent of America’s gross national product is dedicated to health care, there is no organization as to how the money is spent.

The GNP is the total market value of all goods and services produced by a nation during a specified period.

“What has happened over time is we have tried to scale up a mom-and-pop type of approach to health care,” Cunningham said, a reference to the days of the country doctors.

“And we’re living in a Walmart world,” in which the retail giant plans what to stock in its stores ahead of time, he said.

“We just don’t have the ability as a nation” to acquire health care in such a manner, he said.

“We’re not that sophisticated yet,” he said.

And for the medical school, it is in a survival mode, he said.

The school is lucky because 60 percent of its students remain in the state, due in part to an emphasis on recruiting North Carolinians, he said.

The school has expanded from 72 to 78 students, but cannot educate more than 80 at a time, he said.

Cunningham said he would like Brody to have as many as 120 students, although he noted this is not a priority.

When asked by The Daily Advance, he said Brody is nowhere meeting an ability to replace older doctors.

“Most doctors are still being imported,” he said.

Other states, as soon as the physician shortage becomes a national issue, are going to hold on to their doctors, he added.

Cunningham said Brody has lost a few personnel.

“Our doctors are loyal to this school, so we’ve been able to hold them together up to this point as a team,” he said, adding they have worked harder as their pay has remain flat.

“But, I don’t know how much longer they’re going to hold on,” he said, noting he is concerned about “flight risks” as soon as the weak national economy shows signs of improvement.

Contact Bill West at bwest@dailyadvance.com
Editorial: UVa. tragedy could provide lessons for East Carolina

Monday, May 17, 2010

At first glance, the death of Yeardley Love, a senior lacrosse player at the University of Virginia, may have little impact on this community or the university that serves as its economic and cultural engine. The tragedy touches local hearts, of course, but it could be considered only the terrible loss of a young woman with tremendous promise, a story that unfolds with alarming frequency around the country.

However, the factors involved — apparent alcohol abuse, a violent act of domestic violence and a series of warning signs — should command the attention of officials and coaches at every university, including East Carolina University. They must not fail to learn the lessons being taught by this incident for fear a similar act be committed here.

On May 3, police in Charlottesville, Va., found a 22-year-old woman dead in her off-campus apartment, the victim of an apparent beating. She was quickly identified as Love, a senior on the university’s highly ranked lacrosse team, sending the Virginia community into mourning for the loss of a popular and promising young woman.

The tragedy then took a more sinister turn when police arrested George Huguey, a senior on the men’s top-ranked lacrosse team, and charged him with murder. Investigators allege that Huguey, fueled by a day of heavy drinking, broke through Love’s door and shook her violently during an argument, slamming her head against a wall. Huguey’s attorney contends Love’s death was an accident.

As the weekend brought the start of NCAA postseason play and a return to the field for two teams in the depths of sorrow, administrators at Virginia are trying to answer questions both small and large about the incident. In addition, the commonwealth’s government is considering changing laws so that universities know about student arrests off-campus, since information about Huguey’s police record might have raised alarm about his well being or stability.

What that means for East Carolina and other schools engaged in Division I athletics, is yet unclear. Certainly the overwhelming majority of student-athletes will never be involved in something like this.

However, the nature of competition means those who play at such a high level do find themselves in legal run-ins and responsible for more modest instances of violence. That calls on school officials in administrative roles to follow the developments at Virginia carefully, and to see how its response to this tragedy could shape the way East Carolina can better care for its student-athletes.
Retired professor circumnavigates the globe

By Mark Rutledge
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, May 16, 2010

Dr. Earl Trevathan was known as a “lifelong learner” even before he was given that label during an ocean voyage around the globe last fall. But the retired pediatrician will tell you the 111 days he spent with 520 college students in the Semester at Sea program most certainly provided a lifetime of knowledge.

“The theme of the trip,” Trevathan told the Sierra Club Cypress Group in Greenville, “was globalization, which has advantages and disadvantages.”

In his closing comments, the 86-year-old reflected on what the trip meant for him.

“I think what was so special, so rare an experience, was being in the company of many bright, attractive and energetic young college students. Crossing paths with these dynamic young people was my supreme experience.”

The nonprofit Semester at Sea program is sponsored by the Institute for Shipboard Education, founded in 1963 with the University of Virginia as its academic sponsor. Trevathan, also a retired professor with the Brody School of Medicine, was invited to participate in the voyage by his daughter, Wenda Trevathan, a professor of anthropology at New Mexico State University. Wenda Trevathan has served as an instructor during several Semester at Sea voyages.

“It was the fourth time she had invited me,” Trevathan said. “I never could go before because I was too busy working as a pediatrician.”

About 55 percent of the trip is aboard the MV Explorer. The 8-year-old passenger ship is billed as one of the safest and fastest afloat. It’s a floating college campus as well.

The 590-foot ship has a student union, wireless Internet and an 8,000-volume library. The library’s volumes are tailored to international study, travel, world cultures, religion, art, history and to the curriculum and itinerary of each voyage. There are 20 disciplines of study with more than 75 course offerings in the fall and spring terms and 30 offered in the summer term. Extensive in-country filed programs comprise 20 percent of the coursework, and takes place during the 45 percent of the trip spent in port.

The SAS mission statement includes a commitment to “profoundly transformative study-abroad experiences that emphasize global exchange and awareness.”

Notable lecturers and guests of the program include Fidel Castro, Anwar Sadat, Mikhail Gorbachev, Mother Teresa and Nelson Mandela.

Trevathan speaks eloquently about his SAS experience during slideshow presentations, where he shows a few of his more than 1600 digital images from the trip. He is scheduled to give the program for the Greenville Noon Rotary Club in September and is available for other groups.
Speaking about the students’ unique experiences on the trip, Trevathan says, “They were challenged at the beginning of the voyage to open their minds, peer deeply, engage themselves in all they would see and do. Before their eyes they would see the dregs of poverty, the poorest of the poor, the shining city on a hill and happy faces on children from West Africa to Japan.

“They would rethink war, the cruelty of oppression, the misdistribution of wealth, and they would dwell on and study globalization as it impacts our world and puts us at eye level with dominating forces that affect us all.”

Trevathan’s postings on the trip can be read on his blog, Earl’s World, at http://earltrevathan.blogspot.com/

To schedule a presentation, contact Trevathan at 830-1331.

Contact Mark Rutledge at mrutledge@reflector.com or (252) 329-9575.
Superintendent Beverly Reep hands out ice pops from the back of a golf cart during an End-of-Grade tests rally at C.M. Eppes Middle School on Friday.
Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector

Students cheer on their classmates and teachers as they participate in a version of the television show “Minute To Win It” during an End-of-Grade tests rally for students at C.M. Eppes Middle School on Friday.
Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector

Ruffin McNeill

**Coach fires up students at rally**

By Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Friday, May 14, 2010

The field and the audience were a bit smaller than usual, but that didn’t stop East Carolina University head football coach Ruffin McNeill from giving a speech full of inspiration and motivation as only a coach can do.

McNeill was the featured speaker at a rally Friday at C.M. Eppes Middle School to kick off the End-of-Grade (EOG) tests that begin next week for Pitt County Schools.
“This year we decided to do something to get the kids motivated beforehand instead of rewarding them afterwards,” principal Charlie Langley said. “We’re practically on campus, and we’ve done a lot of events with ECU. We usually do something every year for EOGs, and this year it’s great to have the coach out here.”

Under a banner proclaiming “EOGs don’t have to be ‘ruff,’” McNeill addressed sixth, seventh and eighth-graders on the Eppes athletics field in the shadow of nearby Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

“I know you’re ready,” McNeill told the students. “Trust what you have learned in the classroom, trust your teachers. You’re all prepared, you’ve all done the work. You can do this, and you will do this.”

McNeill challenged the students to be the best in the city and the county and led the familiar dual “purple, gold” stadium chant using the words “we can, we will,” much to students’ excitement.

“I’m so proud of you. Good luck, and knock ‘em out,” McNeill said.

McNeill also emphasized trust and preparation in his speeches to his football players, and he said there were a lot of similarities between getting ready for tests and for games.

“Trusting in each other and trusting in preparation and what you’ve been taught are important in both situations,” McNeill said.

Another coach, school instructional coach Jeff Bell, led the students in games and contests before McNeill arrived, including racing to knock cups off tables or bounce ping pong balls a certain way without using their hands.

“Sometimes these tasks seem impossible but they can be done, just like the EOGs,” Bell told the students.

Teachers also performed popular songs with the lyrics changed to reflect doing well on the tests. “The kids have been working hard this week and things are going great. Things should be very calm for EOG week next week,” Langley said.

The North Carolina End-of-Grade tests are given in reading and math in grades three through eight and are designed to measure student performance on the goals, objectives, and grade-level competencies specified in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or (252) 329-9567.
Kyle Gross, left, and Dyrelle Moseley carry furniture down steps at Fleming Residence Hall on Monday. The old furniture was sold as surplus and will be replaced this summer with more flexible-use pieces that students have requested — a separate desk and dresser unit.

Cliff Hollis/ECU News Services
Jeffrey Johnson

New department chairmen in place at ECU

Saturday, May 15, 2010

ECU News Services

When fall semester begins, three chairpersons will be in place for the departments of English, history and mathematics at East Carolina University.

Dr. Alan White, dean of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, made the appointments.

On July 1, Jeffrey Johnson, professor of English at Northern Illinois University, will begin his new role as chairman of the Department of English, replacing interim chairman Ron Mitchelson.

Gerry Prokopowicz will move from interim to permanent chairman of the Department of History.

And July 6, Johannes Hattingh, professor and graduate director of mathematics at Georgia State University, will begin as the chairman of the Department of Mathematics.

“English, history and mathematics are essential parts of the whole that comprise any college of arts and sciences,” White said. “These core disciplines play a major role in supporting the basic foundations curriculum for every student at ECU, and therefore, I am extremely delighted and relieved that we have appointed three excellent candidates as chairs for these Harriot College departments.”

Johnson has spent 10 years teaching English at Northern Illinois University. His expertise falls within the area of British Renaissance literature, with particular interests in the life and writings of John Donne. Johnson has worked with Thomas Harriot’s papers in the British Library.

“The Department of English at ECU houses a wonderfully diverse and talented faculty and staff, and as such, I am both delighted and humbled to be appointed as chair,” Johnson said. “I have every confidence that working in concert with my new colleagues, we can shape a bright future for the department and for our students.”

Prokopowicz, who came to ECU in 2003, is an associate professor of history and has held the position of Harriot College’s interim chairman in the Department of History since 2007. He is a known scholar on the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln and is the author of “Did Lincoln Own Slaves? And Other Frequently Asked Questions about Abraham Lincoln.”

“It is a great honor to be asked to serve as chair of the History Department,” Prokopowicz said. “We have a very productive faculty, an enthusiastic body of undergraduate majors, a growing master’s program and the unique Program in Maritime Studies. It’s an exciting time to be part of this department.”
He expressed his surprise at how different it is to serve as chairman, after three years in the role of interim chair.

“In addition to dealing with immediate issues, I’m finding more opportunity to focus on long-range planning. It’s a great challenge, but structurally, I think it will benefit the department to be able to count on having the same person in place for awhile,” Prokopowicz said.

Hattingh, the new chairman in mathematics, has taught courses the past 22 years that range from numerical analysis, graph theory, abstract algebra, linear algebra and modern algebra, to elementary statistics, precalculus and calculus. He has published more than 80 scholarly articles, and he is a member of the American Mathematical Society and a Fellow of the Institute of Combinatorics and its Applications.

“I am very excited about joining the Department of Mathematics at East Carolina University as departmental chair, and I look forward to working with the dean’s office and the department’s faculty in strengthening the department’s teaching and research profiles by using the external program review as a spring board,” Hattingh said. “The department already has excellent faculty, and with the necessary infusion of resources, I am confident that it will go from strong to stronger.”

Newest Servire members inducted

During East Carolina University’s Founder Day—University Awards event April 27, this year’s members of the Servire Society, which began in 2008, were inducted. The university’s motto is Servire, which means to serve.


Students who were inducted to the Servire Society are: Eric Anthony, Elizabeth Austin-Straughn, Vladim Bobrovnikov, Aisha Breeden, Ian Bryan, Alane Collinson, Chelsea Demarest, Samantha Dinner, Sayward Harrison, Amanda Hodges, Kari Kirian, Jonathan Landen, Salena Leavy, Paula Loftin, Maria McDonald, Charles West Overman, Devang Patel, Roger Peery, Shardha Persaud, Sunil Persaud, Amanda Pugh, Emily Sinning, Kyle Smithwick, Allen Thomas, William Thomas, Makayla Thrower and Emmanuel Wilder.

Living for 500 years? implications discussed

Calvin Mercer, ECU professor of religious studies, led a seminar for chaplains in training on the impact of biomedical advances that could indefinitely extend healthy human life. The training was held at Pitt County Memorial Hospital in late April.

Mercer has co-edited, along with Dr. Derek Maher, a book titled “Religion and the Implications of Radical Life Extension.” He is one of a few scholars looking at the religious and cultural implications of various biomedical developments that eventually could extend healthy human life for hundreds of years. These developments include genetic engineering, body part replacement, nanotechnology and the merging of computer technology with human biology.
“My goal is to generate a conversation in society about these developments, so we can be prepared for their impact,” Mercer said.
“This was once the stuff of science fiction, but now there are very serious scientists working on many fronts to achieve practical immortality.
“Hospital chaplains, working in our hospitals, should be conversant with these issues.”

**Student receives Google scholarship**

A graduate student in the College of Technology and Computer Science has received the Google Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship for 2010.
Boya Xie, who is studying computer science, will receive a scholarship award of $10,000 for her scholastic achievements. All scholarship recipients and finalists will be invited to attend the annual Google scholars’ retreat in Mountain View, Calif.
The three-day retreat will include workshops, speakers, panelists, breakout sessions and social activities.
“ECU is the place where my abilities and potential get boosted,” Xie said. “It provides me the stage to perform. I heartily appreciate the department and the professors, such as Dr. Ding, Dr. Placer and Dr. Tabrizi, just to name a few, who always give me strong support.”

Google established the scholarship in 2004 in memory of Anita Borg, a computer science pioneer who dedicated her life to changing the way society feels about diversity and technology.
Her namesake scholarship continues to support under- and post-graduate women completing degrees in computer science and related areas and to encourage the next generation of women to follow in her footsteps.

“The scholarship contributes to the college’s commitment to diversity and demonstrates the excellent quality of our students and the support provided to them by our faculty,” David White, dean of the College of Technology and Computer Science, said.

**Upcoming Event:**
Tuesday: Full-scale emergency campus drill, 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., west end of main campus. See [www.ecu.edu/news](http://www.ecu.edu/news) for more information.
See [www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm) for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.
Decision Day™ means more education

by Roger Bell
The Daily Herald Staff Writer

ROANOKE RAPIDS — Students await the next step after high school and share in that excitement as the gym at Northampton County West STEM High School filled with cheers. Graduating, college-bound seniors shared their choices of school with their parents and fellow students Friday afternoon during the school’s second annual Decision Day.

“We are proud of our seniors for their work ethic,” stated event co-emcee Jakara Vincent, herself a college-bound senior headed for East Carolina University.

“I always knew I would attend college out of high school,” Marcus Benjamin — headed for Ferrum College — said as he addressed the assembly. However, Benjamin had to admit taking the SAT gave him some pause. “If it weren’t for my father saying ‘son, you’ve got to take that SAT,’ I probably wouldn’t have taken it and wouldn’t be giving this speech now.”

Many see the end of high school as the beginning of a new phase of life. Guest speaker Wayne Kimball Jr., a rising senior and president of the Student Government Association at North Carolina A&T University, sees it as the next step toward greatness for the seniors.

“There are a lot of reasons why students may be reluctant to take on the challenges of college, but the bottom line is that they will never be as good as they can be if they don’t push themselves to achieve their potential.”

Northampton County School Superintendent Dr. Eric Bracy also addressed the students, and like Kimball, exhorted them to believe in themselves.

“You can accomplish anything you want,” Bracy stated. “You can make as much money as you want and you can do anything you want.”

Bracy also told the students to cherish their time in college.

“Enjoy the ride,” he said. “Have fun, make friends. But remember why you’re there.”

Northampton West STEM Principal Felicia Wyche congratulated the class and gave credit to the parents.

“Without the parents’ support we know most of our students would not be sitting here today,” Wyche stated. “We wish you the best of luck; you are a dynamic class. You are in the best years of your lives, so enjoy them.”

Justin Bolton, who served as co-emcee for the ceremony, was accepted to nine of the ten schools to which he applied. He chose East Carolina.

“It’s close to home,” Bolton insisted. “My Mom didn’t want me going too far for a while. My grandfather went there. It had a real college atmosphere.”
Bolton’s mother Ginny said her son has been preparing all through high school to attend college.

As for why so many schools accepted her son, Ginny Bolton had some ideas.

“His personality, his way of communicating with people,” she said. “He’s very determined.”

Norman Benjamin, whom his son mentioned pushed him to take the SATs, is proud to see Marcus going to Ferrum with the idea of eventually becoming a medical doctor.

“He’s a good child, a good young man,” Norman Benjamin said. “And he worked hard to get there. I just hope he accomplishes what he wants.”

The seniors themselves feel happy to have reached this point.

“All of us seniors are ready to begin our lives as college students,” said Jasmine Clements, who will be attending North Carolina A&T. “We’re proud of ourselves and the staff at West — without them we would not be here.”

“I’m proud of myself as well as my fellow classmates,” Raven Ransom, who will be attending North Carolina Central University, shared. “Thanks to all our parents as well as the staff members.”

“This has been the best four years of my life,” Ebony Coles, who will be heading to East Carolina, said. “I feel like NCHS West has been my second home, and I’m ready to spread my wings and fly.”

Some students feel a little sad to be saying goodbye to their high school classmates, but relieved to be through it.

“I worked extremely hard and I’m very happy I got to know everyone,” India Brower, who will be attending Fayetteville State University, explained. “This by far has been my best year ever.”
UNCSA says state cuts would gut programs

By Laura Giovannelli
Winston-Salem Journal

WINSTON-SALEM

Gov. Bev Perdue's proposed budget cuts to the University of North Carolina system would be devastating to the UNCSchool of the Arts, its chancellor has told the university's trustees.

Perdue wants to cut an additional $100 million from the UNC system and its 17 campuses, including $1.4 million from UNCSA. The impact on the school would include cuts in performance production, library purchases, money for guest artists, the elimination of a faculty teaching and learning center that helps faculty with instruction and curriculum construction, and possible staff reduction.

This is on top of years of cuts that together could make it "practically impossible to run the school," Chancellor John Maunder said during a trustees' meeting earlier this month. "We definitely pulled the rabbit out of the hat last year. This year they may be taking away the hat."

UNCSA received state appropriations of about $26 million, said George Burnett, the chief operating officer. Over the past 10 years, UNCSA has permanently cut $6.57 million from its budget, $3.56 million in the past three years, he said.

Burnett said that because UNCSA is a conservatory, it can't rely on enrollment increases to make up lost state money.

Burnett said that he and other school personnel are working out possible budget scenarios so that they're prepared. "Please let them know," he told trustees, "just how damaging these reductions would be."

UNCSA faculty and staff are used to working with lean budgets.

Half of the school's productions already have no budget for sets and design, Joe Tilford, the dean of Design and Production, said. Designers reuse sets and props from other productions or make do with what they can find. The school puts on 16 to 20 productions a year. "We will find a way to manage. We have to" Tilford said.