Academic Affairs plans for budget cuts

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A tuition hike for all campuses was approved by members of the UNC Board of Governors. They approved a 3.6 percent increase for UNCP.

According to Provost of Academic Affairs Dr. Charles Harrington, the University is doing its best to keep students from feeling the budget crunch academically.

Dr. Harrington said that any budget cuts, temporary or permanent, hurt the University, and given that Academic Affairs is the largest division of the University, they have the largest portion of the budget, and by necessity, "must take the lion's share of the budget reduction."

He noted that during this academic year, Academic Affairs had been asked to weather a temporary budget reduction of approximately 6 percent.

"In order to accommodate those cuts, we have been required to make some tough decisions about our budgets," Dr. Harrington said. "Our over riding philosophy has been that we must protect the integrity and importance of teaching and learning. I think our budget reduction strategy reflect that philosophy and commitment."

In a worst case 7 percent cut scenario, Dr. Harrington said that the first thing Academic Affairs is prepared to do is give back some of the state enrollment growth funds.

"We were relatively certain that the state’s economy would be in jeopardy, so that the beginning of the year we set aside roughly half of our enrollment growth budget in the event that we would need to make permanent budget reductions in 2009-2010," he said.

Dr. Harrington also said that Academic Affairs reduced all academic departments’ operating budgets.

"Even if the cuts go 7 percent or greater, I'll continued on page 2A

Pepsi president: ‘just a simple soda salesman’

By Wade Allen

Managing Editor

Pepsi-Cola North America President Hugh Johnston described himself as "just a simple soda salesman" when he appeared as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series on Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. in front of a crowd of 400 people.

Johnston said Pepsi helped define many different generations.

“We’ve led, rather than mirrored, pop culture,” Johnston said. “Pepsi’s a brand that’s never been afraid of change.”

Johnston paused to show videos of famous Pepsi commercials for the audience to enjoy.

The commercials, ranging from the 1930s to the present, amused the crowd and brought back many memories as some members in the crowd hummed along with the

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