

Kendall Brooks

08/28/2009

Big Pay Cuts for Small Paychecks?

Teachers, professors, lecturers, whatever you want to call them, are often viewed as the lowest paid professionals. This may be true, at times, but at UNC-Asheville you can see some very well off employees.

According to UNCA Information the average full-time professor in the 2008-09 school year made \$84,000 per year. Associate professors seeing \$65,000 on average per year.

With salaries like that, and higher, it's hard to believe that the UNCA faculty are hurting too badly.

However, there are the budget cuts being put into place this year that are threatening to cut into faculty pay.

But why should the faculty at UNCA see any type of a pay cut? According to UNCA Information the freshman class this year is one of the largest on record.

On top of tuition money, the administration at UNCA were forced to cut their adjunct-professors by nearly 50 percent.

According to a letter from Chancellor Ponder to the student body, the University was able to reduce the budget cut from over 10 percent to close to 6 percent. Making the stress lighten, even if only slightly.

Also, earlier this year UNCA received a \$1.5 million donation to help with tuition and with academic needs, this and other donations equal roughly \$6 million.

So the question persists, should professors take a pay cut like the rest of the world? Surely you don't want to cut the pay of a person who's job is to make sure you get the skills necessary for a better life.

The American Association of University Professors suggest that cutting faculty pay, positions and resources is not the answer but a way to further the problem at hand.

According to the AAUP, re-allocation and reinvestment in the educational system will allow students a better shot at success. Students with well paid professors, plenty of resources and affordable tuition will move on to better the financial stagnation we are in.

But if we cut down on faculty, and their pay, and raise tuition how can we expect students to stay in school? Or the professors for that matter?

So before we start telling the professors and faculty of UNCA, and other Universities, that they should take a pay cut, we should evaluate their position.

They are here to help us attain our goals in life, and move on in the world. With a better education one might even be able to solve this financial issues at hand.

But cutting their pay is necessary and detrimental to the recovery. The universities, and the state, should always put education on high priority, right along safety and health.

And, come on, if we were to cut faculty in schools pay, let's go ahead and cut the pay of our local law enforcement. See what happens then.