

Despite enrollment growth, cuts persist

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As another semester begins at UNC Asheville, students said they worry losing adjunct professors will affect their one-on-one time with faculty, said Kayla Bott, a senior in the biology department.

“It’s sad because UNCA is founded on a personal experience with professors and, with a larger class load, I can already see a difference in some of mine,” she said.

The loss of any faculty always causes ripple effects, but UNCA handled the loss of adjuncts and the budget cuts extremely well, said lecturer Seamus McNerney.

“We’ve been letting adjuncts go over the past couple of years, not in preparation, but we weren’t shocked,” he said. “It’s hurricane-preparedness, so that we weren’t devastated by the loss.”

Administration didn’t cut adjuncts arbitrarily, budget cuts forced the university to be frugal, said Pat Catterfeld, assistant provost of the budget. According to UNCA officials, federal stimulus money decreased the budget cuts of 10.4 percent to 6 percent.

“We hired a few adjuncts to cover some classes this semester, so the adjuncts are not completely gone,” she said. “But full-time professors are now going back into the classroom.”

Tentative budget numbers cause difficulty in finalizing decisions, Catterfeld said.

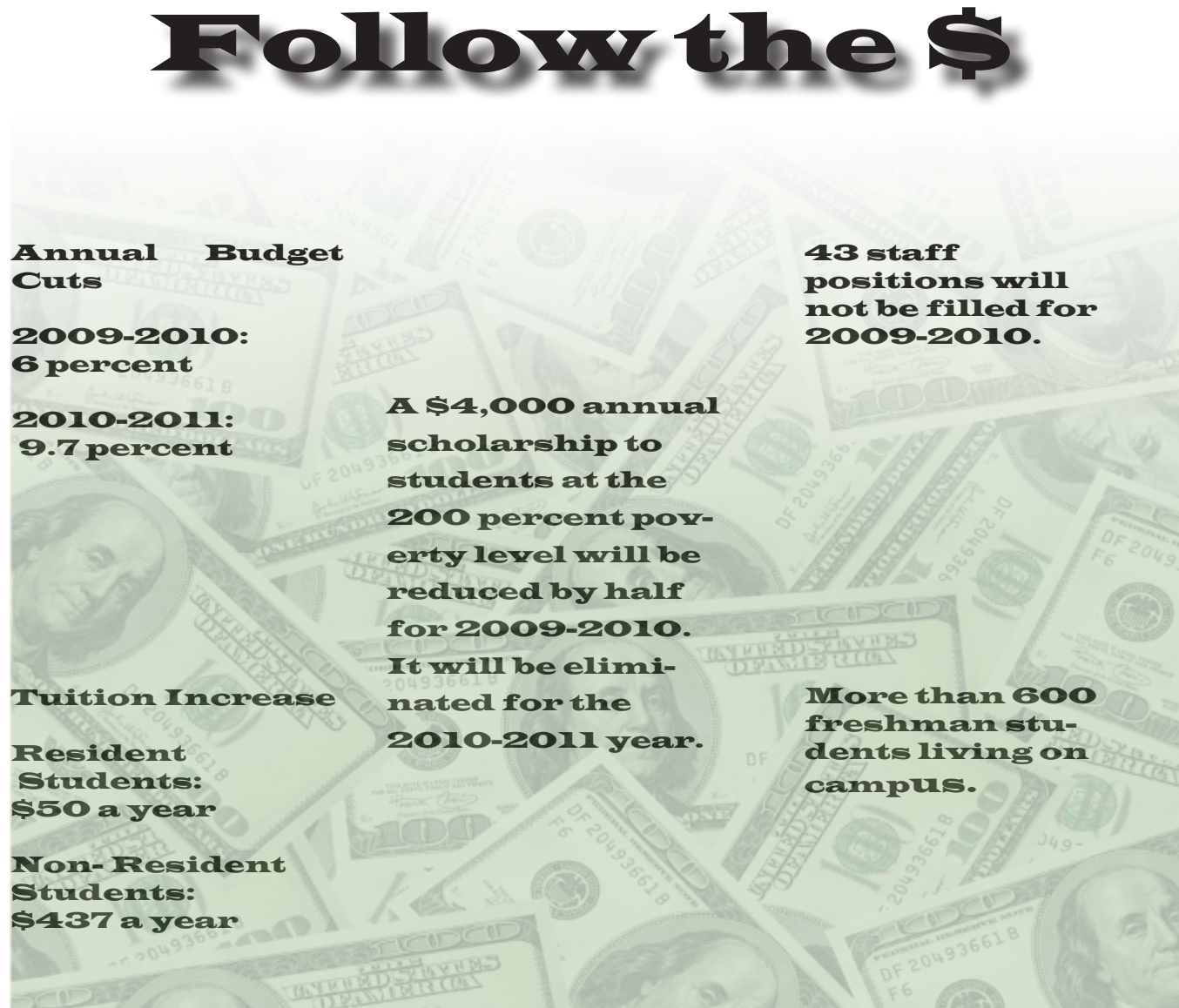
UNC General Administration determines cuts for each university and will take some time to sort out, according to UNCA officials.

“We’ve kind of been told our numbers, though nothing is official until the governor signs the bill,” she said. “It’s not a pleasant way to do business, but it’s one we’ve been through before.”

UNCA is handling the budget cuts better than Appalachian State and Western Carolina, McNerney said.

“The fact that we can cover everything and keep the students’ needs handled is exciting,” he said. “I am proud of the uni-

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Annual Budget Cuts	43 staff positions will not be filled for 2009-2010.
2009-2010: 6 percent	A \$4,000 annual scholarship to students at the 200 percent poverty level will be reduced by half for 2009-2010. It will be eliminated for the 2010-2011 year.
2010-2011: 9.7 percent	More than 600 freshman students living on campus.
Tuition Increase	
Resident Students: \$50 a year	
Non-Resident Students: \$437 a year	

versity. It could have been so much worse, but we pulled together and are making it work.”

Faculty prepared for the adjunct issue before the budget crisis and are not affected, McNerney said.

“Anything different that students experience in the classroom or office hours is really all about the budget. Of which we still know nothing about,” he said.

Adjunct professors helped students less than full-time professors and peers, said

Emery Wild, a transfer student from A-B Tech.

“In my experience you could always tell an adjunct apart because after class they would jet,” he said. “And it always took them forever to respond to an e-mail, but without them other professors are going to have a lot on their hands.”

Students fear office hours may be crowded and impersonal, Bott said.

“Professors taking on bigger classes may have to close the doors to grade and

handle the extra load,” Bott said. “E-mail response time, as well, will probably be a lot longer.”

The loss of an adjunct causes schedules to become crazy, but students will not see any change in personal time with faculty, McNerney said.

“You may have a grumpy professor a couple days a week, but the students are