



## ASU loses \$1.4 million in state funds

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Arkansas State University will lose \$1.4 million in state funding and is looking at ways to cope with the loss, according to Jennus Burton, vice president of finance and administration.

There are two tiers of state funding, Category A and Category B.

Category B has been completely cut from the budget, including \$1.2 million promised to ASU. The remaining amount was cut from Category A, the tier traditionally set aside for the most essential programs at the university.

The University Planning Committee met Friday to discuss the operating budget for the 2002-2003 school year. Although the 2002-2003 budget was approved in the

spring, it will be decreased because of the budget cuts.

Wyatt discussed the primary point of the meeting, the budget process. "The base of the budget for next year will be reduced by a \$1.4 million loss," he said. "We had anticipated a cut would come, but we didn't see the severity of it. It hit us more severe than we would have imagined."

According to Wyatt, the focus is

now on positions unfilled at ASU. "We are going to keep them vacant to produce money," he said. "In the process, we have a commitment to scholarships and we are going to continue."

The flow of funds necessary to support state level accounts came from Category B, Wyatt said. "This includes the Governor's Distinction scholarship and the Arkansas Academic Challenge scholarship.

Students who are already in college and are receiving these will continue to receive them," he said.

However, graduating high school seniors will likely not be eligible for these scholarships.

Wyatt said there is a commitment to ASU-funded scholarships. "That is 10 percent of the operational budget," he said. "We are going to try and continue institutional scholarships as well."

Wyatt said the highest priority of the university is to protect students' interests.

"We can't raise tuition to cover the budget cut," he said. "It's difficult to justify increases if costs must be carried on the backs of students."

He said that if the needs become increased, the biggest change might be a small raise in tuition, which

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## Athletics faces growing deficit

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While Arkansas State University is looking at large budget cuts in most areas, athletics is looking at its own money shortage and will not be susceptible to cuts in funding.

The budget calls for spending of \$8,265,232 over the 2001-2002 fiscal year. The budget is used to operate the 15-sport program at ASU including the management of facilities and administration, according to Doug Abel, associate director of athletics and interim administrative replacement for athletic director.

According to an October budget analysis from the Department of Finance and Administration, the current athletic figures show that there is a projected \$2.1 million deficit for the athletic program.

About \$250,000 of that shortfall can be attributed to unsatisfactory ticket and concession sales from this year's football season.

"There is a high demand for the budget of the athletic program," ASU President Dr. Les Wyatt said at the University Planning Committee meeting Friday. "If there is virtue to the football program, it is in revenue potential. We are convinced we were not going to get there with the program we had in place. We weren't generating revenue, because we weren't winning. I am confident in our ability to manage a way out of this and advise you not to despair."

However, revenue shortfalls can have adverse affects on the athletic budget as it struggles to meet expenses like the \$2,595,563 budgeted for salaries, or the \$3,287,080 needed for supplies and expenses.

Supplies and expenses include \$623,500 paid out by ASU in game guarantees, \$1,066,000 for team

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PHOTO BY BRIAN RODRIGUEZ

Union Advisory Board President David Huckabee (right) pays 6,250 pennies for \$62.50 in city privilege license fees to City Collector Becky Sharp (left) Friday afternoon as City Employee Ken Saddler helps to count the change. Huckabee, a senior political science and speech communications major of Little Rock, said he should not be required to purchase the licenses for his companies, H&K Enterprises and Pyro-Erectus. It took about 45 minutes to count the change, Sharp said.

## Huckabee makes point with 6,250 pennies

By Grover Welch  
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Two companies who have been doing business with the Student Activities Board since August have now been brought into compliance with city licensing requirements that govern businesses operating in Jonesboro.

On Friday Union Advisory Board President David Huckabee paid \$62.50 in city fees for two companies he owns and operates in Jonesboro.

The companies, Pyro Erectus and H&K Enterprises, contracted more than \$5,000 with the SAB to provide services such as providing pens and lighting this year's Homecoming bonfire.

Huckabee, a senior political science and speech communications major of Little Rock,

paid the \$62.50 fine after receiving a notice from the Jonesboro City Collector's office. Huckabee paid the fine using 6,250 pennies, which took more than 45 minutes to process.

When asked if he wanted to comment to The Herald, a visibly dissatisfied Huckabee said, "I don't think so."

While Huckabee would not discuss the payment with the press, he did tell city employees of his disgust with the media treatment of the situation.

Huckabee also voiced concern over the attention he was receiving.

"Obviously, there is nothing better to cover on campus than me licensing my company," Huckabee said. "You'd think they would realize no one even reads that paper, or even takes them seriously yet here they are."

"He has paid the fee in full," City Collector Becky Sharp said.

"We have no further business with Mr. Huckabee, as he is now in compliance with our office," Sharp said.

"I have been paid this way before," Sharp said. "I'm sure he thought it out before he came down here."

Huckabee was asked about the contracts after an ASU employee questioned the ethics of a student leader contracting with another student organization.

Arkansas State University President Les Wyatt defended Huckabee in a letter to the editor to The Herald, which was also sent to other media organizations in the state.

"No purchasing laws or university procedures were violated in the companies' dealings with this student organization," Wyatt said.

Wyatt also apologized to Huckabee for any suggestion of wrongdoing by any university official.

## Miss Black and Gold



PHOTO BY BRIAN RODRIGUEZ

Erica Brown, a senior social work major of Little Rock, won Thursday's Theta Upsilon Miss Black and Gold Pageant, "Queens of the Night," and will represent Arkansas State University Feb. 2 at the Arkansas Miss Black and Gold Pageant. Here she performs an interpretive dance to "Stand" in the talent competition.

## Model UN competes in national, international meet

By Lagena McBride  
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The Arkansas State University Model United Nations has recently concluded two meets where they debated real world issues and devised solutions, said Dr. Charles Hartwig, an associate professor of political science and ASU Model UN adviser.

Five ASU Model UN delegates met in Chicago for the American

Model United Nations International meet Nov. 17-20, where they represented Yemen. Members included David Boling of Jonesboro, Sarah Jones of Conway, Gaylon Rainwater of Knobel, Kylie Wickerham of Bloomsdale, Mo., and Amy Williams of Paragould.

According to Hartwig, the conference was the largest Model UN meeting that ASU has ever participated in. More than 1,000 college student delegates from around the

USA and several foreign countries met in Chicago's Hyatt-Regency Hotel.

The delegates of Chicago were able to choose the country they represented, Hartwig said.

"Yemen was an Arab country, and we had some people who had been a part of the Arab League delegation last spring, so they had a little background. Also, it was a country that had some interesting things going on in 1990.

Yemen abstained when Iraq invaded Kuwait, along with China. Plus, Dr. Marlay had been there last year, and was able to give us a briefing about Yemen."

Delegates enjoyed the Chicago conference, but had to adapt to some rule changes.

"Chicago was a good conference, but it was a little different from the ones we usually go to. The

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## CAMPUS CORNER

### Holiday Open House

A Holiday Open House Celebration, hosted by Dr. Les Wyatt and the administrative staff will be held Thursday, Dec. 6, from 2 - 4 p.m. in the Administration Building Lobby. Come enjoy live entertainment, food and Santa Claus! Help

spread holiday cheer by purchasing a paper Santa from any committee member for \$1. Donations will benefit Santa's Tribe to help make a better Christmas for ASU families.

Contact Stephanie Curton at 972-3940.

### Preparing for a Madrigal Feaste



PHOTO BY BRIAN RODRIGUEZ

The royal court, made up of chamber choir members, split into two groups for one final practice before the second of three Feast of Carols Madrigal Dinners. Included in one of two groups of the royal court were, from left, Cate Holiman, a sophomore vocal education major of Gideon, Mo., Lisa Blakely, a senior vocal performance major of Fort Smith and Jared Rogers, a senior accounting major of Tulsa, Okla.

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