Federal cuts’ effects at USC mostly unclear

Research, financial aid face reduced funding

Thud Morn
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

It’s been nearly a month since sequestration went into effect, but USC isn’t quite sure how it will be affected by the automatic federal budget cuts.

The slate of across-the-board cuts established by the 2011 Budget Control Act are worth $85 billion this year and went into effect March 1. USC isn’t expecting them to go away.

“There is the great hope that sequestration will be solved imminently,” USC’s director of federal relations said.

Now, weeks later, USC is starting to piece together how it will be affected through the university system, which receives hundreds of federal dollars each year.

But for the most part, officials say they still aren’t sure.

Research

In the near future, the biggest impact may be felt by researchers.

Vice President for Research Patrick Harker told reporters last week that USC expects to lose anywhere from $12.5 million, of its federal research money this year.

Federal agencies provided nearly 60 percent of the $238.3 million, of grants USC won in the last fiscal year.

Those cuts will come in different shapes from different agencies.

The National Institutes of Health, USC’s second-largest source of research funding, is cutting grants; it’s already awarded by 7 to 8 percent, said Steven Rice, director of federal relations.

The National Science Foundation, the third-largest, is keeping grants going but isn’t giving out any more.

How the cuts will shape up should become more explicit in the next few weeks, Nagarkatti said, but that money won’t be matched by USC.

“We have made it clear that the university cannot pick up the research costs of the people who are doing externally funded research,” Provost Michael Amiridis said.

Those are changes that could affect individual researchers more than USC, at large.

USC pays its faculty for nine months of the year and expects them to find grant funding to work over the summer.

If they can’t — or if that money runs dry — Nagarkatti said it could effectively be a cut for researchers.

Sadie Kelly, the chairwoman of faculty senate, knows that challenge.

When a five-year NIH grant she won after arriving at USC wasn’t renewed in time, she said, “I was also demoralizing for me, as an individual who has a passion for their research,” Kelly said.

“Having to go out and find another grant and if they don’t have the money, they don’t have to teach,” she said.

And, she said, funding cuts could force researchers to slim their laboratory staff, and once

CUTS

Banquet displays poverty, global disparity

There was something different about the banquet held in the Russell House Ballroom Tuesday.

Some attendees sat on stacks of newspaper and ate rice with their fingers, while others sat at tables with white tablecloths and ate a full meal of white rice, salad and sweet tea.

The “hunger banquet,” part of USC’s second-annual “Food Justice Week,” saw participants divided into disparate socioeconomic classes, which aimed to reflect the reality of poverty throughout the world.

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CUTS
Palmetto warehouse to cost city $5.7 million

City Council voted to issue bonds to buy the Palmetto Compress warehouse Tuesday. The purchase will cost the city $5.7 million, Mayor Steve Benjamin said, according to Free Times’ Eva Moore, who reported the news via Twitter.

The vote follows a week after City Council voted to buy the historic building, which has been a source of controversy in city politics lately.

First, an Ohio developer wanted to build a student housing complex on the site, but those plans were nixed. Later, the building’s owners said its maintenance had gotten too pricey, so they, too, planned to demolish it.

—Thad Moore, News Editor

Cold snap might mean lost money for farmers

Thought walking to class in the cold this morning was miserable? Try growing strawberries in it.

The owners of Cottle Strawberry Farms have been dealing with the issue all week, and while they don’t expect their herons’ quality to suffer, they do think they’ll make less money this year because they won’t have as much time to pick them, The State reported.

Throw in the wind, and farmers have to work long hours to protect the fields.

The state Department of Agriculture hasn’t gotten any reports of major freeze damages.

“This has been a different winter,” farm owner Joy Cottle told the newspaper. “It’s nail-biting time for all farmers.”

—Thad Moore, News Editor

Number of state employees drops as population grows

Since 2000, the size of state government’s payroll has been dwindling.

The number of state employees has fallen 15 percent over the last 15 years, The State reported. That’s a drop to 66,103 workers in the 2012-13 fiscal year, down from 77,782 in 1999-2000.

Over the same period, South Carolina’s population has grown by 18 percent, and critics are charging the state with making its employees do more work without getting more pay.

In four of the last five years, including this year, most state employees won’t get a raise, according to The State.

—Thad Moore, News Editor

In Brief.

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CUTS Cont. from 1

they do, they might find it “almost impossible” to get that talent back.
USC has focused
on interdisciplinary,
locally relevant research
questions in recent
years in an effort to
compete while grant
money grows tight,
and it has some money
to help researchers pay
bills while they wait
for their funding to be
renewed, Nagarkatti
said. The university
offers up to $15,000
per grant per faculty
member in so-called
“bridge funds.”

“Other than that, we
really can’t do much,”
Nagarkatti said.
Financial aid
Last week, USC
President Harris
Pastides went to
Washington to lobby
South Carolina’s
Congressional
deployment.
His focus, he told
trustees last week: to
keep funding for federal
student loans intact.

Students throughout
the USC system receive
about $318 million in
federal financial aid
each year, Beckham
said, including work
study, Pell grants,
loans and Supplemental
Education Opportunity Grants.

Some of that money is
safe this year.

Pastides told trustees
last week that Pell
grants are exempt from
automatic cuts this
year, and students have
already received loans
for this year.

But work-study and
SEOG funds could be
eliminated this year,
which is why

According to a White
House analysis, about
830 fewer students in
South Carolina will
get financial aid under
sequestration, and 270
would lose their work-
study jobs.

Next year, the loan
program will be up
for raw, Pastides said,
and after this year, Pell
grants aren’t safe, so
that program could be
eliminated, too, according
to Beckham.

“That’s ominous for
us,” Beckham said.

Just how the
financial aid picture
will shake out isn’t
clear yet, but Beckham
said he thought
South Carolina’s
Congressional
deployement held higher
education funding as a
priority.

Still, he said, a number
of tough questions don’t
yet have answers, and
the government has a
number of competing
needs to reconcile
as it wrestles with
sequestration and a
mounting debt.

“There’s still a lot
of dust yet to settle,”
Beckham said.

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shell of a good prize!
Panel talks same-sex couples’ legal issues

Hannah Jeffrey

A few years ago, Ann Willbrand’s partner was diagnosed with cancer. Willbrand, the secretary of the board of South Carolina Equality, had written out questions to ask the doctor and placed them on a clipboard.

“We were at a very family-friendly hospital, so everything went very smoothly, and we were both very pleased about that,” Willbrand said. “A few weeks later, we were at the hospital, and the [doctor] recognized us, but not because we were a lesbian couple. He said, ‘You’re the lady with the clipboard!’”

Willbrand’s anecdote shared a positive resolution between state law and a same-sex couple with an audience at the School of Law Auditorium Tuesday.

But not all stories end that way. Sarah Cassidy, a 2012 USC Law School graduate, took the stage next to inform about will and estate planning.

“If you do not plan and make decisions for yourself, the state will make them for you,” read one of Cassidy’s slides, referring to estate planning documents.

Cassidy explained that in South Carolina, if you die without a will, there are many routes that your estate could take. Because same-sex marriages are not legally recognized in South Carolina, in many cases, these partnerships are overlooked when it comes to the estate’s distribution.

Cassidy then gave an example to put the importance of estate planning into perspective: If two same-sex partners were living in South Carolina and one was hit by a bus and killed, her partner wouldn’t be entitled to anything in the estate even though they were in a committed relationship, because their relationship is not recognized by the state.

The estate would then go to her parents — half to each one.

Cassidy summed the necessity of estate planning in three words: think, identify and encourage.

One must think about the importance of estate planning, identify necessary documents and encourage everything to go according to his or her wishes, she said.

The legal challenges facing same-sex couples aren’t limited to their estates, either.

Allison Bullard, a 2011 graduate of the School of Law, offered information on adoption, assisted reproductive technology, living together and partnership agreements.

Bullard posed a question: Can same-sex couples adopt in South Carolina?

The answer: Yes, technically. But in reality, she said, it depends on the judge, the lawyers and the information presented.

“I’ve found that judges in South Carolina want to do it, and they’re looking for a reason to do it,” Bullard said.

Above all, Bullard emphasized the importance of finding lawyers who are experienced in these fields so that they don’t make mistakes that could have an effect on the family later on.

South Carolina Equality Executive Director Ryan Wilson closed out the night, which began with a rally at the Statehouse, with a positive outlook for the future of same-sex marriages.

“I’m hopeful, I’m optimistic and hopefully, the time will come sooner rather than later,” he said.

Hannah Jeffrey

NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Inheritance, adoption among common struggles
Austerity measures harm hidden countries

Tax increases, spending cuts dictated by EU, IMF exacerbate situation

This work has seen yet another eurozone country offer up its citizens to the cruel, soul-sapping mercantile financial collapse. Eyes around the world have been drawn to the small island nation just south of Turkey. The country just secured a deal with the European Union (EU) to receive 8 billion euros in an emergency loan to keep the country’s banks from defaulting. Cyprus is just one of multiple European countries who have requested large bailouts from the EU and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) just to stay solvent. Along with these bailouts come stringent austerity measures that cut spending to the bare bones in order to reign in government costs. The country’s austerity measures are meant to pay for a financial crisis that stems from the country’s banks holding too many assets that are too expensive. As aresult, the government has imposed extremely harsh spending cuts in order to pay down the debt crisis.

While multiple European economies struggle with 180 percent of their GDP this year, despite multiple bailouts, the country’s austerity measures and strict austerity measures demanded by the EU have actually accelerated the rise in debt. While spending cuts are important, they should be balanced and envisioned.

The IMF released the Global World Monitor on the state of the economy and in that report, the organization’s forecast of a slowdown in the global economy means serious austerity measures have had an even more detrimental effect than economists predicted. The government has cut too far and too fast, causing more to lose the fragile economies than it is that has been promised.

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Lil Wayne released his 10th full-length album, “I Am Not A Human Being II,” Tuesday. The artist, known for singles like “Hustler Musik,” said this will be the second to last CD of his career.

Director: “Olympus Has Fallen”

Language: Morgan Freeman

Starring: "Mall, clips the side of the Washington Monument."

It’s a hurried scene, but in short, Banning gets the president out of the car before it plummets over the rail, looking down at an ice-covered river.

It’s all black with a blood red butterfly, an ode to the “Fireman’s ever-growing musical track. In Rolling Stone Magazine, Wayne’s manager Cory B. Smith said, “Mobs always transform into butterflies.” As Complex Music pointed out, they don’t, but the message isn’t lost. The world has watched Wayne rise to top icon status. His single is like a rebirth. After its release date was pushed back a month, the album dropped with a small, but telling cover designed by DONDA, Kanye West’s creative company.

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The Daily Gamecock

Wednesday, March 27, 2013

The movie is then set 18 months later, post-accident. Banning is working a desk job at the Department of Treasury — he’s been taken off the president’s detail, and left a kind of renegade mockery in the security circle.

Butler is perfect for the role, rugged with biting sarcasm that commands the right attention. He’s the guy you feel bad for, without any of the traditional, emotion-inspiring characteristics. You know he cares, and cares a lot, and that’s all you need.

It’s his time in “300” meets “P.S. I Love You,” if that could ever even happen.

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The action comes with a North Korean invasion, so far-fetched with the country’s previous battle star track record that there’s some comfort in the unrealistic, gruesome overtakes of the White House.

In just 13 minutes, the president’s security team is wiped out and Asher, the secretary of defense (Melissa Leo) and the vice president (Phil Austin) are being held hostage in the president’s bunker. Eckhart doesn’t add much but a strong jolt to the film, with his character’s only real addition to the story standing in his celebrity. Leo, however, is beyond excellent in a relatively minor roll. She’s tortured, lying face-down on the bunker floor, spitting up blood as she fights with a nasty brand of patriotism.

As the cameras pan over a silver screen Washington, D.C., the landscape is all kinds of inaccurate. The buildings are magically squished together, creating a triangle of key city buildings in a 500-foot space.

The story pans out spectacularly — a movie chronicling the innerworkings of the country’s national security can’t get more disappointing than a 13-minute slaughter of the White House staff. But, the thrill of the action and the kind of inspired American pride leaves viewers with plenty of feel-good patriotism.
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Some things are still outstanding, but you’ve got most of your work as possible now so that you can work on more important projects later.

Taurus

Stick with trusted routines, and do what you’ve always done. Work with basics: chop wood and cow pies. Waste romance for now, and focus on productivity. Don’t go shopping either.

Gemini

An obstacle may get in the way of your creative powers to turn a detour into a new opportunity. You’re being tested on your patience. Anyway, it’s down the throat.

Cancer

A female introduces new ideas. Peaceful immediate rejuvenation and ripple out. Bring gentle increases your self-esteem, and move you accomplished through flexibility rather than pressure.

Leo

Don’t be afraid to ask for help, even if you don’t need it. You’ll discover something new. New opportunities come from your willingness to contribute and others. It’s also satisfying.

Virgo

Figure out a solution to a conflict of interests. Do it carefully so you won’t have to do it over. New opportunities come from your willingness to contribute and others. It’s also satisfying.

Libra

New breakdowns could come from previous obstacles. This is what it looks like when you’re really playing. Continue with your productivity streak, and do what you do today.

Scorpio

You’ll discover something that you didn’t know before regarding your work and students. Keep close contact with your calendar and structures to avoid confusion.

Sagittarius

Take care of your health, even if you’re feeling a bit overdone. Don’t lose your temper. You don’t have to learn any lessons that you may want to learn later. Meditation helps, as does comedy. Add a sense of humor.

Aquarius

Answer the call of the wild; you’re ready for anything. Work out the glitches in a relationship. Listen to all points of view. Self-esteem increases as you iron out the wrinkles.

Pisces

The budget is tight and you’ll require some more support. Thinking back to what worked before, and put that information to good use. Get feedback and participation from others.
Young players learning from Clowney

2-sport athlete Bruce Ellington practices for first time this spring

The Gamecock

Danny Garrison

During the offseason, junior defensive end Jadeveon Clowney has become a YouTube sensation and grabbed a magazine cover, but with spring practice underway, the most prevalent topic on everyone's mind is what the Gamecocks will look like with Clowney in their lineup for the 2013 season.

As the Gamecocks turn their attention to the All-American spring practice, the All-American talked about what would need to happen for him to take the highest individual honor in college football as a defensive player.

“I think I need to just make a lot of key plays in big games,” Clowney said. “I think that’s half of being优秀.”

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Amid all the individual attention Clowney has been receiving, younger players said they embraced his role as a mentor to them.

Struett grabbed the spotlight with his first SEC victory of the season.

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In preparation for last Sunday's loss to Missouri, the Gamecocks practiced for five hours.

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