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A&T vice chancellor faces embezzlement charges

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GREENSBORO - An N.C. A&T vice chancellor faces embezzlement charges following an internal audit that alleges he created a slush fund to deposit rebates on technology equipment purchased for the school, arrest warrants and school documents show.

Rodney Emile Harrigan, 61, vice chancellor and CEO for information technology and telecommunications at the university, turned himself in to campus police Monday, according to a news release faxed to the News & Record. Arrest warrants show he was charged with obtaining property by false pretense and embezzlement of state property.

Campus police alleged Harrigan funneled more than \$70,000 to a personal account since May 2004. It was not known Monday afternoon whether Harrigan was the only school official suspected of involvement in the alleged activity. The detective who filed the charges could not be reached for comment.

It was also unknown what became of the money. Harrigan, of 5300 Bancroft Road in Greensboro, was freed from the Guilford County jail after posting a \$25,000 bond.

"If you would like to print anything," Harrigan said Monday when reached at home, "please just say that I am innocent and I cannot make any further comments at this time."

University records show the school knew as early as November of irregularities with discretionary accounts opened by the information technology office in the North Carolina A&T State Foundation.

Those accounts were frozen Nov. 6, according to an internal memo to Harrigan from Interim Chancellor Lloyd Hackley.

Hackley, through an office receptionist who answered the phone Monday, directed the News & Record to speak with a spokeswoman through the university's public relations department.

Details are developing.

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