

UNACHI needs \$21 million more to finish 2026

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Summary

The Autonomous University of Chiriqui has asked the Finance Ministry for an extra \$21 million to meet its obligations through the end of 2026, after recently obtaining funds to pay overdue salaries.

Details (summary of the article)

According to La Prensa, UNACHI rector Absel Navarro says the David-based university filed a request with the Ministry of Economy and Finance on Thursday 1 October for an additional \$21 million. Its budget is around \$80 million while its needs total roughly \$108 million for the year, covering 11 faculties and three regional centres. Just days earlier, on 28 September, the Budget Committee of the National Assembly approved a \$7.7 million transfer to pay three overdue pay periods for about 2,100 staff (\$2.2m administrative, \$5.3m teaching, \$51,199 research). To contain costs the administration has cut representation expenses and salary bonuses by 40%, eliminated nine directorates and nine sub-directorates, and restricted travel allowances, advertising and protocol spending; no dismissals have occurred because staff are protected by special laws. It is also weighing incentives for about 150 teachers near retirement, which could save roughly \$10 million a year. Much of the payroll burden is attributed to the previous administration of Etelvina Medianero de Bonagas. The university now awaits the ministry's response.

Original (es)

Unachi requiere \$21 millones adicionales para cerrar 2026

El rector Absel Navarro informó que la institución ya solicitó al MEF una partida por ese monto, ante la falta de recursos para cubrir sus compromisos durante los últimos meses del año.