



the Seahawk

"Excellence Through Truth and Dedication"



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Board of Trustees to discuss tuition hike tomorrow

by SOMER STAHL and THOMAS M. RUYLE

The Seahawk

The Board of Trustees (BOT) of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and the North Carolina Board of Governors (BOG) are meeting this week on campus. The BOT is scheduled to discuss a proposal calling for an annual \$235 rise in tuition at 2:30 on Thursday. While several other state universities have approved similar increases, university administration is unsure as to whether UNCW's proposal will be enacted.

"I am not optimistic that the tuition increase is going to go forward. I don't know that, because the Board of Governors hasn't met yet, but I'm not optimistic," Chancellor James R. Leutze said.

The increase has already been approved at the campus level by the Executive Committee of the BOT. However, the proposal still must go before the UNC General Administration for approval. If approved at that level, it will go before the BOG and the North Carolina General Assembly.

The call for a tuition hike is the result of a study conducted by all in-state universities that was released last month. The study showed that, when compared to schools of similar size and student/faculty ratio, UNC universities lack the sufficient salary dollars needed in order to offer competitive salaries and benefits needed to attract and retain faculty. The tuition increase is also a result of the decline in state support for higher education over the last decade.

"It's a disappointment to me when it seems as if education isn't as high as it should be on the state's agenda," said Student Government Association President Patrick Gunn who holds a seat on the Board of Trustees. "I don't like the idea of an increase in tuition, but at the same time if there's nowhere else to get the money and the need for funds is there, I guess to some, raising tuition seems like the sensible thing to do," he said.

With nearly 10,000 students enrolled, the tuition increase would equate \$2.3 million in additional revenue for the university.

"I'm not totally opposed to raising tuition. I am very well aware of the desire and desirability of keeping tuition as low as possible," Leutze said. "I don't take it cavalierly. However, I feel it's part of my responsibility to...see if we can get those funds."

BOT member Jay M. Robinson, who elected in 1999 and serves on the external affairs committee, said he struggles with the issue of tuition increase as he has always been a low tuition advocate.



UNCW file photo

The Board of Trustees will discuss the proposed \$235 tuition increase at 2:30 p.m. Thursday at the Madeline Suite.

"Low tuition makes a university great," said Robinson who believes that the state has made serious mistakes over the past years when dealing with increase in taxes and decline in education funding.

"We need to be sure that we have a place to accommodate every student that wants an education but at the same time we create a need for new buildings and more faculty," he said. "I'm concerned that students in southeastern North Carolina will not be able to financially attend schools and at the same time, I'm sorry that tuition is one way we have to consider increasing in order to get these resources."

Robinson stated that he has not yet made a decision concerning how he will cast his vote.

"At the meeting I will listen to each case set before me and then vote on what I believe is right," he said.

Gunn has similar intentions. "I'll listen to every argument and decide, but most likely my vote will be against [the increase]. It will take a lot to convince me otherwise."

Leutze said he has doubts as to whether the proposal will be passed, noting that election year politics may be a major factor in the final decision. "Politicians do not want to stand accused of raising tuition," he said.

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University Mourns Death of Dr. Ann Lockledge

by HEIDI BING

News Editor

Dr. Ann Lockledge, a professor of curricular studies of the Watson School of Education, suffered a heart attack and died in her sleep on Sunday, Dec. 26. Lockledge, who was 67 years old, was a highly valued member of the university faculty and played a critical leadership role in the development of the elementary and middle school social studies program for the School of Education.

"She was well-respected, well-loved and will be greatly missed," said curricular studies professor Richard Hubar. Hubar and many of Lockledge's other colleagues and students expressed feelings of shock and sadness at her death.

"We all had very fond feeling for Ann and we're still trying to get over or realize the fact that she's gone," said Dr. Grace Burton who is the chair of the curricular studies program and was a personal friend of Lockledge. "As a colleague she certainly put into practice what she said she believed. She was enthusiastic and had a real zest for her teaching and she gave of herself in more ways than I can enumerate."

Lockledge was born in Colorado and lived in different areas



UNCW file photo

Dr. Mary Ann Lockledge, a professor in the Watson School of Education since 1987 passed away on December 26 from a heart attack. Lockledge helped develop the elementary and middle school social studies program for the Watson School of Education.

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