

Intercom

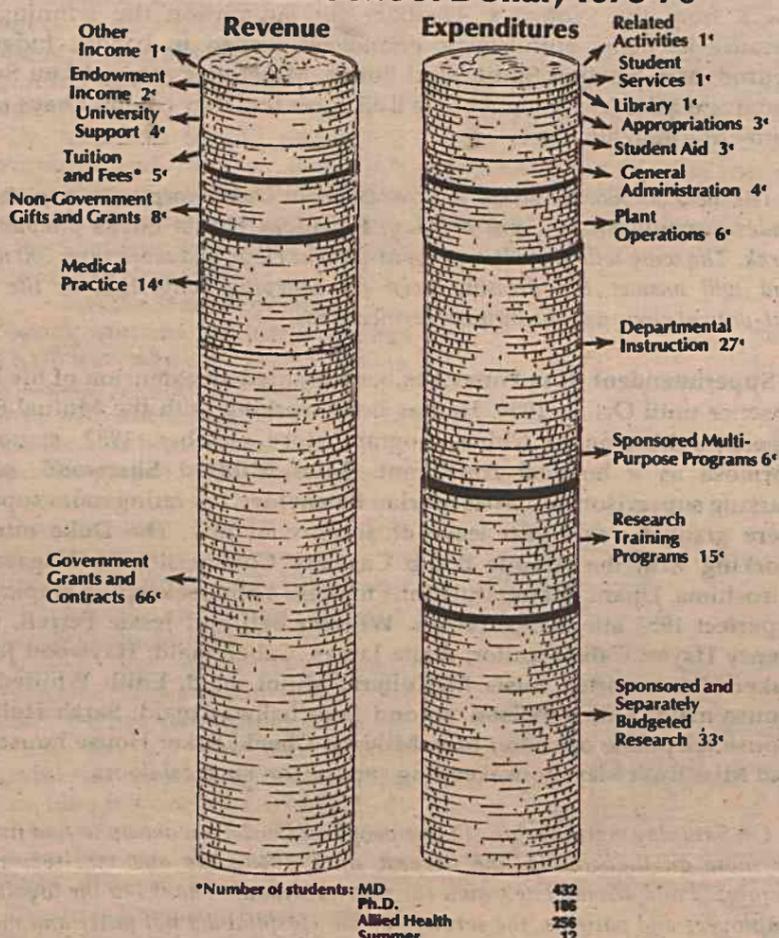
Duke University Medical Center

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 8

FEBRUARY 25, 1977

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

The Medical School Dollar, 1975-76



With Inflation, Decreasing Support What Goes Up Is Tuition

By Joe Sigler

Declining levels of federal support of medical education keep people up nights at medical schools across the country.

Add to that fluctuations in the investments market — if part of the school's revenue is from endowment as Duke's is — and that provides another unsettling element.

Then stir in some steady inflation that eats away at the value of the dollar and forces costs up because more dollars must be spent just attempting to stay even.

Something Has To Go

In a state of affairs like that, something has to go. And one of the things that has gone in medical schools is tuition. Up.

Duke continues to be in a favorable position compared with many other private medical schools, but nonetheless tuition here has now climbed to \$5,050 for first-year students next year.

It's a state of finances that has

everyone concerned — students, faculty, and administrators — and the medical school administration has had several meetings with students on the subject.

"Tuition is of interest to many people, not only the students," Dr. Ewald W. Busse, dean of medical and allied health education said, "and we thought that others also might want to know something about the factors that influence increases in tuition."

Doesn't Cover Costs

One misapprehension people have, Busse said, is that tuition covers the cost of a student's education. "If tuition were designed to do that," he added, "the Duke tuition would be between five and six times higher than it is."

In 1971-72 Duke participated with 11 other medical schools in a study of medical education financing conducted by the Association of American Colleges (AAMC). At that time, Busse said, the cost per student of undergraduate medical education in the 12 schools ranged from \$16,300 a year to \$26,400 a year.

"The study indicated that the annual per-student cost of undergraduate medical education at Duke at that time was \$24,100," Busse said. "Tuition that year was \$2,250."

Bernard McGinty, director of Medical Center Financial Management, noted that tuition increases were relatively small in those years. It was up to only \$2,900 by 1974-75.

Fifty-two Chances To Express An Opinion

The first three of 52 sessions of the Employee Opinion Survey will take place in the Hospital Amphitheater next Saturday, March 5.

The sessions, which will be about one hour long, will continue through the following Saturday, and have been arranged at hours ranging from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. to provide convenient times for all medical center bi-weekly employees to participate, according to Richard Peck, administrative director of Duke Hospital.

Peck said he hoped that as many people as possible who would be working Saturday or Sunday would take advantage of sessions scheduled for those days, since there will be a larger number of employees on duty during the other days.

He further noted that the sessions scheduled for 7:30 a.m. and 10 p.m. have been designed for third shift people in particular.

"Since patient care requirements usually don't allow people on this shift to get away, they can either stay over or come in early for the survey, and those that do so will be paid for the additional time," he said.

Peck pointed out that these times, however, were not exclusively for third shift employees.

Supervisors and department heads will pick up cards for various sessions, based on the convenience of their employees.

Employees will receive cards on Thursday or Friday of next week, Peck said. And he added that if the time specified is not convenient, one

should notify his or her supervisor.

Four sessions have been scheduled for MS I, Nanaline H. Duke Building, (Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.). "These are especially for people in the Eye Center and research park area, so they don't have to come to the hospital," Peck explained.

Similarly, two sessions

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Something Old, Something New

This month is an anniversary for *Intercom*. We're entering our 24th year of publication.

For the sake of convenience we change volume numbers with the first issue of January each year, but Vol. 1, No. 1 of *Intercom* actually came out in February of 1954. *Intercom* was founded and published by the Duke Hospital Auxiliary and originally came out every other month.

People don't really make much of 24th anniversaries, and we're not either. But next year, when we reach our quarter-century mark, we're planning some special things for our readers.

In the meantime, though, we're taking advantage of the romance with nostalgia and we're introducing a new feature in *Intercom* with this issue. It's called "Looking Back" and we'll be doing exactly that, looking back in our early issues of *Intercom* and preparing a column of nostalgia now and then.

It's interesting to us pulling this information together. We hope you'll like it too.



TAKING A BREAK—Alisa Smith, a junior in the School of Nursing, enjoys the new bench between the nursing school and Hanes House. The bench was donated by the Class of 1976 and other contributors in memory of Laurie Gilman, a classmate who died in November 1973. The outdoor memorial was chosen because the Mt. Kisco, New York, student loved the outdoors. It bears the inscription, "She felt as if she'd found a world all her own," a line from one of Laurie's favorite poems. (Photo by Ina Fried)