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FSU Students Face Tuition Increase

By Crystal Broadie
Staff Writer

The news is buzzing all over campus. Fayetteville State University has proposed a campus-initiated tuition increase. The increase would generate an estimated \$750,000 over two years, based on an enrollment of 3,200 full-time undergraduate students and 547 graduate students. About 40 percent of the money would go to financial aid and scholarships, twenty-five percent to faculty salaries, ten percent to Cultural and Educational Enrichment Programs (CEEP), fifteen percent to staff salaries, and ten percent to International Education. Is this the way it is? The University asks for the money, tell students where it's going to go, and we keep quiet, right? WRONG!

Deanna Anders, a junior at FSU, was shocked when she heard about the proposed

increase. "I didn't know about this one," Anders said. "I thought we just had one the other day."

Virginia Williams said she is relieved to be graduating in the spring before the tuition increase would take effect. She is an economics major. "Getting an education is already expensive," she said. Williams said she feels sorry for the students and parents who would have to come up with more money for tuition next year. "I had to get loans to continue my education," Williams said. "It's not easy at all, not on the students or on their parents."

The significance of the student voice has been minimized for far too long. If the students are the ones who are paying extra, does it not make sense that students have some say to where the money goes?

It is no guarantee that the

money will actually go to the five areas indicated in the proposal. "There's no physical hard copy of the budget, or exactly how the money will be allocated," says Kendrick Faison, the SGA President. "Nothing has been set in stone for students to see." Fayetteville State University students have ideas of ways this money can actually benefit them. Many want to see the money allotted to the one-card system. This system allows students to use one card for the bookstore, vending machines, game room, post office, meal plan, or security. The one card would be like an FSU pre-paid credit card.

FSU Board of Trustees is scheduled to vote on the tuition increase proposal on Thursday, Dec. 6, 2001. However, students, don't want the proposal to get that far. The Business and Finance

Committee meeting will be held earlier that morning at 8:00 a.m. on the third floor of the Chesnut Library. It is imperative that students attend. Mark it on your calendars.

Faison thinks students' attendance at these meetings gives them a better position. "I don't think board members can look us in our faces and say yeah to something they know we disagree with." He adds, "We should come together as a group collectively to stop it from ever going to the board."

FSU spokeswoman Lauren Burgess said the proposed tuition increase is tied to a need for more scholarship funds. "One of the greatest needs of our students is financial assistance," Burgess said. She said 80 percent of FSU students receive some form of financial aid, adding up to about \$11 million a year.

School officials said money

from the tuition increase would also boost faculty and staff salaries, promote cultural and educational campus events, improve faculty and staff development, and develop the international studies program.

Burgess said the financial aid increase would go toward need-based grants and for scholarships to attract more high-achieving students to FSU. "We've been struggling with retention issues," Burgess said. "The more financial aid and scholarships we can offer, the larger a pool of academically prepared students we can bring here."

FSU's tuition this semester was \$2,016 for state residents and \$9,930 for out-of-state residents, which includes a 9 percent increase approved by the state legislature this fall.

Portions of this article were reprinted from *The Fayetteville Observer*

A Phi A Chapter Selected State's Best

By Garrett N. James
Staff Writer

Some students say that Greek life only "sounds good on paper," but that sororities and fraternities are merely colorful step groups that take hand signs to the extreme. The Epsilon Zeta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. however, begs to differ. Not only did FSU's own win College Chapter of the Year, but they were also the College Chapter with the highest GPA, and they brought home the 1st place award in the Scholar's Bowl. This all took place at the Association of NC Alpha Men Convention held recently in Raleigh.

Jason Barber, the Alpha Assistant Area Director for Area II, feels that one of the deciding factors for winning the award was the EZ Initiative. Jason gives the president of the EZ chapter, Tyree McAlpine, credit for creating the EZ Initiative. Anthony Raphael, the Secretary of the EZ Chapter, says that the EZ Initiative is an extension of the national program and that it was designed to enrich the student body in various areas.

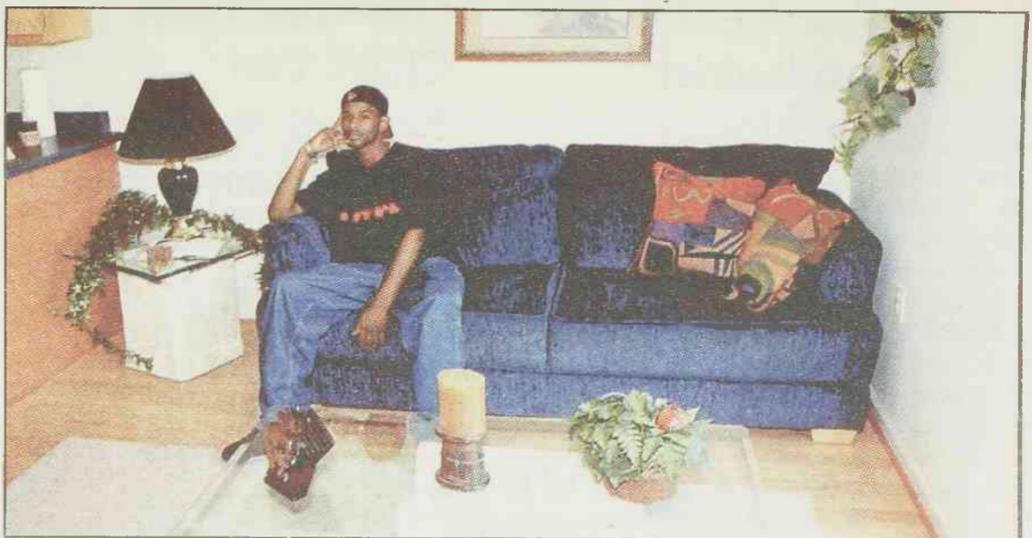
The other criteria for winning the awards were: Campus Activities, Following Nationally Mandated Programs, GPA, Reclaiming of Brothers, and the Display of Activities. Jason stated, "We try to conduct programs and do community service projects at

least once every month. Just to name a few, we've had a voter registration drive, public speaking workshops, an AIDS awareness workshop, and Scholarly Pursuits, a self-improvement workshop targeted toward freshmen males."

So what separates The Alpha's from the other Greeks on the yard? Jason and Anthony both feel that their fraternity's programs are geared more toward issues relevant and helpful to the students as a whole and not mere social gathering. Anthony also feels that the Alpha's are separated because they are able to continue good academics success while also maintaining a full plate of activities and community service projects.

As last words, Anthony said that there is still more to come from the Alphas. Jason wanted to thank all supporters of the EZ Chapter and he says that he was just proud to represent his chapter, FSU, and all HBCU's. "We just were eager to prove that HBCU's are just as good as the much bigger schools because we were competing against schools such as NC State, Wake Forest, Duke, and UNC-Charlotte."

So how do others feel about the Alpha's winning the awards? Mr. Langdon Hadley, the Pan Hellenic Advisor, gives the Alpha's "two big thumbs up" and wishes them the best in the future.



New additions to University Place will give apartments a dormitory feel.

University Apartments Expand

By Chuck Carr
Staff Writer

What is the deal with university housing? Well, the new residence hall with the capacity for 1300 students that will be added to FSU's campus is greatly anticipated by the students. This 6.8 million-dollar project has already finished its design phase, but the initial construction for the new residence hall is expected to begin Fall 2002. FSU is expected to have over 6,000 students on campus by the year 2008, so student housing is crucial. This project is funded by the 45.5 million-dollar bond referendum issued to FSU, which will also assist in the renovations of 10 other university buildings. It is not final whether this dorm will be male,

female, or co-ed.

What is going on with the University Place apartments? University Place apartments are a product of the raised funds of the FSU Housing Foundation Board of Directors. This is an organization whose sole purpose is to raise money for the university. This foundation assisted with alleviating the overcrowding of students in the residence halls by collecting donations from private businesses to construct the University Place apartments. The FSU Housing Foundation and the Office of Residence Life are two separate offices. This is why the University Place residents do not receive a meal plan compared to residents who do reside on campus; residents

of University Apartments are considered off campus students. In a recent interview with Dr. Wyatt, Vice Chancellor of University Advancement, it was stated that a notice was given before Thanksgiving break to the students in the University Place apartments. This notice informed the students that they would have Resident Assistants next semester. These RAs will be used only for the "sake of management," and to "implement activities to promote college life for off campus students." The RAs of University Place will not perform the same duties of the RAs on campus and will be arranged one per building. How do the students who live in

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