



Chancellor's Voice

page 3

Are you staying for the Good Times?

page 6



page 9

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FOR STUDENTS, BY STUDENTS

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FSU tuition to increase 7.6 percent next year

Hike in costs will affect the entire UNC system by an average of 9 percent

By Zachary Johnson
Voice Staff

Fayetteville State University students will see a 7.6 percent increase in tuition next year, in accordance with the University of North Carolina Board of Governors' vote on Feb. 10.

Tuition will also go up next year by an average of nearly 9 percent throughout the rest of the schools in the UNC system, according to reports in the Charlotte Observer.

The board's decision to increase tuition brought out many students to protest in the streets while the board met. A UNC administrator also told Associated Press reporters,

as noted in the Times-News, that the tuition increase precipitated the most significant involvement of students in nearly a decade.

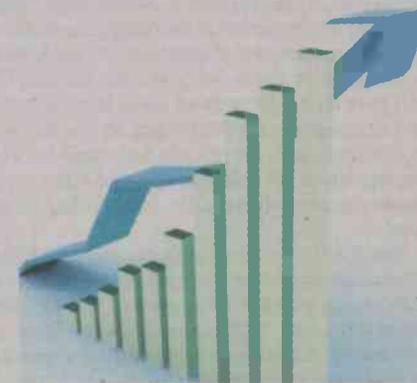
Lewis Dandridge, a senior at Elizabeth City State University, told Associated Press reporters, as noted in the Times-News, that he did not believe that administrators took into consideration the burden that additional costs will have on students' financial situations. Students who are already struggling to pay for school will face even more difficulty in the upcoming year.

UNC President Tom Ross was also quoted in the Times-News as saying the tuition increases are not enough to cover the loss of

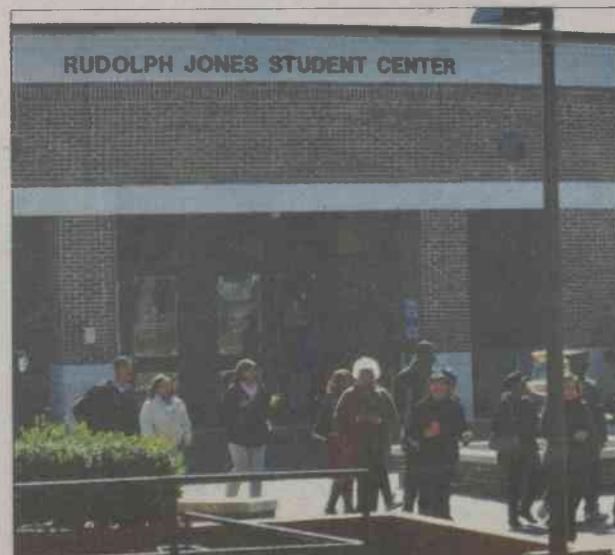
the more than \$400 million cut by state legislature last year, and in fact would contribute approximately only 17 percent. How the UNC system will account for the remainder of lost state funding is unclear.

While next years increased tuition costs will be challenging for students throughout the UNC system, FSU will remain the most affordable college.

Further, according to the Times-News, the board of governors also approved a 4.2 percent average tuition increase for the 2013-14 academic year, though FSU students would be spared from another jump in costs.



Forum on Student Center Renovations



Voice photo by Jennifer Lucas

By Alisha Murphy
Voice Staff

Imagine being able to buy your books, eat in the cafeteria, and have space for activities or just to hang out with friends, all within a new and more modern student center.

The renovation of the Rudolph Jones student center is a project that is much awaited by FSU students, alum and faculty alike. The now multi-purpose small space is lack-luster and the growing campus is long overdue for a new center.

Daniel J. Robinson of SFL+A Architects along with James W. Sukenik of Baker Group, and Richard E. Cox from FSU project management, held an open forum Feb. 16 for students and staff to voice their opinion on the soon-to-be addition. Attendees were able to express concerns and propose ideas for the design and function of

the student center.

The project calls for renovation of the current center, which is 69,000 square feet and an addition of 40,000 square feet, according to a call for proposals on the FSU website. The site also reports that the university has a budget of \$17 million to restructure the student center.

The new facility will attempt to incorporate all the existing services as well as the Bronco Bookstore, which is now across the street.

The construction project will likely require a temporary location for dining services, but not a completely removed location. The current plan calls for an expansion of the dining area within its existing space.

Students expressed the need for space, comfort, and aesthetic pleasures. The ideas that were suggested leaned more toward a modern, yet youthful design, versus trendy futur-

istic interiors. Many who were at the meeting seemed to favor the concept of unity, along with variety of seating. With the help of BIM Software, students and staff were able to see a proposed view of the new structure.

Sukenik said there are plans for a meeting mid-March to further discuss the student center/cafeteria plans.

Jermaine Coble, a senior and SGA Executive Treasurer, was in attendance and said the meeting was "a chance to give [student] input and build our vision." Along with several other students, Coble was active in the conversation and gave suggestions that would accommodate the entire student body.

FSU project manager Cox added, "It is ultimately their student center, with their input. The goal is to make it a destination for students. We want to keep it student focused."