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Trustees Agree on 1991-92 Budget

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Main campus student room and board will increase by 9.5 percent and a total of 29 administrative and support staff positions are being reduced or eliminated, according to the Guilford College budget approved for the 1991-92 academic year.

The new budget, which was approved by the Board of Trustees on January 25, will also include a four percent pool increase in salaries for faculty and administrative staff and allow for two full-time faculty positions to remain unfilled.

The final budget proposal climaxed four months of intensive deliberation by the Budget and Planning Committee, the Analytical Studies Team, and a subcommittee of the Budget and Planning group charged with the responsibility of cutting \$2 million of requested expenditures in order to balance the budget with anticipated revenues.

"This year's process was tough," said Jim Newlin, vice president of finance and development. "We realize our decisions

are affecting people and programs, but we also realize that our resources, like other institutions, are finite."

According to figures released by the Board of Trustees, the total projected revenues for the 1991-92 budget were \$21,166,164. Revenues were balanced with expected expenditures of \$21,108,377.

Included in this year's budget was a projected \$500,000 in debt service payments on interest from loans taken by the college to help complete various building projects on campus. The debt service represented 2.4 percent of the total college budget.

The actual tuition and fee increase was 9.95 percent. The actual combined total tuition, room and board increase, however, was 9.5 percent.

The Board of Trustees passed \$278,648 for academic departments and \$292,110 for athletics. \$1,909,000 was devoted to Guilford's food service and \$1,902,675 to campus residential halls.

The 4 percent salary pool increase fell short of the original goals of the Budget and Planning Committee, which had hoped to increase salaries by 6 percent, according

to President Bill Rogers.

Rogers said he was disappointed that the college could not offer higher salary increases, but he felt the four percent figure was a good compromise, considering that the Budget and Planning Committee had discussed the possibility of only a two percent salary increase earlier in the deliberations.

Said Rogers, "I am a little disappointed that we could not raise salaries to the 6 percent level, but I am confident of the decision we reached. I still think we are better off than many other institutions. I know of other institutions which have either frozen salaries or actually cut salaries."

Newlin said the salary increase was the most difficult question Budget and Planning had to face. He also said that Guilford was still competitive with other institutions based on salary increases.

"Deciding on the four percent pool was the hardest decision the group had to make, said Newlin. "We struggled with the issue of the salary pool more than any other item because we know our decision will affect

every single employee of the college."

In a memo issued to faculty and staff on February 1 by The Budget and Planning Committee, Rogers said that the decision to reduce the number of administration positions within the college was due in part to a trend in higher education during the 1990's which will involve institutions recognizing the importance of "cost-cutting and living within their means."

Rogers said that Guilford, like many other institutions, will need to "reevaluate programs that may not be at the core of our operation and relinquish some positions built up over the last two decades." He also said that he hopes cuts in full-time or part-time appointments can be achieved in a "caring way."

Although a total of 29 administrative and support staff positions are being reduced or eliminated, several of the positions are open slots which will simply not be filled, according to Rogers.

The two full-time faculty positions not being filled are the positions vacated by the deaths of John Grice and Grimsley T. Hobbs. Rogers also said that no full-time faculty positions are being eliminated, but

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At Wednesday's American Red Cross blood drive, Guilford students came out to donate more blood than ever before. Donors also had to wait longer than ever before; some upwards of two and a half hours.
photo by George Brand