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THE GUILFORDIAN
 Box 17717, Guilford College, Greensboro, NC 27410
 (910) 316-2306 • FAX (910) 316-2950
 GUILFORDIAN@RASCAL.GUILFORD.EDU

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Freeze in tuition

Trustees agree to budget without fee increase

CORY BIRDWHISTELL
 editor-in-chief

Putting a stop to the spiraling trend of increasing student costs and raising financial aid to compensate, the Board of Trustees approved a budget which includes no increase in tuition, room or board for the 1996-97 year.

"It's a step to become somewhat more affordable in years to come," says Provost Dan Poteet. "The public simply is having to struggle harder to meet rising costs."

While students and parents may find relief in this historic decision, the college will have to operate on a tighter budget next year. The Trustees and Budget Committee will search for effective ways to restructure the budget to ensure that college departments exercise as much efficiency as possible.

"This is a challenging but necessary thing to do," President Bill

Rogers comments.

The budget pressures this year were created primarily by having smaller than usual sophomore and junior classes.

However, the budgetary constraints can be seen throughout American higher education. Rogers says, "College tuitions have risen faster than inflation as personnel costs increase. In corporate terms, we're a labor-intensive business, and it's hard for a college to downsize without hurting programs."

Besides the growing costs of medical benefits and insurance, computer equipment, and utilities, the higher education business has suffered at the hand of demographics. A decrease in the number of 18-year-olds has meant colleges have had to compete harder for students.

At the same time, the need for financial aid has increased and rises in tuition cannot keep up with this growing need. For instance,

Guilford's financial aid budget increased from roughly \$1.5 million to \$5.5 million between 1990 and 1995.

Citing the addition of the Women's Studies major, the renovations to Hege-Cox, new scholarship programs, and other additions, Rogers says, "We've shown this year we can do a lot of positive things even while adjusting to smaller classes."

Not only is this a record year in terms of annual giving, he says, but the college's endowment is providing more revenue.

As well, the Board is working with the school to improve admissions strategy and to revise financial aid policies.

The institutional Strategic and Long Range Planning Committee also works with the Trustees to identify ways the college can operate more efficiently. As well, the committee analyzes ways Guilford can grow in terms of commitment to community-building, social action, and personal development.

Co-Ed Policy passes, identity statement still in the works

KEIR BICKERSTAFFE
 news editor

Two major Senate projects, the revision of the identity statement and the Co-Educational Housing Policy, were among items discussed at the meeting of student officers with the Board of Trustees during the January 26-28 weekend.

The Housing Policy was approved by the Board of Trustees, and further changes were made towards the completion of the identity statement

The Co-Ed Housing Policy was born last semester, furthering the Student Residence Council's aim of promoting hall unity. The project, spearheaded by current senate member Crissy Haworth and departed member Tony DeCicco, has now been approved by the SRC, Administrative Council, Senate, and the Board of Trustees. It will go into effect next year.

The policy, shown in full at right, will expand the current co-ed policy to the Dana Houses, Apartments and the top two floors of Milner Hall.

Co-ed groups will apply for residence in the Danas and Apartments. In Milner, students of both sexes will be assigned to "separate, adjacent rooms," with separate-sex bathrooms.

"With men and women living together, it will promote a more communal living at-

mosphere. Hopefully we will see people more comfortable visiting their neighbors in this more realistic situation," Haworth said.

In the midst of the Co-Ed Policy's success, the process to adopt a new identity statement continued its slow, steady progress.

Before the end of the weekend, the Board of Trustees presented a possible statement for consideration. While the proposal does represent progress, it still remains some distance from completion.

"I'm happy we're making progress [on the identity statement]... people seem happier with this revised version."

- Senate President Stephanie Jennings

tance from completion.

"I'm happy we're making progress, and I believe it is progress. People are happier with this revised version, but still would like a couple of changes," Senate President Stephanie Jennings said.

The main problem with the current proposal lies in the wording. As of now, the statement reads that Guilford is "a co-educational college... governed by an independent Board of Trustees." Some Senate members dislike such a statement, which seems

to emphasize the Board's power over their own while de-emphasizing the school's Quaker heritage, not mentioned until later in the statement.

"It's a difference of perception," stated Jennings, "From the Board's point of view, they see themselves as the ones that govern the school. The students see it from the point that they eat here, they sleep here, they live here every day. They are two groups coming from different places. We need to come together on a statement that we all feel is truthful."

Just when that will be is unknown. The next meeting with the Board isn't until May, but realistically, both sides won't have a working draft ready until this summer, when new president Don McNemar will oversee its progress.

In the meantime, Senate will continue to work on a revised version of their own, with the help of the student body. A VAXnotes conference on the subject is still active and will continue to be monitored. In addition, a table is planned for the near future, as well as a special meeting of Senate that will invite all members of the student body for a talk concerning the issue. That meeting will be advertised in *The Guilfordian* and in other locations around campus.

Anyone with comments or concerns is welcome to call the Senate office at x2301 to express them.

Co-Ed Policy Extension

In order to offer more diverse living options for students and to promote a greater sense of community within residence areas, the Student Residence Council proposes that the current co-ed policy already in effect be expanded. The extended policy will still affect the Pope, Pines, and Hildebrandt houses and be extended to other residence areas on campus depending on student interest. The Student Residence Council recommends the immediate extension of the policy to the Dana houses, the Apartments, and Milner's second and third floors according to demand.

Co-ed groups would be allowed to apply for the Danas and the Apartments. On Milner's second and third floors, Residence Life would house males and females in separate, adjacent rooms. On each floor separate-sex bathrooms would be designated. The visitation policy that is in effect everywhere on campus would still be observed in all of these new co-ed living situations. No other policies regarding these areas will be affected.