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Administrative bloat sparks student protest

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE OUTSIDE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING TO MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD ON SALARY INEQUITY ISSUES

NEWS

BY ALEXANDRA HARIDOPOLOS
STAFF WRITER

"We know where your money goes."

"Nothing about us, without us, is for us."

"Pop the administrative bloat."

Outside of a board of trustees meeting, students gathered, silently holding signs with these words on Feb. 22 at the Community Center.

The Feb. 20 "Town Hall Meeting" with the board intended to spark open and honest dialogue between students and trustees, yet feelings of frustration and disappointment lingered. Many felt the meeting's format did not actually allow for candid communication between trustees and students.

In order to make their voices

heard more directly, members of Students Allied Against Privilege and Supremacy and other interested community members demonstrated outside of the trustees' meeting to finalize Guilford College's budget for the upcoming year.

The demonstration's main message? Faculty pay concerns must be tackled. Guilford's professor salaries should not be dead last compared to peer institutions while administration salaries "bloat."

Senior Daniel Raeder, one of the demonstration's organizers, explained the bloat as "a disproportionate amount of money at one point of the pay scale compared to another."

Students were unrolling signs

as Carole Bruce, trustee and chair of the presidential search committee, spoke of faculty salaries, just feet away.

"The timing was impeccable," said Aaron Fetrow, dean of students and vice president for student affairs.

Students stood with pieces of

paper indicating the difference between the faculty and staff average salary and the top three administrative positions' average salary. Each foot of paper represented \$10,000, resulting in one 7-foot piece and one 21-foot piece.

"Initially, I went to support

and encourage our students in their social activism," said Diya Abdo, associate professor of English and chair of the English department.

"But I ended up being deeply

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Open letter to the
board of trustees

BY VICTOR LOPEZ
SENIOR WRITER

Gay rights not the 'new'
civil rights; both equally
important

BY OLIVIA NEAL
STAFF WRITER

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Deferred maintenance

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Facing a \$16.8 million maintenance sinkhole with only an annual \$1.4 million band-aid has the administration struggling to figure out how to stop the profuse financial bleeding.