

# THE G



## Budget cuts, tuition hikes

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### Students stand up for the programs, departments they love during financial crisis

#### NEWS

BY BANNING WATSON & THOR TOBIASSEN

STAFF WRITERS

"Everything is on the table," said Ed Winslow III, chairman of the board of trustees. "The board ... and the president's committee are going to take a comprehensive look at everything. There are no sacred cows."

This was the harsh news that came from the trustees this weekend as they met at the Community Center to determine tuition costs. Guilford's budget is predicted to experience a \$2 million revenue shortfall this year. The administration and the trustees are faced with tough choices to reconfigure the school's finances and ensure its future financial stability.

The first of those choices was made at the Feb. 28 budget meeting, as the board voted to approve a budget that includes a 2 percent across-the-board hike in tuition and student fees.

Rumors have swirled around a set of budget cuts that will accompany the tuition increase next year.

Winslow emphasized that the tuition hike is smaller than the ones many similar schools have enacted, including Guilford, in previous years.

"We are trying to make college accessible to as broad a range of people as possible during what are still economically challenging times," said Winslow.

A decline in enrollment, particularly in the CCE program, has been an important factor in Guilford's budget woes.

According to Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Administrator Andy Strickler, almost 80 percent of Guilford's revenue comes from tuition dollars. The decline from 1,400 traditional students and 1,300 CCE students in 2011 to the current numbers of 1,190 traditional students and 820 CCE has left the College's funds wanting.

Budget cuts will be made with input from a committee that President Jane Fernandes has established. Rob Nelson, former vice president of finance for the UNC system, heads the committee.

Winslow said the cuts are likely to be revealed when the trustees meet again on May 29 and May 30.

Students had an opportunity to voice their concerns to the board of trustees on Feb. 25 in the Carnegie room. The main issues and questions were summarized well by junior Teresa Bedzigui, one of the three speakers on behalf of the Bonner Scholars program.

"While Guilford does a fantastic job with environmental sustainability, it does not do so with financial sustainability," said Bedzigui. "As a result, the College is taking a reactionary stance and cutting programs that define Guilford. What is the meaning of calling ourselves a diverse institution without having as many professors, faculty and staff of color

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