

N.C. State Students Rally Against Tuition Increase

Several N.C. State students attended Thursday's protest, fearing a possible trend in tuition increases statewide.

By SHARON LIAO
Staff Writer

Worried that a tuition increase at UNC-Chapel Hill might cause a domino effect among other UNC-system schools, some N.C. State University students joined the fight Thursday against a University proposal.

About 16 N.C. State students supported hundreds of UNC-CH students

at a protest outside of the Board of Trustees meeting Thursday morning.

"I want to send the message that if they mess with Chapel Hill, then they're messing with the entire university system," said N.C. State Student Body President Raj Mirchandani, who addressed the protesters briefly.

Mirchandani said he wanted to collaborate with UNC-CH Student Body President Nic Heinke to organize a larger protest for the Board of Governors meeting. The BOG will review the BOT's proposal Nov. 19.

"We need to prove, as university students, we are a force to be reckoned with," he said.

N.C. State and UNC-CH students

must work together to squelch the proposal at the BOG level, Mirchandani said. "The Board of Governors is not likely to pass the tuition increase for one university and not another," he said.

Seth Whitaker, N.C. State student senate president, said the BOG kept the two schools' tuitions roughly equal because N.C. State and UNC-CH were N.C.'s two primary research institutions.

"UNC's tuition increase won't happen in a vacuum," he said. "Our tuition will probably go up as well."

Tom Stafford, N.C. State vice chancellor for student affairs, said Thursday's decision would probably result in a discussion in the N.C. State BOT.

He said he was uncertain how N.C.

State BOT members would feel.

"There is concern about faculty salaries," he said. "But I don't know if the concern is as great as it is in Chapel Hill."

Stafford added that UNC-CH's move could pioneer a trend in universities implementing individual increases. Previously the BOG had regulated increases, he said. "We're in a whole new ball game," Stafford said.

But UNC-CH's isolated move would likely influence more system schools than just N.C. State, Stafford added.

Mirchandani said he was already taking precautions to ensure that the plan did not snowball to N.C. State.

"I plan to start calling (N.C. State)

Board of Trustees members immediately," he said. Mirchandani also said he wanted to bring the issue to the forefront on N.C. State's campus.

"We have to figure out how to put fire under the burner and be prepared, because we could be next," he said.

Conen Morgan, a N.C. State student senator who spoke at the protest, said the students at his school were getting ready for the storm.

"Right now State's upset because we know we're next," Morgan said.

"There's a lot of expletives I could use, but to sum it all up, this is garbage."

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HALLOWEEN SAFETY

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officers from Chapel Hill, Jarvis said. He said it was remarkable that the department had been able to handle the event so well in the past.

"Atlanta may see a crowd of 40,000, but they have thousands of police officers," he said.

Capt. John Butler of the Carrboro Police Department said they planned to send 14 officers to Chapel Hill to assist with the festivities, but no additional changes were scheduled for the evening.

"We have extra officers on duty, but that's all," he said. "Nothing really goes on here. All the action is over there."

Jarvis said the situation was stressful for the department, but it's becoming a situation the officers have gotten used to. "It's nerve-wracking," he said.

"You go in there with your fingers crossed knowing you have your plans in order, and when it's over you breathe a sigh of relief."

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PROTEST

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through the increase in faculty salaries.

"Professors need to realize they got into the profession for the kids," said senior Khalilah Pitt, a Spanish major. "They're being selfish and greedy."

Not all faculty agreed with the tuition increase. Several professors paraded into the BOT meeting with signs reading, "Faculty Against the Tuition Hike."

When Faculty Chairman Pete Andrews spoke in favor of the increase, junior Devyn Spence and geography Professor Altha Cravey locked arms, hoisting a poster that read, "Faculty and students working together."

Walter Spearman Journalism Professor Chuck Stone accompanied students from his censorship class to the rally.

Stone said both the student and faculty turnout was depressing. "I know of at least 50 faculty members who are against the tuition hike," he said. "They need to make themselves visible. It is unfortunate because those interested in equity should support the protest."

"Students need to remind the BOT that they and their parents are voters. Imagine if half of the campus turned out, about 12,000 students. Now that would attract national attention."

Backing did come from one of UNC's rivals when students from N.C. State University arrived to support protesters.

"Tuition at Chapel Hill and N.C. State will probably rise and fall together," N.C. State Student Senate President Seth Whitaker said. "We will fight our battle at State the same way."

In the background, a student shouted, "We'll be there for you!"

Leigh Davis, Alexandra Molaire and Karey Wutkowski contributed to this article.

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DTH-GREG WOLF

Hundreds of students and faculty members stand outside the Morehead Building on Thursday while the Board of Trustees met in the Morehead Faculty Lounge. The proposal to raise tuition passed with a 9 to 3 vote.

How It Happened ...

For nearly three months, UNC students and faculty have disseminated the tuition increase proposal. The plan will increase faculty salaries in an effort to make UNC more competitive.

- August** — Interim Chancellor Bill McCoy selects 17-member Committee on Faculty Salaries and Benefits.
- Sept. 13** — Committee says tuition increase with state support is best means to increase faculty salaries.
- Sept. 27** — Committee cites a report that states a lack of research space and the number of old buildings on campus cause faculty to leave and discourage prospective employees.
- Oct. 11** — Committee discusses a tuition increase plan: \$500 for in-state undergraduates, \$1,350 for out-of-state undergraduates, \$1,500 for in-state graduates, and \$2,550 for out-of-state graduates; all over three years to be voted on Oct. 18.
- Oct. 11** — Student Body President Nic Heinke and Graduate and Professional Student Federation President Lee Conner meet 30 student leaders to discuss the recommendation.
- Oct. 12 to Oct. 13** — Heinke and Conner gather student input on the tuition increase before the Oct. 18 vote.
- Oct. 15** — Professors David Guilkey and Edward Samulski write a letter to committee members suggesting a higher tuition increase and blasting UNC's financial mission to "be as free as practicable" as outdated.
- Oct. 18** — In a 15-2 vote, committee approves three-year plan to increase in-state undergraduate tuition \$1,500 and out-of-state and graduate tuition \$2,000 over four years in a 15-2 vote.
- Oct. 18** — Heinke and Conner write a petition and send mass e-mail messages to campus groups encouraging them to protest at BOT meeting where the board will vote on the revised plan in an emergency meeting.
- Oct. 20** — BOT Chairwoman Anne Cates announces that only Heinke and Conner will represent student opinion at the Oct. 28 BOT meeting.
- Oct. 20** — The Progressive Student Coalition officially opposes the tuition increase but supports faculty salary increases.
- Oct. 25** — Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies sponsor a debate between student leaders and UNC officials.
- Oct. 26** — The Daily Tar Heel hosts a Tuition Increase and Faculty Salaries Open Forum where students address several members of the Committee and the BOT with questions and concerns. Most students sharply criticize the proposal.
- Oct. 26** — The Alliance for Creating Campus Equity and Seeking Social Justice members claim that any tuition increase would make UNC less accessible to prospective students and weaken campus diversity.
- Oct. 26** — At another forum, Chairman of the Faculty Council Pete Andrews discusses proposal details with Conner and nine graduate students. Andrews and the students disagree on almost all topics covered.
- Oct. 28** — The BOT votes to submit to the Board of Governors a modified proposal to increase tuition for all students by \$1,500 during the span of five years.
- Nov. 19** — The Board of Governors will hold a meeting at the Friday Center.

SOURCE: DTH ARCHIVES

VOTE

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Federation President Lee Conner and Student Body President Nic Heinke, who represented students at the meeting, testified that a steep tuition increase would limit student access to UNC.

But Trustee Tim Burnett and Faculty Chairman Pete Andrews, both proponents of a tuition increase, stressed the necessity and practicality of an increase.

As the speakers concluded, tension filled the room as trustees grappled with the proposal's timing and questioned the amount of legislative support that the plan would be able to garner.

Board members tossed around more

figures for an increase, with Trustee Billy Armfield proposing an across-the-board increase of \$1,800 during six years.

But as discussion spurred more questions, Trustee Stick Williams finally came up with the numbers that stuck.

Heinke said the plan's five-year span might cushion the blow for current students but was not a long-term solution.

"We have to think about the future of our University," he said.

Cates said it was now important for students and faculty to take a unified stance toward the Board of Governors and legislators. "We're going to march with the students."

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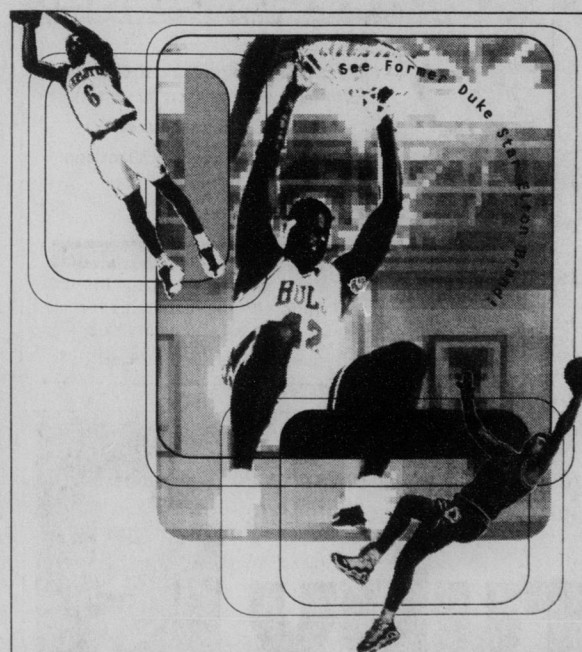
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