

# THE BLUE BANNER



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## Divestment forum attracts students

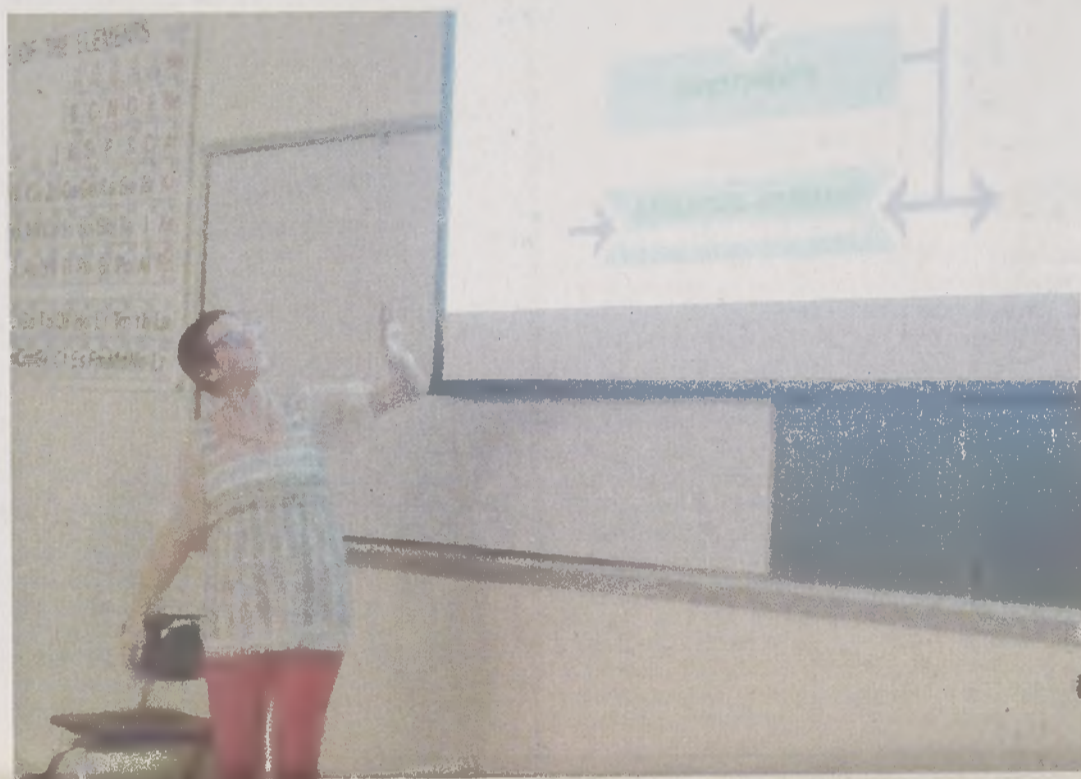


Photo by A.V. Sherk - News Editor  
Ashleigh Hillen presents to the audience of the divestment forum last Thursday.

## Students address unethical university investments

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News Editor

Divestment, a strange mash-up of words combined, defined as a diversion of invested capital, time or resources, blossoms as a watchword for student organizations as far-reaching from Stanford University to the University of Vermont and most recently, to the campus of UNC Asheville.

"Divestment is the tactic -- social justice is the goal," said Alex Buckingham, a speaker at

the divestment forum last Thursday in Karpen Hall.

The UNCA Divestment Coalition, a collection of student organizations with the shared goal of divesting university funds from businesses and corporations that do not align with UNCA's ethics, hosted the forum.

Universities remain profit-oriented businesses at their cores; they take the money allocated to them and invest it into businesses, seeking to boost their bottom-line, according to coalition members.

Without exception, universities' foremost interests are their survival and expansion; however, students within the divestment movement question the moral ethics of investing in companies, which threaten the environment.

"Over the summer I started hearing about Harvard's divestment movement, and my friend, who goes to Brown University, was part of a divestment movement there," said Carolina Arias, member of UNCA's Active Students for a Healthy Environment organization,

UNCA's International Socialist Organization and SEC Eco Reps coordinator. "When I went to the People's Climate March, I was like, 'Wow, we have to do something about this right now.'"

Members of the UNCA Divestment Coalition said they hope for greater transparency and environmentally conscientious decisions from the UNC Management Company Inc., which provides investment services to the UNC system of colleges.

"I want people to .un-  
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## Tuition and fees forum brings proposed changes

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Revenue from proposed tuition increases for 2015-17 will fund salary increases for faculty and staff, according to John Pierce, vice chancellor for finance and operations.

Additional fee increases will allow for student wage raises, spreading Wi-Fi access to the quad and creating a women's golf team, among other improvements.

A committee discussed proposed tuition and fees at two panels last Wednesday and Thursday. The recommendation includes a five percent increase for both in-state and out-of-state tuition rates.

Fees will increase for athletics and combined general fees, comprised of activity, health and transportation fees.

"Over the last six years, we basically had about \$10 million in cuts to our state appropriation, and a large part of the tuition increase has gone toward offsetting those state cuts. What that left us with, in terms of running the university, is not having any additional money for salaries," Pierce said.

Administration said they hope to prevent faculty and staff turnover by increasing wages.

Pierce said salary benchmarks at UNC

Asheville have been way below the midpoint for both tenured and non-tenured members and turnover would hurt the quality of the school in the long term.

Annual maximum tuition rate increase is five percent, mandated by the North Carolina General Assembly, down from 6.5 percent for the last four years.

The increase translates to an \$183 increase in annual tuition for full-time in-state students in the first year. For the following year, another \$192 increase is planned. Out-of-state students will pay an additional \$926 in the upcoming year, followed by \$991.

The proposal would end the practice of linking revenue from tuition with need-based financial aid. In some previous years, Pierce said, 25 percent of those funds were allocated to need-based financial aid. The rate was never set as a standard and is based on guidelines from UNCA general administration.

Currently, about 15 percent goes to need-based aid, the new maximum. The committee intends to maintain that rate, Pierce said.

The increase would bring tuition to \$4,041 per semester by 2017 for in-state students, without room and board. Out-of-state students would pay

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## Local restaurant owner hosts athletics meet and greet

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Staff Writer

In an effort to demonstrate the Asheville community's support for its local college athletics, Mark Sternal, co-owner of Daugherty's American Kitchen and Drink located in south Asheville, invited the athletic association and the men's basketball team and staff to his restaurant last Monday.

Sternal said that part of the mission of the restaurant is to support college athletics, especially since one of the founders, Brad Daugherty, played for UNC-Chapel Hill.

"We just wanted to give back to the university and let them know that south Asheville is here for them," Sternal said.

Janet Cone, director of athletics at UNC Asheville, said the athletes try to be more involved in the community.

"We do these kinds of events occasionally at different places around town, but this is our first time in south Asheville,"

Cone said.

Cone also said this is one of the steps taken toward getting more community involvement and members of the community will extend offers to help out because of their engagement.

"We're really engaged with the community and we meet a bunch of people and the owners extended the invitation to us," Cone said

Nick McDevitt, head coach for the men's basketball team, spoke on behalf of the hard work the team put forth toward the season.

McDevitt also said the team needs to work hard for the seniors, as their last opportunity for a championship title approaches.

He said he wanted to let the community know where their investment goes when it comes to supporting the program.

"It's important to know what you're investing in -- your time, your efforts and your money. It's going to a program and to these young men in the right ways,"

McDevitt said.

In addition to thanking the supporters, McDevitt also spoke on behalf the students on scholarships and what is expected of them for it.

"They understand the privilege of being a student athlete and being on scholarships and they do a lot of great work that everyone doesn't know about," McDevitt said.

Bruce Goforth, chairman of the Board for Bulldog Athletic Association, has been working the past four years to provide these scholarships to the students.

Goforth said one of the biggest fundraisers for the scholarships is the annual Bulldog Athletic Association golf tournament, which set a new record with more than \$100,000 raised for the student-athlete scholarship fund.

"I've been a supporter of scholarships for the last four years at UNCA, and I'm excited for what UNCA can be and all these things are important for our community," Goforth said.



Photo by John Armstrong - Staff Writer  
Janet Cone discusses the importance of athlete community involvement.