



The Pilot

Gardner-Webb University



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Going UP

Inflation, two presidents' salaries factors in increase

Jennifer Menster
Pilot design editor

On average, the overall cost to attend Gardner-Webb goes up about \$1,000 each year.

Next year will be no exception for students.

The board of trustees recently approved a \$1,100 increase in overall cost from \$18,200 in 2002-03 to \$19,300 in 2003-04.

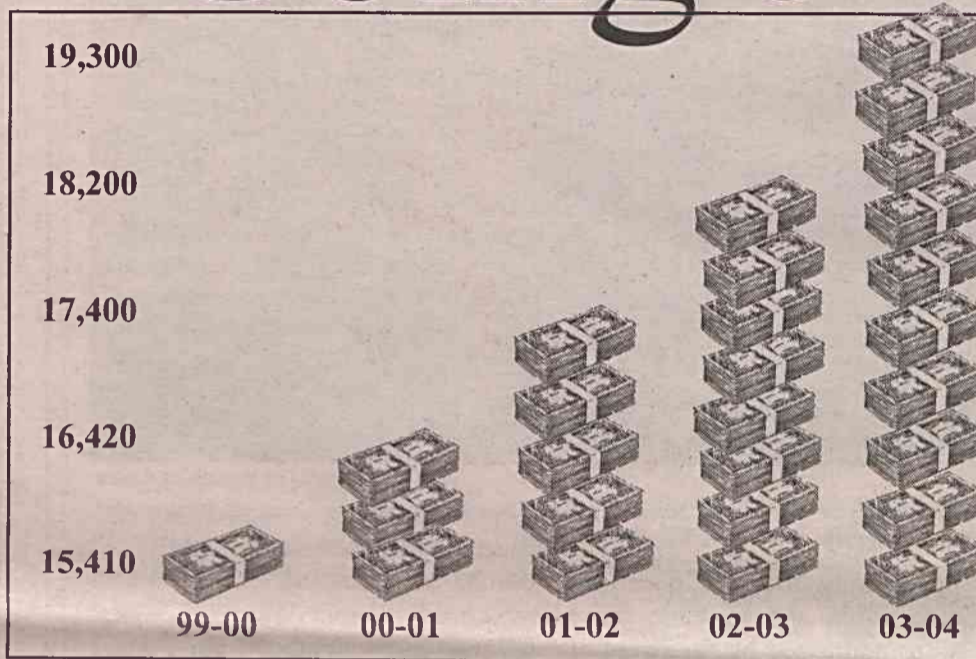
Five years ago, during the 1999-2000 academic year, overall cost was \$15,410.

Neal Alexander, chairman of the board of trustees, said the board felt the increase in tuition was necessary, based on the expenses. "Students may feel that the increase is not tangible to them," Alexander said, "but the increase is tangible to the university for grounds, painting, retaining the quality of teachers and supplies."

Students and parents should expect an increase in cost each year, said Scott Dixon, vice president for enrollment management.

"We try to keep the increase between 4 and 6 percent each year," Dixon said. "Our intent has always been to be responsible not to let the increase get too high."

Dixon said that if the university were to hold costs the same for several years, then the price would skyrocket



about 14 percent.

Administration was successful in keeping overall cost to a 6 percent raise; however, tuition went up 7 percent from \$6,610 to \$7,080.

Both Dixon and Interim President Frank Campbell gave several reasons for the increase in the cost of admission, such as professor pay raises, new programs and majors and an increase in insurance, general operations and inflation.

According to Dixon, inflation went up about 3 percent for the cost of living. However, inflation is based on which products are bought. For example, technology is in high demand, so the inflation rate for it is much higher.

Like many other universities of Gardner-Webb's status, the institution relies heavily on tuition to help balance the budget. In March, the trustees approved a budget of more than \$50 million.

Campbell said the administration wanted to keep the budget under \$50

million, but couldn't do it this year.

The budget is divided into two basic categories - revenue (money the school brings in) and expenditures (money the school spends). At the beginning of each calendar year, each department of the university will submit an expenditure budget to senior staff, who will cut and reduce prices as much as possible.

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You do the math

• Currently there are 1,232 full-time day students. If you multiply that by the total cost of enrollment for the coming year, \$19,300, the total is \$23,777,600. This does not include part-time students, graduate students or satellite student costs.

How will the tuition increase affect you?

"I am transferring to a state school because it's about 1/3 of what it costs to go to GWU. I think it's ridiculous that the tuition is going up. I understand that the school needs money, but I don't agree with it. I think that a lot of students will be hurt by it."



— Heather Randazzo, sophomore

"I am transferring, and money does have something to do with it. I have so many loans to be here—transferring and being considered out of state at another school will cost about half as much as being here."



— Amanda Longmire, sophomore

"Being on my own without any help from my parents, this is a lot of money for me. If the tuition goes up, I want to know where the money is going."



— Dan Walz, freshman

On the Inside

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