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University spending questioned among students

HEATHER GRADY

NEWS EDITOR

Tension over university spending has been building on campus, as students and administrators wait for the final word on budget cuts and tuition bill increases.

Such a tight budgetary situation has led to much speculation over the wisdom of creating additional beautification structures on campus, while some program cuts could loom in the distance.

However, administrators blame a lack of communication and student knowledge on the structure of university spending for any animosity created by additional beautification projects.

"The cost of education... is really going up everywhere. But I think it is a multi-faceted problem," said Timothy Jordan, vice chancellor of business affairs.

And, according to Jordan, not a problem generated by an administration more financially focused on beautification than substantive education.

"Capital money can not be used for operating costs. Conversely, operating money cannot be used for capital projects. Therefore, the money I'm spending to put that [gateway structure] up over there I couldn't use for salaries," Jordan said.

The policy, put in place by the leg-

islature, serves to maintain accountability and to prevent spending crossovers that could allow administrators to take too much money from one area to add to another, he said.

"I think there is a gross misconception. There's a misconception of what money goes to what. People don't always understand that," Pat Leonard, vice chancellor for student affairs.

"Tuition and appropriations go to support the main purpose of the university," Jordan said.

All of the tuition is poured into a state general fund which finances a number of operations, which include funding teacher salaries, student services, administrative costs, supplies, physical plant activities and grounds keeping. State appropriation money is also funneled into the general fund, and the total is then divided among a prioritized list of university funding pools, which in addition to other operations, go to areas such as enrollment growth and student financial aid, according to Jordan.

"You don't necessarily say this dollar of tuition funds this grounds keeping [project]," Jordan said, in reference to the inability to match each individual cost with the dollar-to-dollar funding from student tuition. "It is a cumulative set of needs, and you get funded for those needs in two different ways."

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UNCW's newest addition, the Lakeside Gateway Structure, has often been criticized by students as an example of frivolous use of University money.

New University Union will focus on student life

ERIN HENDERSON

STAFF WRITER

A new student union to be completed by the summer of 2007 could mean a student fee increase as early as the fall of 2002.

"In October we are verging on two years of research for this project," said Carolyn Farley, director of the University Union.

Construction will occur in three phases, with the first to be a new building with ground breaking scheduled for spring of 2003.

"We will try to eliminate cutting off student services we cherish this time," said

Farley.

Ideas for the new building include a movie theatre, a student media center, a new bookstore, a student involvement center, "which would pull all of the student organizations into a central area," Farley said.

The second phase of construction will occur on the existing university union building. "The Hawk's Nest will expand," Farley said, "so that it's much more integrated with the building." The offices that are currently in the union building, like the leadership center, will stay, but they may be moved to a more

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Design Firm The Seashore

After renovations to the student union is completed, many of the current offices in the Warwick Center will move.