

the Seahawk

Serving UNC-Wilmington Since 1948

VOLUME LIII, NUMBER 16

WWW.THESEAHAWK.COM

JANUARY 24, 2002

Inside This Issue...

New dom to be erected by International House/3



LEAD conference open to all students/5



Homecoming recap/9



INDEX

News.....3
 OPED.....4
 UNCW Life.....5
 The Scene.....6
 Classifieds.....8
 Sports.....9

Student fee increase approved

COLLIN BECK

STAFF WRITER

Student fees will jump \$316 after approval from the university's Board of Trustees last week.

The increase is scattered among eight categories, including postal ser-

vices, student media, student services, the University Union, student support services, athletics, University Union expansion and technology enhancement.

No increase in the parking fees has been approved yet, but Chancellor

James Leutze said, an increase is also imminent.

The hike also spawned a protest last Thursday morning by demonstrators concerned about the lack of recognized student voice in tuition and fee decisions. Led by SGA President Adrien Lopez and Senior Class President Les Stewart, about 25 students with signs stood outside Madeline Suite at about 10 a.m. The students protested the process by which the number was arrived, but not all of the actual increases in student fees.

Leutze carried his own sign which read, "I oppose the tuition increase too, But..." The chancellor spoke to those gathered about the lack of the alternatives to the hike, due to low levels of state funding and economic decline.

"I oppose the tuition hike, but my job is to bet-

SEE INCREASE,

PAGE 3



Chancellor James Leutze speaks to demonstrators outside the BOT meeting held last Thursday about the increase in tuition and fees.

Rate of tuition increases still unknown

MARC MAREADY

STAFF WRITER

Students will see increases in both tuition and fees starting in the fall, but unlike approved fee increases, the increase in tuition has not been finalized.

Talk of a tuition increase began partially as a result of the UNC Board of Governors asking each campus to organize faculty-student committees that would be in charge of creating plans that would allow universities to raise tuition over the next five years.

However, the proposal on the docket now is simply for the upcoming school year. The Board of Trustees will not be responsible for the full four-year plan until later this year.

The current tuition increase proposal, which was introduced to the BOT by Provost John Cavanaugh,

would raise tuition almost 14.5 percent over the next five years. This increase has not yet been approved by the Board of Trustees.

"The provost's proposal was reflective of our administrative thinking (about how much money we would need) primarily based on what the chancellor said in the November Trustee meeting (about assessing the future needs of the university)," said Mark Lanier, special assistant to the chancellor.

The proposal, which could increase tuition by over \$300 next year, was based on the university needs, Lanier said.

The increase was necessary because UNCW annually receives about \$15 million less than other schools similar to this campus, Cavanaugh said.

Lanier attributes this lack of funds

to the impending budget crisis in the state and also to the university's growth in recent years.

"The funding always follows the growth, it never precedes it," Lanier said.

The North Carolina Legislature was much more supportive of higher education early on the state's history, and during that time a greater percentage of the total cost of education was funded by the state, Lanier said.

"We are at an historic fork in the road for this institution. We either make choices to preserve the quality we've built up over the last 10 years, or we lose it," Cavanaugh said, according to reports from the Star-News.

Lanier said he expected the Board of Trustees will have a final dollar figure for the increase by the first week in February.

3 Arrests made for card fraud

JOHN WHITE

STAFF WRITER

A campus investigation into credit card fraud led to the arrest of three UNCW students, who charged goods and services on an illegally obtained student ID card.

Freshmen Corrine L. Oravits, Michelle A. Golden and Tara Anne Dalton will face misdemeanor charges in district court for using another student's lost I.D. card. The card was found outside the Graham-Hewlett Connector Building on November 4.

Dalton, who allegedly found the card, faced an additional felony charge for credit card theft, but that charge was later reduced to a misdemeanor by the district attorney's office.

The students purchased \$73.85 worth of sodas, candy and laundry services, leaving the victim a 4-cent balance, said Arresting Officer Sgt. Gunnar Matthews of the university police.

"One found the card, and they all went on a shopping spree at the vending machines," Sgt. Matthews said.

Matthews also said that the crime was not reported until the following day when the victim deactivated her card and found her flex account depleted.

Campus police canvassed dorms to question anyone with information about the crime but would not comment further on the details of their investigation. UNCW police referred each student to the Dean of Students.

The students involved were not available to comment.

Under structured sentencing, the three could face a \$1,000 fine and a few months probation, said Captain David Donaldson of the university police.

Campus police are looking into four other cases of credit card fraud involving student Flex Accounts. Most cases constitute petty theft, yet some accounts had up to \$700 available to perpetrators, according to university police. Capt. Charlie Willis, who heads the investigations, said

SEE FRAUD, PAGE 3