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# the Seahawk

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## State Student Government strives to end tuition increases with new Web site

**SARAH BRODERS**

NEWS EDITOR

Have complaints about increased tuition or university budget cuts? Now these stories and complaints can be put to good use.

The University of North Carolina Association of Student Governments has taken on an ambitious project - getting the state of North Carolina to understand the burden that is being put on students, parents, faculty and staff by the university budget cuts and tuition increases that have been seen on a yearly basis for the last several years.

To get the state's attention, the UNCASG is gathering personal stories and testimonies on the subject from individuals from all 16 UNC system schools. The stories focus on the impact that tuition increases and university budget cuts have had on the individuals' lives.

These narratives range from faculty explaining the burden put on them by increasing class sizes, to students who have had to drop out of school, to parents taking on multiple jobs to pay the increasing tuition bills.

Over the past five years, tuition has steadily increased,



courtesy of Brandy Lail

In addition to Senator Edwards' plans to help students with tuition, student government has also come up with a plan.

ranging from an increase of 3 percent to 14 percent for out-of-state residents, to an increase of 5 percent to 23 percent for in-state residents. The increases have been more drastic each year.

Students are usually the first members of the academic community that are thought of as being impacted by tuition increases. Repetitive hikes in tuition have led many students to have to get additional loans from finan-

cial aid, attend different schools for the first few years before transferring to UNCW, attend different schools all together, and it has even led students to dropping out of school.

"It does affect me, but I just get more financial aid, so it's more money I have to pay back in the end," said senior Brandy Lail.

Parents also suffer along with the students they help support. Many parents have had to cut out many luxury items such as family vacations, while others have had to take a second job to help pay their child's tuition.

The students are not the only ones directly affected by the tuition increases and university budget cuts - faculty and staff suffer as well.

Administration has had to cut down drastically on things such as office supplies.

Faculty has had to deal with ever-increasing class sizes because of the university's growth but has had no compensation because there wasn't money in the budget. The option of additional staff to help decrease class sizes by teaching additional sections has also been taken away because there is no money for that in the budget.

"It tends to make classes big-

ger, and it puts pressure on everyone to increase enrollment, which leads to more students and less faculty. It also leads to professors teaching classes that they normally wouldn't plan on teaching," said English professor Dan Noland. "Also, if students pay more money, it sometimes can change the whole tenor of the classroom because they see it as more of a commercial exchange than an academic one. They might even get grumpy about it."

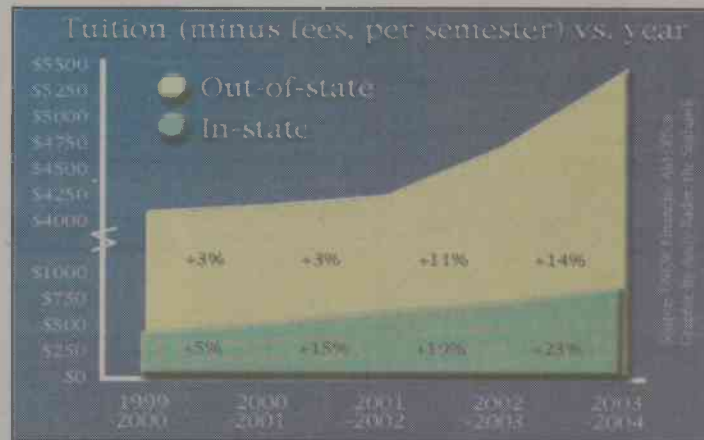
The UNCASG's goal for this campaign is to collect 100 stories from students, parents, faculty and staff from each of the 16 UNC system schools.

Once all the stories are collected, they will be bound and copied.

The book will be given to each and every member of the North Carolina General Assembly and the University of North Carolina Board of Governors, as well as every UNC system trustee and chancellor.

"A lot of students are looking for someone to tell about their hardships; someone who can make a difference," said Jonathan Ducote, president of UNCASG, in a recent press release. "You have to make it personal, or the decision makers don't understand."

All North Carolina residents and students are strongly encouraged to submit a story of the personal hardships they've endured. To submit a story or to view others', log onto [www.personalstories.org](http://www.personalstories.org).



### Inside This Issue

**Visit Us**

[www.theseahawk.org](http://www.theseahawk.org)

**OP/ED**

4

**UNCW Life**

5

**Classifieds**

8

**Sports**

9

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