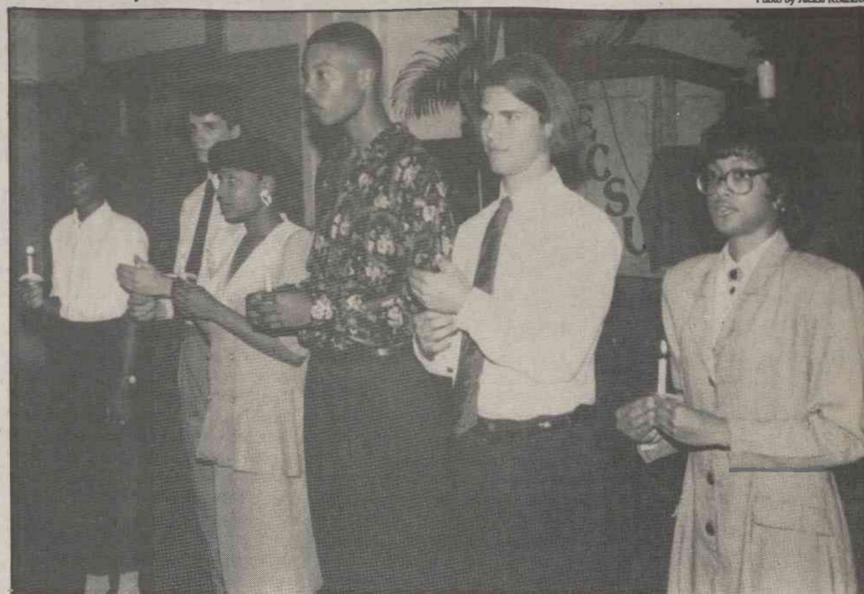


Special Report

Students' annual \$600 fees: where does that money go?

Flames of Academia

Photo by Jackie Rountree



Freshmen Dorothy Hager, Anthony Dunlow, Joy Curry, Forrest Giddiens, Jerald Robertson and Kecia Sansbury line up during the Fall Convocation and Candlelighting Ceremony, Sept. 15 in Moore Hall. The six freshmen helped conduct the Candlelighting ceremony, along with freshman Trone Gibbs and SGA President Miguel Purvis. At the Convocation ECSU inducted the largest freshmen class in the history of the school.

By DeAnna Rudisill and Jackie Rountree

You pay almost \$600 a year on student fees, but do you ever wonder where that money is going? ECSU boarding students pay \$297 every semester for student fees. Day students pay \$300 per semester.

Where does this money go? The athletic program receives \$120 a year per student, according to Dr. Leon White, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

According to Dr. Thomas Caldwell, professor of Physical Education and Health, the athletic program "defrays the cost of athletics" by covering the costs of uniforms, travel and any other costs for the basketball, volleyball, football, track and field.

For students who are interested in sports but are not on a team, there is the Vaughan Center.

The \$72 fee for the Vaughan Center is used to pay for the center's upkeep; students use the center for dances, pool parties and other recreational activities.

The \$120 annual student activity fee is used to support "the programs and activities of 37 student organizations and clubs," said White, "and programs for students such as Lyceums."

This money also funds the Student Government Association, the Viking Yearbook, The Compass, bands, choirs, Miss ECSU, holiday activities, clubs, class activities, Phi Beta Lambda, Kappa Delta Pi, student educational travel and the Homecoming Committee, White said.

Students are assessed \$120 every year for the University Center. Most of this money is used to pay the mortgage on the building and pay the staff, White said.

The fee also supports "building indebtedness, staff salaries and benefits for three employees, recreational equipment and repair, building maintenance and repair, utilities, office supplies, building renovations, cable subscription service, copying and

printing, telephones, insurance and bonding, building furniture and staff development," according to White.

ECSU students expressed mixed reactions about the fee.

"I only come to the campus on the days that I have classes and don't spend any time in the University Center," said one commuter student, "and yet I pay the same amount as a student who lives on campus and relies on the center for recreation."

"We come here a lot to watch movies and to play tennis," said one student sitting in the University Center. "We enjoy it and are glad that it is here."

"It (the University Center) has a lot of dead space that could be put to use," one student said, "and a lot of people wish it would open earlier on Sundays."

Students' \$162 health fee supports staff salaries and benefits for five employees, utilities, maintenance and repairs, building renovations, medical equipment, office supplies, medicines, printing, telephones, transportation for patients, staff travel, insurance and bonding, office furniture and equipment and educational equipment.

The University does not provide a full time physician, however. Several students feel it's necessary to have a full time doctor at the infirmary.

"When we first start feeling under the weather we could reverse the symptoms if we were immediately given the proper treatment and medicine," said one student, "but if we are given aspirin until we can set up an appointment with the doctor, our state will get worse."

Another said, "I am asthmatic and usually attacks occur at night and even if I go to the hospital I'll still need care until I get there and it worries me knowing that a physician will not be present."

When asked if he felt it was necessary to have a fulltime doctor at the infirmary, White said, "College and university students are among the most healthy individuals in America. While students do become ill, most are in good health and do not require the

services of a physician," White added.

"Our student usage data indicates that students are being served in a timely manner by the physician and nursing staff. Thus, we conclude that a part time physician is meeting our student's needs."

White said the University will solicit a fulltime physician "if demand dictates it," but added such a move could increase student health fees by 50%.

Not only are students somewhat frustrated about the part time physician, they are also confused on what exactly their student health insurance covers.

According to a brochure on the ECSU student accident and sickness insurance, there is a \$2,000 maximum coverage for "all full time enrolled students."

Included in the policy are daily room and board, surgical operation, physician's visits, professional local ambulance service, out-patient laboratory or x-ray services and emergency room expenses.

The brochure also said there is a \$1000 coverage for accidental death and that maternity coverage will be provided at no additional cost.

A lot of the confusion on the insurance is due to students not following the proper procedure when they seek off-campus medical care.

"Students need to report to us first," said Gertrude Bonds, nursing assistant at the infirmary.

Bonds went on to explain that the Student Handbook clearly states that when you have an emergency or problem you still need to notify the infirmary first, and if the infirmary is closed you need to notify your resident director. Both will call an ambulance or take you to the hospital if necessary, Bonds said.

The \$16 laundry fee students pay each semester provides two towels, two sheets, a pillow case and a wash cloth for each student, according to A.C. Robinson, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance. Students can return them for clean ones every week, he said.

Education Dept. preps for NCATE

By Mark Morris

In 1985 ECSU was one of 12 N.C. schools to have less than 70% of its education majors pass the professional knowledge section of the National Teacher's Examination (NTE).

Five years later, ECSU's pass rate on that same portion of the test is still under 70% and with a national accreditation at stake, the University's education department is doing all it can to improve the scores.

Only 503 of the nation's 1200 teaching institutions are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The N.C. General Assembly has mandated that all N.C. teaching institutions be accredited by NCATE. In order for a teaching institution to be accredited by NCATE, it must meet certain criteria, including a 70% pass rate on the professional knowledge section of the NTE.

Although ECSU's scores on the

general knowledge portion of the exam has fluctuated from 79.2% and 89.8% from 1986 to 1990, the University has never had the required 70% pass rate on the professional knowledge section of the test, according to statistics compiled by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

In fact, ECSU's pass rate on the professional knowledge section of the NTE for the 1986-87 was 37.1%, according to Van Brock Murray, Chief Consultant of the Certification Section of Educational Testing Service for the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. ECSU's highest reported pass rate came in 1988-89 when the department's percentage was 63.5%, Murray said.

Murray admitted that these statistics are not entirely accurate, due to discrepancies in the measuring process—for example, students who write the wrong code for their schools on the test.

"The test data has some inaccura-

cies in it," Murray said. "It's not 100% correct by individual schools. The school's total should represent the percentage of the passing students that identified ECSU as the place where they received training relative to the test."

ECSU's Education Department maintains a set of NTE statistics that differ from those reported by the ETS, according to Dr. James Hedgebeth, chairman of the department. However, Hedgebeth would not release the department's statistics to *The Compass* at press time.

"If an English major takes the NTE without having any education courses and fails, it affects us," said Hedgebeth "It's a big, big picture that can't be covered just by looking at statistics."

Hedgebeth said the discrepancy in the two different sets of scores results from the education department's listing only the passing scores of NTE

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