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Fewer grants feed tuition hikes

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The cost of college continues to rise as available federal grant money erodes, putting higher education out of reach for many low-income American families.

Student grants are covering a significantly diminishing proportion of college costs. Pell grants—the major source of federal money for low income students—provide about half of what they did 20 years ago, according to a study released Nov. 17. In the 1976-77 school year, the average Pell grant covered 19 percent of the cost of attending a private, four-year institution, and 39 percent of the price of a public four-year school. In 1996-97 the most recent year available for the study—the average grant covered 9 percent for private schools, and 22 percent for public.

Even more striking, the maximum Pell grant, given to the more needy students, fell from covering 35 percent of private-college costs in 1976-77 to 13 percent in 1996-97; for public schools, it dropped from covering 72 percent of the price to 34 percent, the study said.

“If low-income students don’t attend community college, they can’t afford college at all”, said Thomas Parker of The Education Resources Institute, a non-profit guarantor of privately issued student loans, and one of the groups that released the report.

“What we like to think is we have a system where people have both access and choice, but what we’re rapidly developing is a system where people have access but no choice,” he said.

The average Pell grant award declined

by 23 percent—adjusting for inflation—over 20 years, but college prices rose by 49 percent, and family incomes crept up by just 10 percent over the same period.

In 1996-97, the maximum Pell grant available was \$2,470 for qualifying students. In 1997-98, it went up to \$2,700 and is at \$3,000 for the current year.

“Even with those increases, the bottom line is the net price still increases for most families, particularly for the lowest-income students,” said Jamie Merisous, the president of The Institution for Higher Education Policy in Washington and a co-author of the report.

About 3.6 million of the nation’s 14 million college students receive Pell grants, and more than half of Pell recipients in four-year-schools qualify for the maximum amount of money.

Card system brings a mix of responses

BY KEISHA LEACH
News editor

Winston-Salem State University students will now use vendor cards to purchase copies from the library’s Xerox machines. The disposable cards are sold in \$5 and \$10 increments and are available at the campus bookstore. Library staff believe they will provide more convenience for students and faculty by eliminating the use of change in the copy machines.

The cards themselves are irreplaceable if stolen or lost. Once the money has run out, students and faculty can simply purchase another one.

Students will not have to worry about carrying around a pocket full of excess change - or lack thereof, and library staff will be able to provide more efficient service to students and staff without having to be disturbed in order to distribute change to students.

There is however some opposition to the new vendor cards. Some students feel the cards will not make copying any easier than it is now. One problem seems to lie with the card’s prices.

“We do not use the copy machine in the library simply because we have to pay. We can go elsewhere and make copies for free,” said one student when asked how he felt about the cards.

Library staff assures that although the prices of copies goes up one cent with the vendor cards, everyone including faculty will be expected to pay the same amount for the copies.

“I think it is inconvenient for students to go to the bookstore and purchase a card to make copies in the library,” says one faculty member.

While the popularity of the vendor cards is still in question, library staff continues to have faith in this new form of technology.

However for those who would prefer to stick to the old way of things, the old copy machine on the first floor of the library is still available for use. The price is the usual 5 cents, although the library staff complains the quality of print from the old copier is not as good as the new machines.

Use of the two new machines in the library that accept the vendor cards, is strongly encouraged in order to get your

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So, So Close

The Winston-Salem State Rams football team traveled to San Diego for the Gold Coast Classic, where they played Grambling State.

This was the Rams’ first appearance in the classic, which is in its second year.

Grambling, a Division I-AA team, won 35-28. It was the Ram’s final game of the season (photo at right).



Photo by Baxter Griffin

Democrats big winners in N.C. polls

Edwards becomes senator-elect, beating Faircloth with help of moderates

BY KYLA ALSTON
Reporter

Nov. 3rd was a great day for the Democratic party. The senate, along with the 2nd and 4th District House races, were won by democrats John Edwards, Bob Etheridge and David Price.

In the highest profile race in the state, Edwards, the underdog, beat out Republican Sen. Lauch Faircloth. Edwards’ victory was attributed to many factors. One was the high turnout of minority voters, the majority of which voted for Edwards.

Women voters helped Edwards in his victory over Faircloth. Women voters

accounted for 60 percent for Edwards versus 40 percent for Faircloth. Faircloth may have only himself to blame for that turnout. It is said that women are more inclined to have an adverse response to negative campaign tactics like those used by Faircloth.

Edwards also did well in areas of the state where Faircloth had many supporters. Faircloth is involved with hog farming and thought to be the leader in the agricultural parts of the State. This proved to be false.

Edwards gained a great deal of support from political moderates. Moderates were 65 percent in favor of Edwards versus 32 percent in favor of Faircloth.

The 2nd and 4th District House races brought no turnovers. Early on in the 2nd

District race, Dan Page(R) attacked Etheridge, linking Etheridge with President Clinton, at the time when the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal was big news. Those attacks apparently did not stick in peoples minds as Etheridge won the election.

In the 4th district race, David Price was more secure than Etheridge in District Two. The counties that fall into the 4th District are heavily democratic. Even though both North Raleigh and Cary are heavily Republican, Roberg did not get enough votes to secure his seat.