

Chabotar Hosts Campus-Wide Budget Hearings

Mary Layton Atkinson
Campus Life Correspondent

Open and participative: this is President Kent Chabotar's goal for how to treat the college's budgetary process.

"We are planning a community budget and seeking the involvement of the members of the community in that process," Chabotar said at a campus-wide budget meeting held in Bryan Junior Auditorium on Jan. 15. "It will be a truly balanced budget. Not one that is balanced on the backs of one group or another."

Over 100 students, faculty, and staff members attended the meeting updating the budgetary process.

"I attended because I had heard they were planning to raise tuition next year," sophomore Doug Watts said. "Many of my questions regarding that issue were answered."

The budget committee did in fact

state that both tuition and room and board charges will likely rise next fall. Preliminary figures offered by the committee show an expected increase of 4.47%, or \$800 in tuition and an increase of 2.77%, or \$20 in room and board in the coming school year.

Chabotar urged those present to trust that the plans to increase tuition were being fully divulged, unlike in years past.

"Did you see the tuition-increase plan last year?" Chabotar said. "No. When we know the timeline and the precise numbers, you will. It's not a secret."

Despite Chabotar's promise of openness, some students felt that the meeting was merely a formality, rather than a forum for community discussion.

"I don't really know why students were invited," said Watts. "It didn't seem like the opinions of those present really mattered."

Other students felt that the meeting

was simply not what the attendees had anticipated. It wasn't that student opinions didn't matter, but that the meeting did not serve as a forum for discussion of those opinions.

"I felt like people came expecting a discussion or debate of the college's vision, what programs we had to keep, and where to take this progress," first-year Chris Wells said. "Instead we got college finance 101, which was helpful, sure, but not the meeting we really needed to have as a community."

Chabotar expressed why he believed the campus-wide meeting was in fact beneficial to the community in a written statement.

"I intend budgeting, and decision making in general, to be as open as possible so that members of the community can appreciate the process even if they might not agree with the results on occasion," Chabotar said.

"An all-campus meeting about the

budget is one way to make an opaque area such as college finances more transparent to everyone."

Mathematics Professor Elwood Parker, the chair of the budget committee, urged community members to seek out additional avenues of expression to complement campus-wide meetings in order to make their opinions heard.

"Those who have input and wish it to be heard should not only attend such meetings, but should convey their concerns to members of the committee," Parker said. "All Guilford constituents (students, faculty, administration, and support staff) are represented on the committee."

The committee members hope that the inclusion of the opinions from all aspects of the Guilford community will lead not only to a budget that is sound, but also "to better acceptance of the results since there has been opportunity for input," Parker said.

CCE SGA Corner

John Allred

Guest Writer

Editor's Note: The following article was published in the Dec. 6 edition of *The Guilfordian*. Because a power outage at our printer caused that issue to be delayed, and as such distribution around campus was not as extensive as normal, we have elected to reprint it here.

For traditional students here at Guilford, the term CCE can offer a mixed bag of meanings. Who are the CCE students? How many attend Guilford? Why have they taken my parking space? Why don't they pay the same student activity fees? Why are classes designated CCE only?

These are all common yet less-discussed questions surrounding the CCE population on

the Guilford campus. By comparison, CCE students often experience similar curiosity about their traditional counterparts.

To remedy this perplexing and long-lasting sense of uncertainty, the CCE Student Government Association, or CCE/SGA, would like to introduce the CCE Corner. With much-welcomed support from *The Guilfordian* editorial staff and Community Senate, we would like to begin our journey of getting the word out about CCE. The goal is not only to bridge the gap between traditional and CCE students that has seemed to broaden over time, but provide a platform for exchange of information, ideas, and issues that impact us all.

Are CCE students aware of the services available to them at Guilford? Do they know about the Career Development Center? Are CCE

students aware of CCE/SGA and who their representatives are? Does CCE have an interest in the development of a co-op coffee shop managed by students? Are CCE students aware of the Anti-Racism Initiative here at Guilford? Chances are, many CCE students have asked these very questions and we would like to provide some answers.

Additionally, traditional students may have similar, and definitely equally important, issues and concerns they would like to see addressed. What about those CCE-only classes? What is the CCE fee policy? What about CCE would we like to know? Did CCE students take my parking space? Getting the word out about CCE will provide much needed discussion about these issues and a range of topics that can affect each one of us. For that reason, we need both tradi-

tional and CCE students alike to take part. Your input is vital and necessary to our success.

Now comes the fun part – we need your help! With your questions, suggestions, issues, hot buttons or concerns, please email *The Guilfordian* at guilfordian@guilford.edu and place "CCE" in the subject heading. In order to make this a true open forum, it is imperative to have your feedback and recommendations as to the material you would like to see covered in the CCE Corner.

So, without further delay, I invite you to take this opportunity and let's get the word out about CCE. We have a tremendous opportunity to educate, illustrate, debate, and most importantly, communicate!