

**MAKING  
THE  
MOST  
OF  
SPRING  
BREAK**  
PHOTOS ON PAGE 7

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# THE GUILFORDIAN

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## TRUSTEES APPROVE TUITION INCREASE, DIVERSITY PLAN

STORIES BY DEENA ZARU, SENIOR WRITER

### Board endorses Diversity Plan as "first step" toward action

After undergoing its final stages of revision, the Diversity Plan, officially known as "Connecting Communities and Embracing Diversity: A Plan for Guilford College 2010-2015," was approved by the board of trustees during the weekend of Feb. 27-28.

Board chair Joe Bryan Jr. said "the Board approved the plan because it is taking Guilford's goals for diversity and equality and putting them in the books."

While the board has approved the plan in principle, they have not yet approved or created an action plan to implement the goals.

"The U.N. resolutions to end the occupation and inhumanity in Palestine were passed by the U.N. many times," said sophomore Senate vice-president Dana Hamdan, who attended the meeting.

"But these resolutions were worthless because they didn't bring people land, money or peace. David Hammond, Holly Wilson, Jeff Favolise and others have been doing above and beyond in making sure that this plan is a reality and

not just another UN resolution."

Multi-cultural scholar Martha Assefa, a senior, said that many individuals worked very hard to write the plan and that it has been a very long process that began while she was a first-year.

"Change happens very slowly at Guilford. People were working really hard on trying to implement the diversity plan, and four years later it is passed in principle," said Assefa. "This is a good step but I'm hoping the action will happen a bit faster."

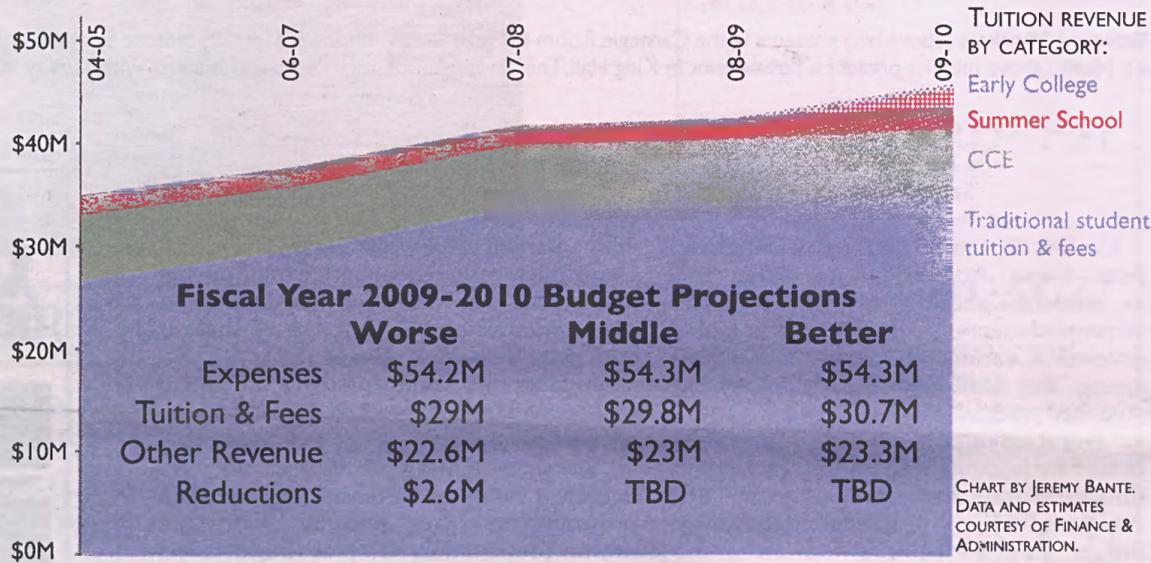
Assefa said that while a slow process can be frustrating, it has been beneficial because there is a strong sense of consciousness and knowledge about the campus' needs.

"Because conciseness about issues and knowledge are solid, when actions are proposed, they will be approved faster," said Assefa.

Hammond said that the plan reflects the common agreement that Guilford should be more diverse

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### Tuition increase designed to help balance budget



During the board meetings that took place during the weekend of Feb. 27-28, the board's finance committee heard and approved the recommendations of the Budget Committee and approved in principle a 5.5 percent increase in traditional student tuition and a 5.6 percent increase in fees for CCE students.

"The big issues at this year's meetings were regarding the

tuition and the budget of 2009-2010," said Bryan. "We approved an increase in tuition because it is necessary to balance the budget."

According to Hayton, 78 percent of the college's operating budget is dependent on tuition and fees from enrollment.

At this year's February meeting the Budget Committee recommended rates for tuition and fees for fall 2009, unlike recent

years where they recommended a full budget.

"This will allow the committee to have a clearer enrollment picture before we recommend a complete budget at the next board meeting," said Community Senate treasurer Will Vormelker, who serves as the student representative on the budget committee.

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### LIFE OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE

A CLOSER LOOK  
AT POPULAR  
SPOTS FOR OFF-  
CAMPUS LIVING

SEE PAGE 6

## Pew study finds imprisonment too costly and ineffective

By Jasmine Ashton  
STAFF WRITER

The federal government can no longer afford to incarcerate the 2.3 million people in jails and prisons across the nation - another symptom of the current financial crisis. As a result, states are beginning to consider criminal justice and policy changes in order to save funds and alleviate overcrowding.

The new policy changes are designed to reduce prison and jail populations through sentencing changes, recidivism

reduction programs, and early release modifications.

"In order to solve a problem you must work to prevent it from the root," said junior Jossie Dowling, the project coordinator for the Guilford Correctional Center (McLeansville) reading and discussion group. "I believe that there are several different roots to the overcrowding issue: globalization, the War on Drugs, and the three strikes policy."

The War on Drugs is a prohibition campaign undertaken by the U.S.

government with the assistance of participating countries. It is intended to reduce the illegal drug trade - to curb supply and diminish the demand for drugs deemed immoral, harmful, dangerous, or undesirable.

According to Dowling, the three strikes policy, which often goes along with the War on Drugs, has unjustly put many minor offenders behind bars.

"It is essentially the idea that after committing three crimes it is mandatory that you serve time in prison," said

Dowling. "So many different things count as felonies that people can really get screwed if they commit three minor crimes."

According to a Pew study released on March 2, one in 38 adults is either in prison, on probation, or on parole in North Carolina.

The high number of people being locked up has consequently caused prison and jail costs to skyrocket since the 1980s. This increase in corrections spending only

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