

MEREDITH HERALD

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Educating Women to Excel

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Students take initiative at Q&A

□ **Proposals are explained for students.**

LORA TILLMAN
Staff Writer

Let's face it; \$18,000 is a lot of money no matter what it is getting you. So it was no surprise that many members of the Meredith community were sent into a slight state of shock when word of the new tuition increase came out.

Why so much money and why such a large jump in one year? What is all of this money going toward? Students were engulfed with questioning curiosity and frustration, but the administration was quick to respond. Last Wednesday, Nov. 29, the administration held two question-and-answer sessions, at 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. in Jones Chapel, and the sessions were open to anyone wishing to attend.

Participating in the panel were Ruth Ann Balla, head of Technology Services; Dr. Jean

Jackson, vice president for Student Development; Dr. Maureen Hartford, college president; Bill Cox, director of Financial Aid; and Dr. Rosalind Reichard, vice president for Academic Affairs.

At the beginning of each session, Hartford explained that the initiatives are based on skills desired for workers in today's society such as strong interpersonal skills, strength in math and science, critical thinking and teamwork.

She explained that the initiatives focus on technology, funding for study abroad opportunities, math and science improvements, leadership development and increased financial aid.

"I will do my best to insure that the [tuition] increase has as little impact as possible on the individual student financially but as much positive impact as possible on the college learning environment as a whole," promised Hartford.

With that, the questions began. Balla was the first to

respond when asked what exactly the technology fees would be used for.

She explained that the technology fee for the incoming freshmen would be used for their laptops. The fee of \$800 that returning students will pay covers many things such as upgrading the computer labs, upgrading the curriculum labs with specialized software that will operate on a two to three year refreshing cycle, replacing Cate Center and residence hall computers, upgrading the network with increased bandwidth and wireless connection, upgrading Blackboard, creating a better on-line student directory and increasing staff for more support and training. Balla added that off-campus students will have to pay the fee as well.

She explained that continuing resident students would have the opportunity to purchase the same laptops that the incoming freshmen will receive. Also, all full-time faculty will receive laptops on a

two-year replacement program, and all part-time faculty will receive a laptop on a three-year replacement program.

Then came the inevitable question of financial aid. Many students are concerned that with such a steep rise in tuition, they may not be able to afford the "Meredith Experience" any longer.

Bill Cox eased a lot of worried minds with his explanation of the financial aid situation. He encouraged students to come have a financial aid consultation before winter break. Once the office examines each student's financial situation, the office can quickly and efficiently predict the financial aid package a student could receive next year.

Alleviating some fears, Cox said, "We have seen many people so far, and every case has worked out just fine."

For those students already

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Adkins is expected to add a lot

LEESHA AUSTIN
Layout Editor

Dr. Sidney Adkins will join the Meredith community in January as the first dean of the newly formed School of Business and as the Wainwright Professor of Business.

Adkins was selected by a search committee composed of faculty members Dr. William Landis, nutrition professor; Dr. Rebecca Oatsvall, accounting professor; Dr. Anne York, business professor; and Dr. Tom Pencek, business professor.

Toni Rhorer, formerly of the Career Center, served as the staff representative. Other members included Dr. Rosalind Reichard, committee chair and vice president of Academic Affairs; Dr. LaRose Spooner, vice president of Marketing; and Kristy Eubanks of the business advisory board. Graduate student Carol Meyer and undergraduate student

Leslie Gilliland served as student body representatives.

Before coming to Meredith Adkins served as the founding

dean of the McColl School of Business at Queens College in Charlotte.

While at Queens he was suc-

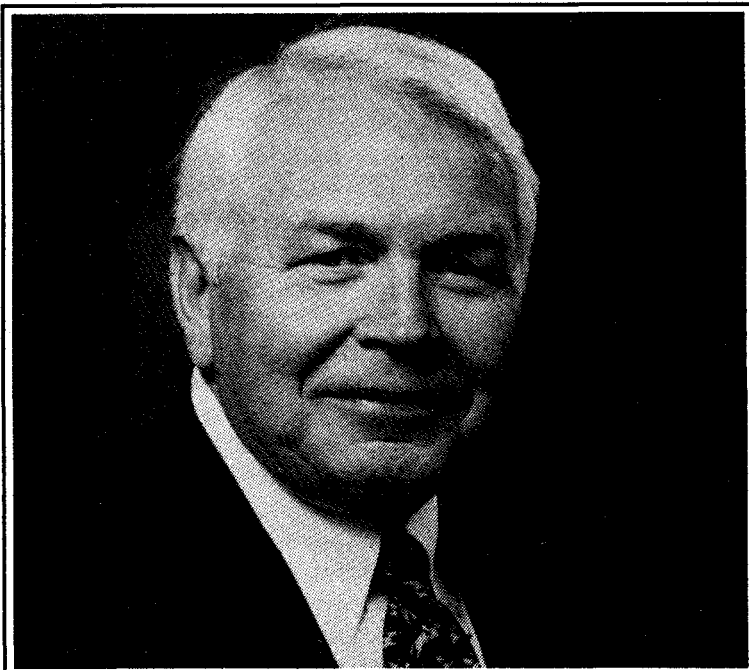
cessful in increasing enrollment in both the MBA and the EMBA programs.

Through a capital campaign he was successful in raising \$15 million for facilities and programs at Queens.

Before serving as dean of Business at Queens College, Adkins served as the associate dean for External Affairs in the Stern School of Business at New York University.

Adkins received a B.S. degree in biology from Appalachian State University, an M.Ed. degree in Counseling Psychology from Shippensburg State University and an Ed.D. in Counseling Psychology and Higher Education Administration from the University of Virginia.

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Dr. Sydney Adkins, the new dean of Meredith's school of business, will arrive on campus in January.

PHOTO BY STEVE WILSON