



Student leaders and administrators search for common ground on TUITION INCREASE

□ SGA and financial aid office work on initiatives that they hope will deter students from transferring.

JONI SMITH
Managing Editor

The tuition increase was one of the hottest topics debated on campus in 2001 and is likely to remain so in 2002 due to concerns voiced by parents and students.

Lora Tillman, Student Government Association vice president, met with Dr. Jean Jackson, Vice President of Academic Affairs, yesterday to discuss ways to make the transition into the tuition increase go

smoother for the Meredith community.

Tillman said that she and Jackson discussed working closely with the Office of Financial Assistance to have more advertisements on campus informing students of workshops that feature financial assistance programs and the one-on-one help the office gives to students in need.

Tillman and Jackson also hope to get more information to 23+ students about the different types of financial aid they may be able to receive.

Because financial aid has become a top priority among students since the announcement of the increase in tuition, Tillman is also hoping that the Office of Financial Assistance will be open to the possibility of staying open one hour later

one night a week for students who have trouble getting to the office during regularly scheduled hours.

Tillman and the other members of the Senate are also in the process of developing a proposal that would allow students to have a more direct voice in the decisions made by the Board of Trustees, the body that approves tuition increases.

"The Senate is doing what they can to ensure the student body has a strong voice in decisions that will affect them," Tillman said.

Megan Deane, junior class president, also has been actively involved in issues surrounding the tuition increase.

In November, Deane presented Dr. Maureen Hartford with a petition from juniors who felt disgruntled about the

increase.

Many of these students' classmates, who will be seniors next year when the increase comes into effect, say they will have to transfer.

Hartford informed Deane of a stack of parent petitions she had also received.

Hartford told Deane that the number of service award scholarships would increase due to the increase in tuition.

The administration also sent letters to the parents of Meredith students before Thanksgiving informing them of the situation.

Hartford has been present at several class meetings as well as at forums throughout last semester addressing this issue.

And concern among students has still not waned since this past September when the

Herald first broke the story to the campus.

Paige King, a junior who will be affected by the increase, is concerned about diversity issues once the increase goes into effect.

"For a school that wants to have more diversity on campus, this increase in tuition is not going to get the job done."

Jenny Jacobs, a freshman, said that many of her friends "will have to transfer because they can't afford four years of tuition here."

"Just when we were all getting comfortable with each other, some of our class will be leaving," she said.

Follow the *Herald's* coverage of the tuition increase this semester.

Math and science building ahead of schedule

□ Steel, brick, sheet rock. Get your hard-hat ready for the end of February. Tours are a prospect.

TANESHA WILLIAMS
Staff Reporter

By day it seems as though the new mathematics and science building sprouted over Christmas.

Construction of the new facility, located across from the Harris building, is not just on schedule--it is ahead.

Project managers, builders

and even faculty and students acting as sightseers as they walk to and from the Cate Center attribute the speedy construction to good weather.

But by night workers weld steel beneath the glare of a spotlight. Sparks fly. And progress is born.

"I'm impressed with how fast they are working on it," said sophomore Terrie Morris. "They were working at eight o'clock on a Sunday morning."

Brian Kivett, office engineer for Rogers Builders, said that the structure of the building--including all the steel-

work--is complete, and now workers are concentrating on the east side of the building.

The walls on the east side of the building have been constructed, and now the builders' focus is on the masonry blocks on both sides.

Kivett hopes that during this week the builders will be able to apply the sheet rock.

Dr. Virginia Knight of the mathematics department said that although she is familiar with the plans for the 80,000 square foot building, "it looks bigger than any of us imagined."

Morris agrees that the build-

ing is huge, but feels that its position between Harris, Cate and Ledford cramps it with the surrounding buildings.

While most of the building is complete, the conservatory has not yet been constructed. Sidewalks around the building and Cate have been paved, and according to Knight, more are to come in the future.

As far as the future is concerned, there will be a "Topping Off" ceremony on Feb. 22.

This ceremony is sponsored by the builders and signifies when they have reached the highest point in the construc-

tion.

The campus is invited to the ceremony. Also, Rogers Builders, architect BJLAS, the Board of Trustees, and other representatives from the college will have a barbecue inside of the new building that day.

Knight also hopes that once more stairways are built--likely toward the end of March-- that students and faculty can take hard-hat tours.



IN THE INSIDE:

IN DINING:
100 of the missing glasses in Belk have been found.

IN EDITORIAL:
Editorial whiz Joni Smith is ready to make some noise in '02.