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What all this might suggest is that students simply don't know or don't care about how student fees get distributed. They just want it done fairly.

The Not-So-Gory Details

Really, it's not so complicated. And students ought to know — after all, it's their money, and next week they will have the opportunity to elect the people who will spend it.

Student Congress, which has existed at UNC in many different forms through the years, is now composed of 37 representatives elected from 23 districts.

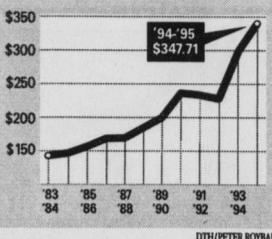
In the 1920s and early 1930s, UNC students voted on fees collected to fund student services. In 1941, the student legislature took on the power of collecting and allocating these student fees.

The current system of fee allocation has existed for about 10 years at UNC. Under this system, officially recognized student organizations can ask congress for money. Requests are written into bills and are reviewed by the Student Congress Finance Committee.

The finance committee forwards the bill to the full congress with a recommen-

Student Fees Increases

Fees have risen rapidly in recent years following a period when the BOG refused to consider increases.



dation of whether to support or oppose the bill. It can also send it forward with "no prejudice."

If congress passes the bill, the student body president can sign or veto it or allow it to become law without his signature. Vetoes can be overridden by a two-thirds majority of congress.

Officially, signing or vetoing bills is the primary responsibility of the student body president related to congress. Informally, of course, the president can put his or her

weight behind a bill when it passes through congress.

Or, Student Body Treasurer Wayne Rash said, "If (the president) wanted to, he could put an obstacle in there (the veto) that in most instances I don't think congress could overcome."

Bills that pass and are signed are turned over to the Student Activities Fund Office, which physically distributes student fees. To use their money, organizations have to appoint a treasurer and he or she has to pass a test on UNC procedures, Rash said.

Groups have to file requisitions for each purchase. The requisitions are then approved by SAFO and sometimes by Rash and finance committee Chairman Tom Lyon. If funds were approved for one category (such as office supplies), they must be spent on that, or the group must get approval from Lyon and Rash to spend it elsewhere.

"There is a lot of paperwork, and it is somewhat bureaucratic, but there are sufficient checks to make sure money is spent appropriately," Rash said.

Money that is not spent by May 15 is reallocated by congress. Last year, \$20,000 reverted back to congress, he said.

Where Congress Gets the Cash

If you're a full-time nonsenior undergraduate student, you paid \$347.71 in student fees this semester. But most of that money was allocated long before you paid it.

tion. The commission fits cluster requests into a preliminary budget, which is then shared with the individual groups so that they have a clear idea of how much money they will get.

Once the commission finalizes the budget, it is presented to the student legislative body for approval.

Prior to the changes in the system, groups submitted budgets to the commission but then had little contact with it until the final round of budget fights.

Lambert said she thought that the student groups liked the changes and that the added contact had been beneficial.

"There was a lot of discord when groups did not get what they wanted and there was no warning," she said.

Faculty and Student Committees

At the University of Georgia, each school and college has a committee comprising both students and faculty that reviews funding requests and makes recommendations.

In addition, there is a campuswide, nonacademic committee that considers funding requests.

None of the funding groups is related to the student government, said Tom Cochran, assistant to the vice president

Congress and the student body president only hand out about \$30 of each student's fees per semester, Rash said. This year, that gave congress about \$190,000.

The remaining fees are determined by a fee review committee created last year by Chancellor Paul Hardin, and they fund everything from Student Health Services to films shown in the Union.

Each spring, the committee, which is led by the student body president and includes representatives from the administration, faculty and staff, meets to review fee increase requests.

Some of these requests come from student referendums that passed, such as the one to increase student fees 50 cents to pay for the Carolina Course Review. Other increases are proposed by departments and advisory boards.

It's not always an easy process to raise fees. In previous years, the Board of Governors has refused outright to consider any increases.

Even when the BOG is willing to listen, it's a complicated road that begins with a proposal from the fee review committee and flows upward through the chancellor and Board of Trustees and then on to the BOG.

Nevertheless, fees have more than doubled in the past 10 years, according to figures provided by the Office of Business and Finance.

Erica Luetzow contributed to this story.

FORUM FROM PAGE 1

dent Health Services was not meeting women's needs as well as they could.

Candidate Stacey Brandenburg pointed to the need for a consensual relationship policy to prevent students from feeling uncomfortable with their professors.

Jen Fiumara said the campus climate for women was one of disunity.

"There is a rift between women and among women."

Kelly Jo Garner said she thought there was "a minority rule of the majority" on campus, referring to the relatively few women in positions of leadership on campus.

The six student body president candidates all voiced support for protecting sexual orientation under the University's non-discrimination policy in an effort to improve the campus climate for non-heterosexuals.

Brandenburg said she thought the Chancellor's Advisory Committee she established would play a key role at the University.

"They will fight to ensure that the policy will remain in the future." She also said programs should be held for faculty members through the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Fiumara suggested the initiation of a diversity program at C-TOPS.

Garner said that the goal of campus diversity programs should be to foster acceptance.

"As a bisexual woman, I feel that stereotypes need to be broken down," Garner said.

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Coors said that 20 years ago he looked to Jesus Christ to fill the void in his heart. "I had 30 years without him and 20 years with him," Coors said.

"I gave up nothing and gained everything." He then asked the members of the audience to accept Christ into their hearts.

"I care very much about what you do with what you hear tonight," Coors said. "Jesus Christ is God's only provision for our sins. We must individually reach out and receive Jesus Christ. It will be the most important decision that you'll ever make."

Coors ended with a prayer and personally spoke with members of the audience after his speech.

Jeff Hardy, a junior from Conover and a member of Campus Crusade for Christ, said he was very excited to have Coors speak.

"He's had a very interesting life, and he has a very interesting story," Hardy added.

Campus Crusade for Christ is an interdenominational student movement committed to two goals, campus Director Byron Peters said.

He said, "We promote culturally rel-

Simes said he supported a campus women's center as a place for education, a hotline, speeches and meeting.

He said he thought the center should be privately funded.

Simes also said minorities were underrepresented in the faculty.

"The University faculty does not represent society," he said.

Covington asked candidates whether they would maintain a women's issues position on their cabinet.

All candidates except France said they would.

France said he had not yet decided how to organize his cabinet.

"I would probably appoint a bisexual or lesbian woman to that position," Garner said.

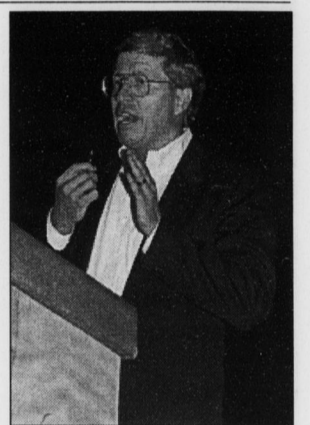
Steve Hoffmann, the only candidate for Graduate and Professional Students Federation president, asked the candidates whether they would push for a systematic non-discrimination policy while UNC budgets were before the state legislature this spring.

"If we push that policy too hard, we are going to get slaughtered in the General Assembly," Cunningham said.

"A lot of conservatives in the General Assembly are willing to use the policy as a political tool."

Brandenburg also said that the University would have to balance its financial needs with its desire to see such a policy instituted.

Garner said that the University should work with student leaders and the chancellors at the seven universities in the UNC system that do not currently prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.



ADOLPH COORS spoke about his commitment to Christianity on Thursday night in the Great Hall.

evant dialogue within the University community about the person Jesus Christ and provide a place for students who are Christians to join in faith."

SCHOOLS FROM PAGE 1

tributes these funds for concerts and speakers, Wolf said.

In addition, different departments, such as the office of the dean of student affairs and the individual deans of schools, have discretionary pools of money from which student groups can apply for grants, he said.

Some organizations also get direct allocations of funds, Wolf said.

"The Black Student Union gets a direct allocation for their programs," he said. "This comes from the general fund."

Wolf said that there was constant discussion at Michigan of whether this was the best system to distribute funds and that the administration planned to survey peer institutions and the student body for alternatives.

"Sometimes it works well, but obviously we are exploring other methods," he said.

"We are trying to prevent students from having to go to 15 different places to get enough funds to run their programs."

A Student Congress

Tasha Youngblood, student body treasurer at N.C. State University, said its

system for allocating student funds was similar to UNC's.

"The rules are known up front, and it is all handled openly," Youngblood said. "We have never had a problem with things being handled unfairly."

Student groups at NCSU have used this system for more than 10 years with the only significant criticisms being that the process is too strict and narrow and that the cashier issues checks too slowly, Youngblood said.

"We have been criticized with our process being too stringent, but discipline has served its point," she said.

Cluster Groups

Because of past communication problems in the funding process, Duke University has recently reorganized its system of student fee distribution, said Katherine Lambert, chairwoman of the Student Organizations Finance Commission.

Each of the 10 student advisers on the finance commission is assigned to a "cluster," which represents student groups in one area.

For example, there is a cluster for cultural organizations and one for service groups. Each cluster generates a budget that is reviewed by the finance commis-

Popping Tops to Help the Ronald McDonald House

BY KENDRA GEMMA STAFF WRITER

The next time you open a soft drink can, you could help a terminally-ill child.

The Ronald McDonald House of Chapel Hill is recycling can tabs as a fund-raiser.

"We collect pop tops, and then we take them to Reynolds Recycling," said Ellen Armstrong, development and public relations director of the Chapel Hill house.

This fund-raiser started locally about two years ago. And although it is not a national campaign, many Ronald McDonald Houses participate.

The pop tops are paid for by the pound. And while Armstrong said it was too early to determine how much money the fund-raiser earned this year, she hopes that the

amount will be substantial. "It just keeps increasing," she said. "We took a relatively small load and got \$50."

The pop tops are the only part of the can collected for a couple of reasons. "One is strictly storage," Armstrong said. "More importantly is the cleanliness."

The Ronald McDonald House offers rooms for families of ill children who are patients at local hospitals. "The house not only provides a shelter, but it's also a comforting place," Armstrong said.

Each family has its own room and bathroom, and there are common rooms for families to meet together and talk.

All of the money collected during the campaign goes back to the house to cover operating costs, Armstrong said.

Recycling pop tops is not the sole fund-

raiser of the Ronald McDonald House. Luminary kits are a money earner during the holidays. A golf tournament held in June, the Carolina Kids' Classic, brings in cash for the Chapel Hill house and two others. Also a trip to Disney World is raffled off in the spring.

"We have one (fund-raiser) in the fall, 'A Taste of Fall,'" Armstrong said. "Patrons pay one ticket price and try all the food (supplied by local restaurants)."

A diverse crowd takes part in the pop top fund-raiser. "There's no limitation (as to who participates)," she said. "A lot of campus organizations help."

In addition, churches, individuals and service groups have helped in the past. Armstrong said it was a good way for families who have stayed in the house to

bring the experience home and help out.

Tammy Shumate, co-president of Cobb Residence Hall, said that Cobb and Joyner residence halls would be collecting pop tops for the fund-raiser.

"We knew (the money) was going to Ronald McDonald House, so we wanted to help out as a group," said Shumate, a junior from McGrady. She said they wanted to help out the community.

The containers where the pop tops will be collected have yet to be placed in the halls. "It's up to the environmental reps," Shumate said. "But most likely they'll be by the drink machines and maybe by the trash cans."

Other residence hall area governments have discussed participation in the fund-raiser as well.

Ellen Armstrong is in charge of development and public relations at the house. She, like the others who have worked with Baxter, has the utmost respect for him.

"He has a great relationship with all of the staff," Armstrong said. "We all kind of pitch in, because the families are the first concern. The house is a joint effort of the community. From Bill, who is here every day, to the interns, to the volunteers — it's a real pulling together."

Armstrong, like Baxter, emphasizes the importance of the volunteers. "They're a big deal," she said. "Without them, the house would fail. They make a tremendous difference."

"I had retired from my previous job and had been playing a lot of golf. But it just didn't seem to meet my needs. I retired too early."

BILL BAXTER

Executive director of Ronald McDonald House in Chapel Hill

kids just never seem to get any better," he said. "Fortunately, we don't have many of those cases."

Baxter took the job at the house in December 1992, signing on for three years. He said he would retire at the end of this year as planned.

If one were to read Baxter's job description, it would describe his job as one of oversight and management. But Baxter's job description is not what defines his or anyone else's duties. "We're all peers here," he said. "I work with people; they don't work for me. We all pull our own weight, and no one stands on protocol."

Diane Loveridge, a senior journalism major from Staten Island, N.Y., who is an intern at the house, agreed. "He makes it

TAR HEEL SPORTS SHORTS THIS WEEKEND AT CAROLINA Saturday, February 11 Women's Basketball vs. George Mason 2:00 pm at Carmichael Auditorium Women's Tennis vs. UNC-Greensboro 11:00 am at Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center Sunday, February 12 Gymnastics vs. Maryland 2:00 pm at Carmichael Auditorium Students & faculty admitted FREE w/ID! Hardee's

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