

OUT-OF-STATERS CROSS FINGERS OVER N.C. BUDGET

The Debate Continues: How Will Tuition Hikes Affect UNC's Well-Being?

BY MICHELLE CRAMPTON
STAFF WRITER

Good weather, a national academic reputation and good basketball teams are all factors that help UNC recruit the cream of the out-of-state student crop.

But in the modern day of higher education, when annual costs can easily soar above \$20,000, nothing is more of a lure than a four-figure tuition.

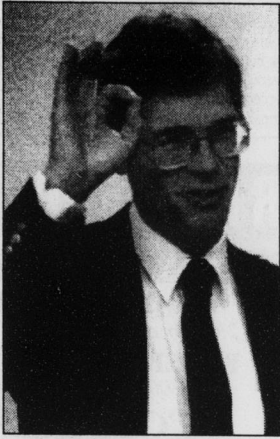
A raise in UNC's tuition, perhaps more than any other aspect of Gov. Jim Hunt's proposed budget, has students, faculty and staff wincing, whining and crossing their fingers as the N.C. General Assembly will decide the fate of his budget this summer.

The Hunt budget bodes poorly for faculty, who could see salary hikes of only 2 percent, which is less than the cost of living increase. Hunt's plan also calls for a 3.1 percent increase in in-state tuition in the next year.

But, for some, the real stickler is out-of-state tuition hikes, which would jump 30 percent in the next three years.

These proposed changes trigger a number of questions about the future of the University, from tuition's effect on graduate students and the subsequent effect on undergraduate teaching to UNC's national reputation as a "best buy," to the school's ability to attract the best and brightest out-of-state students, a key to the University's success.

Hunt's motivations behind the plan seem clear. He needs to find ways to add revenue to the state budget to pay for programs while not charging his constituents, making out-of-staters the natural target for cost increases.



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Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, said that although a substantial backing in the legislature agreed with the proposal, work was being done to fight the plan. The final decision is expected to be made in June or July.

"There's a loose coalition of pro-university legislators, and we know who each other are," he said. UNC Provost Richard McCormick said he thought Hunt's plan was designed to please his constituents, with little regard to out-of-staters who don't vote here.

"The proposals affecting out-of-state tuition are designed to appeal to North Carolinians who don't believe their tax dollars should go to educating those who were not raised here," he said.

National Reputation

It's no surprise that in recent years U.S. News & World Report deemed UNC one of the nation's best buys for a quality college education. In-state tuition, at about \$1,400, is comparable to the amount many students pay for car insurance each year.

And even though out-of-state tuition is significantly higher, at \$8,400, it still is lower than many other comparable state schools and much less than top private colleges.

If Hunt's budget plan is passed, however, some faculty believe its effects could be devastating to the University's national reputation.

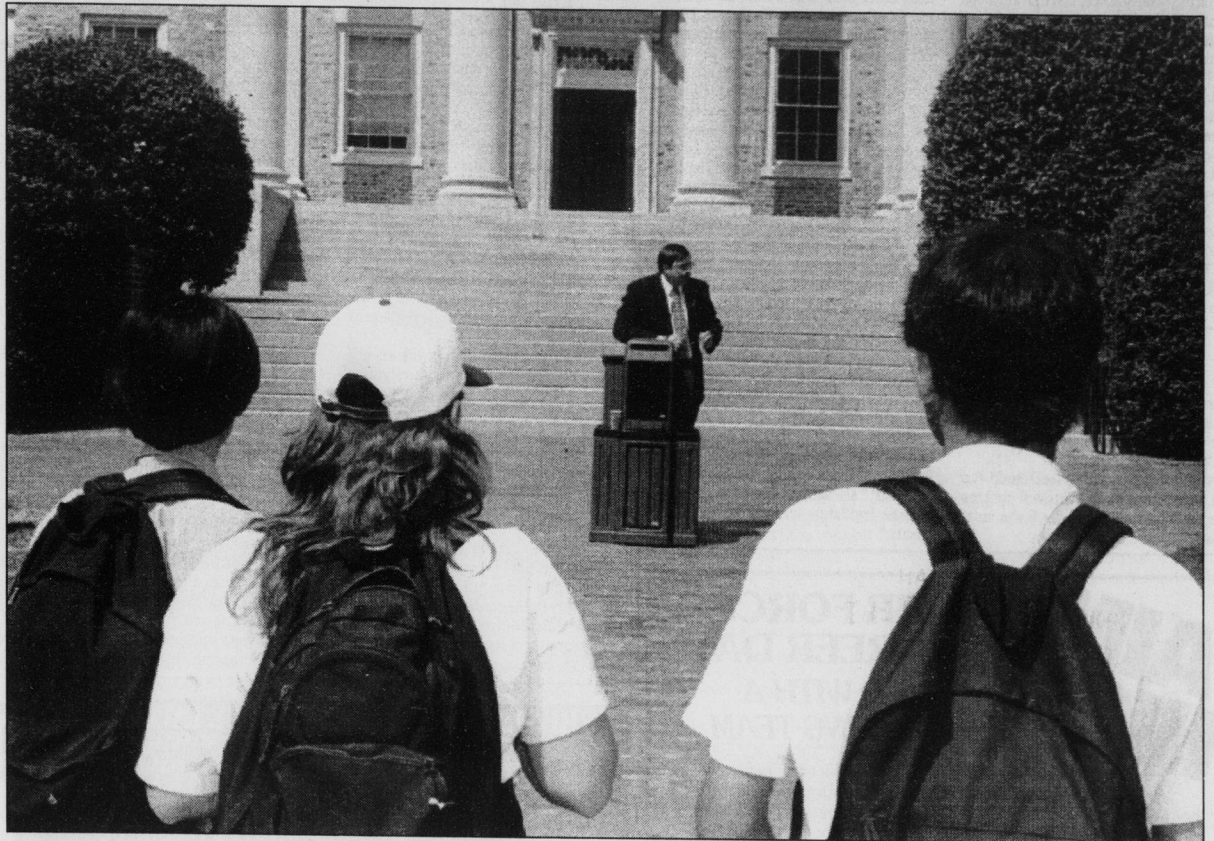
They explain that falling out of the "best buy" status and the inability to compete with other universities for the top students are possible side effects of the plan.

"It will continue an unhealthy downward slide," said Faculty Council Chairwoman Jane Brown, a professor of journalism and mass communication. "We won't be attracting the best out-of-state students and possibly even some of the in-state best."

Anthropology Professor Jim Peacock agreed that UNC's stature could suffer because of the plan.

"The University has a reputation as a beacon for the South, as a place to get a top education," Peacock said. "It certainly will diminish its attractiveness. Out-of-state tuition is creeping up higher than some of our

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Students, faculty and staff rallied in Polk Place Thursday to voice their opposition to Gov. Jim Hunt's budget, which includes a 30 percent tuition increase for out-of-state students in the next three years. The proposal's adversaries have also driven to Raleigh to urge the N.C. General Assembly to support their cause.

Out-of-Staters Are Worth More Than Dollar Signs

BY SARAH YOUSSEF
STAFF WRITER

North Carolina's 1776 state constitution declares, "A school or schools shall be established by the legislature for the convenient instruction of youth, with such salaries to the masters, paid by the public, as may enable them to instruct at low prices."

It was this philosophy that governed the University in 1857-58, when out-of-state students composed one-third of the student body.

Today, out-of-staters make up only 18.7 percent of the undergraduate population, yet their tuition is nearly six times as much as in-state students. And under Gov. Jim Hunt's controversial budget proposal, out-of-state tuition would increase even more — 30 percent in the next three years.

Legislators and administrators must find a way to keep tuition down for the children of taxpayers without shifting the financial burden to out-of-state students. Somewhere, a sacrifice has to be made. The dilemma ultimately rests on the

answer to this question: Just how much do out-of-state students contribute to UNC and to North Carolina?

If diversity, a quality faculty, student leadership and a national reputation are the standards by which universities are judged, then out-of-state students contribute more than just money.

"They're bright; they're active in campus politics; they run for office, receive a lot of awards and move on to grad school," said Thad Beyle, a political science professor. "In general, they provide a good mix

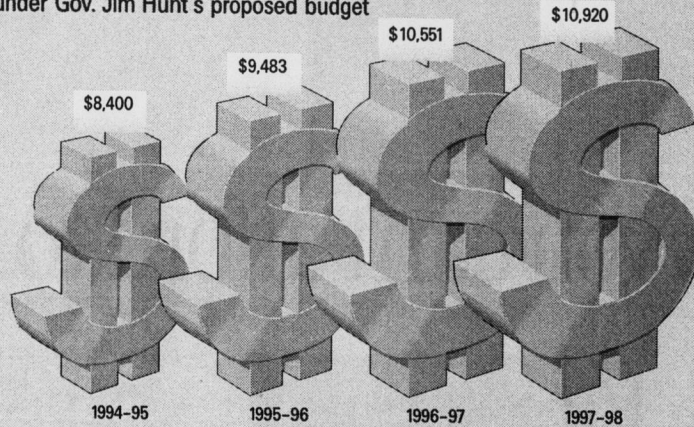
and make it better for in-state students to be exposed to different backgrounds, political and otherwise."

Diversity is the buzzword when it comes to justifying the out-of-state presence at UNC.

"Out-of-state students provide what other cultures provide," said Lorna Haughton, a senior from Roosevelt, N.Y. "You learn the difference between living in the North and the South, between

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Out-of-State Tuition under Gov. Jim Hunt's proposed budget



SOURCE: GOV. HUNT'S PRESS OFFICE

DTH/CHRIS ANDERSON



"We won't be attracting the best out-of-state students and possibly even some of the in-state best."

JANE BROWN

Major Problems?

The following is a breakdown of the percentage of out-of-state students in each department in fall 1994.

Out-of-State Undergraduates in Each Department

Journals/Mass Comm.	21.9
Business Administration	20.5
Arts & Sciences	20.4
General College	20.2
Public Health	17.6
Education	10.3
Dentistry	10.2
Continuing/OH-Campus Studies	9.2
Nursing	5.8
Medicine	4.4
Pharmacy	3.3
Totals	18.7

Out-of-State Graduate Students in Each Department

Dentistry	62.2
Business Administration	61.3
Arts & Sciences	51.7
Public Health	47.9
Pharmacy	46.3
Info & Library Science	46.3
Journals/Mass Comm.	43.2
Medicine	40.6
Education	22.0
Social Work	16.4
Continuing/OH-Campus Studies	10.9
Nursing	6.7
Totals	39.6

SOURCE: OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

DTH/HEATHER HARRIS

Honors Program Could Feel Sting From Budget

40 Percent of the Students In the Program Come From Outside North Carolina

BY GREG KALISS
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

Gov. Jim Hunt's proposed out-of-state tuition hike of 30 percent in three years could impact nearly every aspect of campus life as out-of-state high school students consider whether UNC is still worth their money.

For one segment of campus society — one that is about 40 percent out-of-state — the effects could be especially profound.

That element is the Honors Program, which has about twice the percentage of out-of-state students as the University as a whole.

And at a time when the campus reaccreditation self-study report has recently decried the lack of University support for intellectualism, a possible decline in the quality of the Honors Program because of fewer talented out-of-state students could be yet another blow to the University's academic image.

Stuart Elaine MacDonald, assistant dean for the Honors Program, said the

University's tradition of combining academic excellence and relatively low tuition could be compromised by the governor's proposed plan.

That, she said, could make it more difficult for UNC to compete with other top schools to get high-quality, out-of-state students. "The top-notch students are highly sought after by many colleges," MacDonald said.

Greg Braun, a freshman from Geneva, N.Y., and a member of the Honors Program Student Advisory Board, agreed that the tuition hike could have an effect on the Honors Program. But he said he wasn't too sure how noticeable an influence the increase would have.

"I think the increase in tuition will have a small effect on the prospective out-of-state students in that it may keep prospective honors students, for whom the Honors Program was the clinching factor in their decision to come to Carolina, from being able to afford going out of state as they would have in the past," Braun said.

The increase in tuition for out-of-staters could be attributed to a perception about the role of out-of-state students at state schools. "I think sometimes people not directly involved with education think of out-of-state students as a luxury for a state university," MacDonald said.

She said she thought having out-of-state students improved UNC all around. "I think it's very important for the students of UNC that they be able to study and learn with a broad spectrum of talented students," she said. "It makes the University more intellectually vibrant for all students."

And she said she thought a decline in the quality of out-of-state students could hurt UNC's in-state standing as well. "In time, UNC would not be able to attract such outstanding students within the state if it failed to attract outstanding students from out of state," MacDonald said.

No one seemed to think the Honors

Program would die out without out-of-staters; after all, last year's incoming honors freshman class was 58 percent in-state.

"We take the top candidates based on high school academic record, regardless of in-state or out-of-state residency," said Sue Hester, administrative assistant for the Honors Program. "Of course, the out-of-state residents being accepted are generally really good students; that's why a lot of them are invited to participate."

And since anyone is eligible to take honors courses — although honors stu-

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How UNC Stacks Up

Although the Hunt plan would increase UNC out-of-state tuition by 30 percent over the next three years, the University would still be less expensive than other comparable schools.

	In-State	Out-of-State
University of Texas-Austin	\$840	\$5,130
University of North Carolina-CH	\$1,454	\$8,400
University of Colorado-Boulder	\$1,824	\$3,598
University of Maryland	\$3,480	\$9,284
University of Virginia	\$3,724	\$12,212
University of California-Berkeley	\$4,231	\$11,930
University of Michigan	\$4,255	\$13,892
Under Hunt plan (by 1997-98)	\$1,499	\$10,920

SOURCE: U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT GUIDE ON COLLEGES, 1995

DTH/CHRIS ANDERSON