

UNC-System Officials React to Plan

By DEEPIKA NARASIMHAN
Staff Writer

University leaders systemwide said that while tuition increases might loom in the future for their schools, they would not follow UNC-Chapel Hill's recently proposed tuition increase to fund faculty salaries.

But others voiced concerns with the effect of the tuition increase on UNC-CH's image, saying a higher price tag could give the University an unwanted elitist facade.

Tom Stafford, vice chancellor for student affairs at N.C. State University, said that this year, the Board of Governors put a new tuition policy into effect that gave each campus the opportunity to propose tuition increases for just that campus or even for certain programs.

Stafford said the BOG had anticipated tuition increases at the graduate level with the new tuition policy. "The BOG

permitted proposals for the undergraduate level but discouraged it," he said. "It was their intention to contain discrepancies in tuition levels on different campuses at the undergraduate level."

UNC-Charlotte leaders said the recommendation would help UNC-CH cultivate quality faculty.

"UNC-CH is a leading research university," said Jeff Lowrance, UNC-C's assistant director of public relations. "It needs to recruit experienced faculty which then, creates a need to pay (higher) salaries to retain this faculty."

Lowrance said UNC-C could expect a small tuition increase, but UNC-CH did not set a precedent for UNC-C.

UNC-C's student body president, Mark Lombardi, said UNC-CH was correct in thinking it had different needs from the rest of the system.

"Chapel Hill is the flagship university, and they are aware of it," Lombardi said. "They want their needs met."

UNC Association of Student Governments President Jeff Nieman voiced concerns about UNC-CH's tuition increase affecting the entire school system. "I fear the possibility of a chain reaction because other institutions might follow UNC-CH as a model."

Nieman said he was worried that the plan might discourage students from applying to UNC-CH.

"This (proposal) has the potential to make students choose other universities," he said. "I don't want people to choose another college just because UNC-CH is twice the price of say, Winston-Salem State University."

Following the BOG's policy, The Chancellor's Committee on Faculty Salaries and Benefits approved Monday a new, modified plan consisting of an in-state undergraduate tuition hike of \$1,500 over the next three years and an out-of-state undergraduate and graduate tuition hike of \$2,000 over the next four

years. If passed by the BOG and legislators, the plan to increase faculty salaries would be implemented at the beginning of the next school year.

Nieman also said he was concerned about UNC becoming elitist because of its possibly higher price tag.

N.C. State Student Body President Raj Mirchandani said he hoped to fight possible tuition increases at N.C. State by helping UNC-CH students in their fight. "We're going to try to stop this at the source."

Stafford said a tuition increase was only under long-term consideration at N.C. State. He promised definite student aid if there was a tuition increase. "The most important thing is that with any tuition increase that is proposed, we are certain financial aid will be provided for any student who has a need for it."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Numerous Lawsuits Plague Columbine

Associated Press

LITTLETON, Colo. - The same intense emotions that brought people together in a sea of silver and blue to mourn Columbine High School's dead are now tearing them apart.

At least 18 lawsuits are in the works as a result of the April 20 bloodbath, with just about everyone a potential defendant - gun makers, the gunmen's parents, the school district and the sheriff's department.

Even the parents of one of the killers, Dylan Klebold, have filed a notice of intent to sue Sheriff John Stone. The Klebolds say Stone failed to inform them about the violent tendencies of the other gunman, Eric Harris.

Investigators were aware that Harris had made threats and maintained a hate-filled Web site, and the Klebolds claim they would have made sure their son stayed away from Harris if they had known that.

The Klebolds' lawyer, Gary Lozow, said Thomas and Susan Klebold want to protect themselves from lawsuits filed by victims and will not seek more money than what other people are seeking from them.

Harris and Klebold stormed their high school just after lunchtime, scatter-

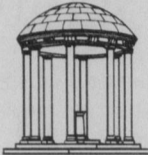
ing gunfire and bombs. They killed 12 students and a teacher and wounded at least 23 others before committing suicide in the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history.

In the days after the massacre, the people of Littleton came together, putting up silver-and-blue Columbine ribbons in windows and on fences and wearing lapel pins. They turned out for funeral services, organized campaigns to raise money, and made dinners and did other chores for victims' families.

Harriet Hall, the mental health worker in charge of providing counseling to the Columbine victims, said she is not surprised how much the community has clashed since then.

"I'd be worried if there weren't disagreements. I think it is possible to have nobility, anger and grief at the same time, if you recognize your grief, but it is rare indeed," Hall said.

The parents of Isaiah Shoels, one of the students killed in the massacre, are suing the Harris and the Klebolds, in addition to two men charged with helping the teens get the guns used in the attack. The lawsuit alleges the parents failed to take action when their sons stockpiled guns and bombs, and gave them "extraordinary privileges" despite their run-ins with the law.



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