

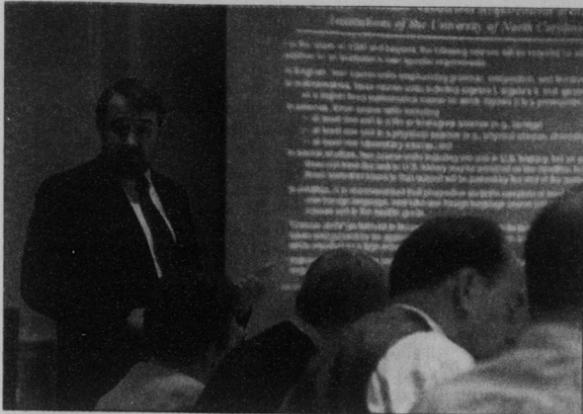
# The Daily Tar Heel

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## BOG to Vote Today on \$600 Tuition Hike



UNC executive Gary Barnes makes a presentation to the BOG Thursday. Earlier in the day, the board discussed a tuition increase proposal.

By **MATTHEW B. DEES & KATHLEEN HUNTER**  
State & National Editors

The Board of Governors will vote today on a controversial committee proposal that would raise tuition at UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University by \$600 in two years.

In a unanimous vote Thursday, the BOG Budget and Finance Committee made two significant departures from a proposal put on the table last month by UNC-system President Molly Broad.

The committee voted for a \$300 tuition increase for the next two years at UNC-CH and N.C. State, while Broad's plan called for a one-time \$200 increase

to fund faculty salaries.

The committee also voted for tuition increases at East Carolina University, UNC-Charlotte and UNC-Wilmington, all of which had made earlier requests that Broad chose to leave out of her recommendation. At UNC-W, the committee proposal would increase tuition \$235 in two years for N.C. residents; \$400 for nonresidents.

The board also agreed Thursday to postpone discussion of Broad's proposal to impose a systemwide capital fee of \$275 in three years, pending review by a conglomeration of business leaders.

The committee's plan bares striking resemblance to a plan passed in October by the UNC-CH Board of Trustees that called for a \$1,500 increase in five years.

The committee proposal did not come without a great deal of debate among board members.

At a workshop held before the budget

and finance meeting, many advocated granting the tuition increase proposals from ECU, UNC-C and UNC-W.

Several board members also suggested a proposal similar to the one ultimately drafted by the Budget and Finance Committee. "I think we do have the ability to address the faculty salary needs in some meaningful way," said BOG member Jim Phillips, who then suggested the two-year \$600 plan for UNC-CH and N.C. State.

He broached his proposal with the conditions that about one-third of the increases be used for financial aid and that each campus be held accountable for how it spent the additional funds.

But Jeff Nieman, a nonvoting student BOG member, argued that the proposal went outside the BOG's tuition-setting framework because it would create dis-

See BOG, Page 2

### Today's BOG Vote

The Board of Governors will determine the fate of a committee proposal that would:

- Raise tuition \$600 over the next two years at UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University.
- Raise tuition \$300 over the next two years at UNC-Charlotte and East Carolina University.
- Raise UNC-Wilmington's tuition by \$120 for one year, followed by an additional \$115 increase the second year.
- Require individual campuses to remain accountable to the BOG to ensure that the money is allocated as specified in each campus' request to the board.
- Delay a search for capital funding.

## Committee: UNC Grades Too High

The Faculty Council meets today to consider a report questioning the effects of inflated grades at UNC.

By **SHAHRZAD REZVANI AND KAREY WUTKOWSKI**  
Staff Writers

At a meeting today, Faculty Council members will discuss a committee report that concludes UNC is in the midst of its second major grade inflation in 30 years.

Economics Professor Boone Turchi led the committee and wrote its report after compiling information from the Carolina Course Review and the University Registrar's office.

"If you look, 77 percent of grades are 'A' or 'B,' and if you look at the top 44 departments, 91.3 percent of grades are 'A' or 'B,'" Turchi said.

"You have to start asking, what does an 'A' mean? What does a 'B' mean?" Turchi said the reputation of the University could be undermined as a result of the inflation. "It lowers the quality of the institution in others' eyes."

Undergraduate grade point averages, which peaked to a 3.0 average in spring 1999, have steadily risen since 1988 when students began to assess their professors' performance through teacher evaluations.

Turchi speculated about other possible causes for the 11-year increase. "It's a possibility that students are getting better," he said. "It's also a possibility that faculty are being browbeaten by students into giving higher grades."

The grade inflation is not consistent among departments, the report states, with the highest grades coming from the social sciences and humanities departments and the lowest from the natural sciences.

"In the natural sciences, they teach you the mass of an electron is a certain amount, and if a student says something else, it's wrong," said Douglas Crawford-Brown, environmental science and engineering professor and member of the committee.

"Other departments are a little fuzzier," he said. "The report states that UNC's grade inflation was part of a national trend affecting such prominent universities as Harvard and Princeton."

Turchi said an ideal average GPA would be 2.6 to 2.7. He said anything lower would create problems, such as a sluggish progression toward graduation. The report includes recommendations on how to achieve the targeted average GPA, including holding departments accountable.

If certain departments do not show a transition toward a lower GPA after three years, budgetary penalties could be implemented.

See INFLATION, Page 2

## Inheriting the Battle



As part of our student elections coverage, the DTH will examine the top five student issues based upon the paper's survey of 300 students.

MONDAY:  
Dining services

TUESDAY:  
The accessibility of student government

WEDNESDAY:  
Race relations

THURSDAY:  
Parking

TODAY: Tuition



DTH FILE ART

On Oct. 28, the UNC Board of Trustees voted for a \$1,500 tuition increase over five years. The Board of Governors' Budget and Finance Committee passed Thursday a two-year plan calling for the same incremental boost.

By **KIM MINUGH**  
Assistant University Editor

The cost of attending UNC could be determined today by the hand of the Board of Governors when members vote on a tuition increase proposal put forth by the BOG's Budget and Finance Committee on Thursday.

And leading the ranks of protesters outside the Carolina Inn will be the six candidates for next year's student body president.

Along with the prestige of the position, the next student body president will also inherit a leading role in a struggle that calls into question UNC's financial and philosophical mission.

Student Body President Nic Heinke, a prominent figure at the forefront of this year's wave of student protests, said his successor must stay abreast of the debate as it progresses.

"The next president has to convince the legislature, the governor and the people of North Carolina that UNC-Chapel Hill is a gift to the

state," Heinke said.

Candidate Michael Harris hailed the work of Heinke's administration and said he would mirror much of the philosophy shared by the outgoing president. "You can't just be yelling at (officials) and marching ... you have

See TUITION, Page 2

## Political Life Moves on After BSM Forum

Despite losing the most influential forum at UNC, candidates are still pursuing the multicultural vote.

By **KATE MACEK AND MARK THOMAS**  
Staff Writers

Following the Black Student Movement endorsements Wednesday, candidates who did not receive the group's highly sought support have mixed opinions about continuing to lobby for some BSM votes.

BSM President Chris Faison asked, as the final question Wednesday, if candidates would continue to seek political support from the group after the endorsement became official.

The group endorsed Sophomore Erica Smiley for student body president, juniors Jason Cowley and Sherilyn Black for senior class president and vice president and junior Corey Bell for Carolina Athletic Association President.

But with election day just four days away, group endorsements can carry great influence in hotly contested races.

Student body presidential candidate Preston Smith said he would continue to vie for the votes despite not getting the group's public endorsement.

SBP candidate Brad Matthews, a BSM member, said he would ultimately

leave the decision up to individual voters. "There are a lot of people on campus and in the BSM who are going to vote their minds regardless of what the official endorsement is," he said.

Some candidates are backing away from campaigning for BSM votes, and said they would respect the endorsement.

Co-candidates for the Carolina Athletic Association presidency Michael Songer and Adam Walters plan to subdue their campaign approach toward the group. "We won't actively solicit their members, but we will continue to push for diversity," Songer said.

SBP candidate Matt Martin said he would not fight BSM's decision. "I'm definitely not going to undermine the integrity of their endorsement by actively campaigning (against it), because it significantly weakens the endorsement." Martin said he recognized the weight

the BSM forum carried but said it was not pivotal in the outcome of the campaign. "Obviously the BSM endorsement is important to any campaign, but ... I don't think it will sink the ship."

CAA President Tee Pruitt said the results would affect his campaign but said he expected his long-time involvement in the CAA to wield more influence with BSM constituents.

But Pruitt said he still had support from some BSM members despite the vote.

Although they might have lost some footing in the race for their respective posts, candidates remain largely undeterred. Harris said, "You don't stop your message, quite to the contrary, you try harder. I'm going after students (as a whole), not one group."

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## Students Ready for Final Fight

Student protesters will congregate outside of the Carolina Inn for the 9 a.m. Board of Governors vote.

By **KATIE ABEL**  
University Editor

Students will crowd the Carolina Inn this morning to deliver another punch in their fight to keep UNC's tuition low as a five-month debate comes down to a single vote.

Coalition for Educational Access members were sending last minute e-mail messages and putting finishing touches on signs of protest Thursday night in hopes of garnering a strong student presence at the Board of Governor's 9 a.m. meeting today.

The BOG will vote on a Budget and Finance Committee proposal that calls

See REACTION, Page 2

### Carolina, Speak Out!

FINAL RESULTS WILL BE PUBLISHED

Which student body president candidate will you vote for?



Go to [www.unc.edu/dth](http://www.unc.edu/dth) to cast your vote.

### INSIDE Friday

#### Meet the Candidate

Thad Woody is leading a write-in campaign in the race for the presidency of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation. See Page 4.



#### Home Sweep Home

The North Carolina softball team opened its season with a pair of shutout victories against Elon on Thursday afternoon. The Tar Heels got strong pitching from Radara McHugh and Erin Joseph as they posted wins by scores of 9-0 and 8-0 at home at Finley Field. See Page 5.

#### Today's Weather

Chance of rain; Mid 60s.  
Saturday: Rain; Low 50s.

Money is the barometer of a society's virtue.

Ayn Rand