

REACTION
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for a \$600 tuition increase at UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University during the next two years.

Students said the plan delivered a dangerous message to legislators that the system was willing to dish out dollars without seeking state funds first. "I think this sends the wrong signal that we're willing to pay for this," said UNC-CH Student Body President Nic Heinke.

Students said they would convey their concerns about the \$600 increase with a planned silent protest during the meeting and a press conference immediately following the board's vote.

Student opposition to a tuition boost has remained strong since a UNC-CH committee first proposed an increase more than five months ago.

More than 100 students gathered at a November BOG meeting, where board members applauded the student fight.

A large-scale protest also brought more than 400 students to the October Board of Trustees meeting, an unprecedented display of campus activism.

The BOG plan strongly resembles the BOT's October proposal calling for a \$1,500 increase over five years.

It also contrasts with UNC-system president Molly Broad's proposal calling for a one-time \$200 tuition increase

at UNC-CH and N.C. State University to fund faculty salaries. "In one day it's gone from \$200 to \$600," said coalition member Michal Osterweil.

Earlier this week, student BOG member Jeff Nieman drafted an alternative proposal on behalf of system students that conceded to Broad's one-time tuition increase recommendation, as long as students were guaranteed adequate financial aid.

Heinke said Nieman's proposal demonstrated that students were willing to compromise on tuition. "Students were ready to suck up that one-year proposal. We were going to do it for a year."

Graduate and Professional Student Federation President Lee Conner said it was unfair to ask students to bear the brunt of the two-year plan after they had made efforts to compromise.

The possibility of a heightened tuition increase seemed to overshadow the board's announcement Thursday that it would put on hold a first-ever increase in fees for capital improvements. The fee would have asked students in all 16 system schools to pay \$275 in the next three years for campus capital improvements. "Obviously, we are very happy about the elimination of the capital fee," Conner said. "That's a good change."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

Campus Calendar

Today

8:15 p.m. - Lab! Theatre presents Steve Martin's "Picasso at the Lapin Agile" at the Elizabeth Price Kenan Theatre in the Center for Dramatic Art. The performances run through Tuesday. The performances are free and open to the public.

Sunday

5 p.m. - WXYC Radio will air its annual Valentine's Day special, which

features discussions of sex, sex and sex. Listeners are welcome to call in.

Monday

7:30 p.m. - Victor Lee, a Christian sports writer, will speak to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in the Ram's Room of the Old Kenan Field House.

The public is welcome. 8 p.m. - The Carolina Union Activities Board presents hypnotist Tom DeLuca, who will entertain with his "Theatre of the Imagination" in Memorial Hall.

INFLATION

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But Turchi said the penalty regulation would only serve as a credible deterrent. "I don't think it will ever be used."

A lower average GPA has possible long-term risks such as lower admissions into graduate schools and lower job placement, but members of the committee said the University could safeguard against these risks.

Crawford-Brown said the University must publicize its stringent standards in

relation to those of competing universities. "People need to know that a 2.6 from Chapel Hill would be equal to a 3.5 from somewhere else," he said.

Some committee members said today's meeting was strictly to gauge faculty response.

Crawford-Brown said the Faculty Council wanted to hear the student voice before making any decisions.

"Students don't want to sit idly by and let us make these changes."

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BOG

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crepancies in tuition rates at system schools of the same academic category.

He adamantly opposed the committee's inclusion of tuition proposals from schools besides UNC-CH and UNC-NC State. He said UNC-C and UNC-W should not be granted tuition increase, partly because the schools had not demonstrated an extraordinary need for such measures.

He also said he was disappointed the committee voted to raise tuition more than Broad recommended.

Nieman, who continually opposed tuition increases at system schools, set forth his own proposal Tuesday, in which he agreed to a one-time \$200 tuition increase to fund faculty salaries at UNC-CH and N.C. State.

He said the committee's plan would unnecessarily handcuff the BOG to two

years of tuition increases.

Brad Wilson, chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, said he proposed a two-year plan to buy more time than Broad's plan allotted for legislators to work out budget problems and to allow students ample time to prepare for the increases. "The economic reality is there will be no money this (year) and very little next (year)," he said. "Going ahead and making increases for two years also makes planning sense."

Nieman also said he was fundamentally opposed to increasing tuition at ECU because students there were still recovering from the damaging floods Hurricane Floyd caused in September.

Nieman said he hoped the full board would refrain from raising tuition.

"The overall tone of the full board is definitely more sympathetic to our position."

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Wrestling vs. Ohio University 4:00 pm at Carmichael Auditorium
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TUITION

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to work with them," he said. "You have to keep everyone involved."

Harris said the argument against the increase was rooted in North Carolina's dedication to higher education.

He said he would encourage all facets of the student population to join his campaign against the increase. "The next student body president is going to be crucial in this," he said. "We are making sure we work with everyone. It's not just activists in this. This has got to be a thing that normal students get involved in."

Harris said he wanted to take aggressive action to address tuition and financial aid, two of his top three platform items. "Our challenge is to put our money where our mouth is. This is where we're going to show what we mean," he said.

Candidate Josh Ray said he also recognized the importance of mobilizing students and said he would spearhead a coalition of student organizations.

"Our student body needs a stronger voice, a louder voice," Ray said. "I want to see increased cooperation between all student groups."

This image of unified student forces was inspiration for Ray's proposed "Hands Across Carolina" program, an effort to bridge the gaps between different student groups. "When we go (to protest against tuition increases), we're all students, and it's our money," he said. "It's not a one-man army."

Ray said he would encourage any public display of student opinion, like Sankofa's October concert against the tuition increase. "We'll get busing to the legislature. We'll take as many buses as we need," he said. "We can't give up. Everybody get down and let's march."

Ray said he joined efforts with candidates from other positions to strengthen the potential of Suite C to lobby for or against issues of concern once elected.

Candidate Matt Martin said his plan of attack included targeting the source feeding the problem - faculty salaries.

"I don't believe in tapping into students' pockets to raise revenue for raising teachers' salaries," he said.

He said he would investigate other sources of revenue to increase faculty salaries by creating a special task force.

Martin also said the UNC's large endowment and successful fund-raising opportunities could provide alternate sources of money. "The University's concerns are legitimate concerns, but the pressing need is to keep costs down."

He said the state should be held accountable for funding UNC after covering the costs of Hurricane Floyd's damage. "(Higher education should be) somewhere close to the top, so we don't end up fighting for scraps in the end."

He said the tuition increase was included in his platform priorities. "It's definitely something I'm going to act on."

"I don't want the composition of the University to change, the way I think it would if this proposal goes through."

Candidate Brad Matthews also shared Martin's vision of shaving funds from other sources. "The University resorted too quickly to raising tuition to solve our problems," he said. Matthews also cited UNC's endowment as another viable option for needed funds.

"We're growing that money for a rainy day. Well, it seems like it is raining. That's what that money is there to do."

Matthews' platform concentrates on keeping UNC available to all students. "We need to make sure students have access to not only higher education, but the best, and we are the best."

He said he would lobby the halls of the state legislature this summer, as well as C-TOPS orientation sessions.

"We have to utilize the context and materials we have. We have to be creative as students because we don't have a lot of money to throw at politicians."

"We need to start looking for a long-term solution to a long-term problem."

Candidate Erica Smiley said her experience in fighting the tuition increase in the fall set her apart from the other candidates. "I've been there. When it hit the fan at 3 a.m., I was there in Suite C trying to get things together."

"The other candidates all say the same things, and it sounds nice. It seems like the right thing to say, but I haven't seen them there."

Smiley is involved in the Coalition for Educational Access, a student group that shared the spotlight in last fall's fight against the proposed increases in tuition.

She said tuition topped her priority list falling under her campaign of accountability, accessibility and action.

"Student government should go to the students first in times of crisis. (They) should be prepared to act immediately."

Smiley criticized this year's administration for failing to be accountable to the students. "It took this year's government too long to call in students to the office to see what we thought."

She said student presence at today's meeting was imperative to remind officials of the issue's continued timeliness.

"We're still watching what they're doing," she said.

Candidate Preston Smith said his campaign centered around what he considered a more realistic philosophy.

He said that while his administration would continue to fight the increase, it would also prepare for what he considered an inevitable increase. "It's going to happen. We need to be watchdogs of our money. We pay so much, we should see where our money goes."

Smith plans to organize a student committee that would decide which professors deserved a salary increase.

"It's like the Boston Tea Party. They wanted representation, we want representation. Once again we're not represented when it comes to our money."

"I'm going to give you my best effort, and if we can't put it down I'm going to make damned sure our money is going to go to the right thing."

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