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BOG Passes \$600 Hike; Plan Heads to State

By KATHLEEN HUNTER
Assistant State & National Editor

A student proposal to limit tuition increases to two UNC-system schools caused an uncommon division among Board of Governors members, who eventually voted Friday in favor of tuition increases at five system schools.

The BOG released its final verdict on the controversial tuition issue during its meeting at the Carolina Inn, where the board passed a committee proposal that will boost tuition \$600 at UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University.

The plan, which now rests with the state, marked the crescendo of five months of student debate as various proposals wound their way through the UNC-system bureaucracy.

The board also voted in favor of tuition increases at East Carolina University, UNC-Charlotte and UNC-Wilmington. ECU and UNC-C were granted a \$300 tuition increase over the next two years. At UNC-W tuition will go up \$120 the first year, \$115 the second. The board also passed a 2.1 percent systemwide increase.

This ends months of debate among campus administrators and UNC-system officials on the controversial tuition issue, which will now go the N.C. General Assembly for approval.

The BOG's decision flew in the face of significant opposition from students, who have continually spoken out against boosting tuition. More than 50 students packed the meeting, many touting signs opposing increased tuition.

Jeff Nieman, a UNC-CH senior and nonvoting BOG member, caused a rift among board members when he proposed an amendment to the committee proposal, limiting the increase at UNC-CH and N.C. State to \$200 and excluding the other three schools.

Nieman's proposal, which mirrored the recommendation that UNC-system

President Molly Broad released in January, failed, but not without garnering 11 votes from board members.

John Sanders, a board member who voted for Nieman's proposal, said it was unusual for the BOG to remain divided on an issue by the time it reached the full BOG. "I was disappointed that (Nieman's) push did not prevail," he said. "I was surprised and pleased that we got 11 votes for it. That was the longest discussion I recall on any subject in the last year I've been on the board."

In a speech to the board before the vote on his proposal, Nieman cited two main flaws in the committee's plan.

The committee proposal mandates tuition increases for two years at all five schools. Nieman said handcuffing the board to two years of increases violated a section of the N.C. constitution requiring that public higher education remain "as free as practicable."

Nieman also said he opposed increasing tuition at ECU, UNC-C and UNC-W. He said the board's policy on setting tuition, adopted in 1998, dictated that tuition requests from individual campuses should only be considered under extraordinary circumstances. In his opinion, needs outlined in requests from the trustees at the three schools did not qualify as extraordinary.

In his plea to board members, Nieman stressed the historic importance of the BOG vote, encouraging members to avoid setting a dangerous precedent by voting for the committee's proposal.

"I urge you, when you cast your vote today, to remember that the way you vote will not be forgotten," he said.

But Brad Wilson, chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee that formulated the proposal against which Nieman spoke, said the political reality was that state coffers were strained this year. He urged the board to increase tuition at all five schools. "No one wants to raise tuition," Wilson said. "But (leg-



Members of the Board of Governors listen to tuition increase proposals Friday as students silently protest the increase by holding signs in the background. An increase was approved for several UNC-system schools.

islators) are our bankers. They have called, and they have said there is not enough money in the bank."

Nieman's proposal was then defeated. A second vote followed, passing the committee's plan by a wider margin.

Immediately following the vote, Broad defended the board's actions.

"I hope none of you conclude that this represents a change in the overall mission to keep tuition low," she said.

Former Gov. Jim Holshouser, an ex officio BOG member, also said the board acted correctly in the face of tough choices. "This has been a lesson for everyone in real-world decision-making."

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Student Prompts Intense Tuition Debate

Jeff Nieman, a nonvoting student member of the BOG, asked the board to limit tuition increases to one-year hikes at UNC-CH and N.C. State. The plan was defeated in favor of higher increases.

Jeff Nieman's Proposal Defeated

- \$200 tuition increase for one year at UNC-CH and N.C. State, to be raised to \$300 if the state did not approve a \$360 million financial aid package
- No tuition increases at ECU, UNC-C and UNC-W
- An inflationary increase of 2.1 percent for entire UNC system

Budget and Finance Committee Proposal — Passed

- \$600 tuition increase over two years at UNC-CH and N.C. State
- \$300 tuition increase over two years at UNC-C and ECU
- \$120 tuition increase for the first year and \$115 for the second year at UNC-W
- An inflationary increase of 2.1 percent for all UNC-system schools

Legislators Back Board's Tuition Plan

Students remain hopeful that lawmakers will heed students' pleas when the plan reaches Raleigh in May.

By MATTHEW B. DEES
State & National Editor

Bite the bullet. Webster's dictionary defines the saying as "entering with resignation upon a difficult or distressing course of action."

N.C. legislators probably would say that Noah Webster was right on the money.

More than one used the term to describe the actions they will likely be forced to take as they face the task of addressing the UNC system's urgent needs with very limited resources available in state coffers.

And on the heels of a Board of Governors vote to raise tuition significantly at five state institutions largely to address low faculty salaries, lawmakers say students probably will have to chew some ammo right along with them.

"I think (the vote) was the proper decision," said Sen. Tony Rand, D-Cumberland, who is co-chairman of a joint legislative committee that will meet in two weeks to discuss ways to fund capital improvements at all 16 UNC-system campuses. "We need to go ahead and bite the bullet on faculty salaries, that is, if we want to keep the quality university system we have now."

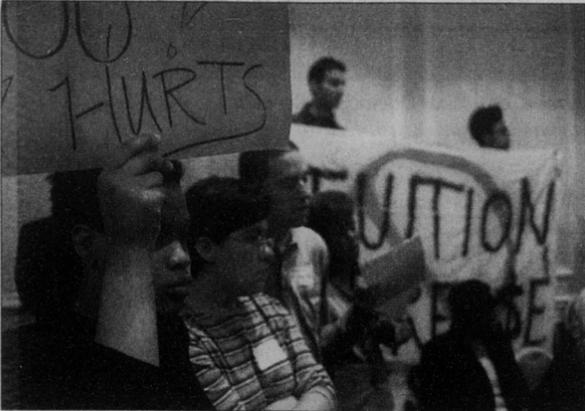
Sen. John Garwood, R-Avery, a former BOG member who also sits on Rand's committee, expressed a similar sentiment. "People are not going to sit by and watch this state lose its reputation as a leader in higher education."

Both Rand and Garwood said that while it was unfortunate students would have to bear some of the burden, the state budget that has been plagued by lawsuits and Mother Nature simply left no other alternative.

BOG members also said their decision was made in the context of the state's fiscal constraints, not out of a desire to overburden students.

"(Legislators) have said there is no money left in the bank," said Bradley Wilson, chairman of the BOG Budget and Finance Committee, which drafted the tuition proposals.

See LEGISLATORS, Page 4



UNC junior Aisha McGriff from Durham holds up a sign during the silent protest at Friday's Board of Governors meeting held at the Carolina Inn.

Students Wage War Once More

By KATIE ABEL
University Editor

About 50 UNC students found themselves back in battle Friday, as a hotly debated tuition proposal once again forced them to get in the faces of UNC system administrators.

Armed with signs reading "Keep UNC Accessible" and "Tuition Increase, Just Say No," the protesters crowded the back two rows of the crammed room and waited as a critical chapter in their fight unfolded.

The meeting marked the third round of student-led protests during the five-month debate about whether to raise UNC's tuition to fund faculty salaries. The

BOG voted to increase tuition at UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University by \$600 during the next two years.

Jeff Nieman, a UNC-CH senior and the BOG's only student member, jump-started uncharacteristic debate among board members after he called for an amendment to the committee's plan.

Nieman's proposal would have limited the tuition increases at UNC-CH and N.C. State to \$200 next year.

As several board members argued against Nieman's plan and stressed the necessity of a two-year tuition increase in the wake of a state budget crunch, student protesters found their own way to convey their message. Students etched messages on a dry-erase board in the

front of the room with phrases such as, "If the State Can't Pay, Neither Can We."

Applause filled the room after Nieman passionately told the board that a tuition increase would limit access to UNC-system schools. He cited the system's history of low tuition as the reason the board's own chairman, Ben Ruffin, was able to complete his own college career.

And after BOG members cast their votes, the students immediately followed Nieman out of the room for a press conference on the Inn's front lawn. The roar of passing cars could not drown out the voices of students crowded around a mass of television cameras.

See STUDENT PROTEST, Page 4

Fliers: Beware of 'Machine'

By LAUREN BEAL
Assistant University Editor

Mysterious yellow fliers posted around campus early Sunday morning have current student government officers furious and this year's candidates wondering.

Written by a "concerned student who is unaffiliated with any campaign," the posters state that student government is run by a "well-oiled, transparent machine."

"The machine consists of those who buy into keeping the same types of people in power so that they can one day share in that power," the posters stated.

Student body president candidates Brad Matthews, Erica Smiley, Michael Harris, Preston Smith, Josh Ray and Matt Martin denied any connection with the fliers.

Student Body President Nic Heinke said the fliers, which were removed

almost immediately after they were hung, were unfair.

"I think it's spineless and ignorant for someone to have a problem, post that problem around campus and not be brave enough to sign their name," Heinke said.

The fliers state "while you think that student government is serving your interests, it's really serving its own" and draws attention to previous student body presidents who "gained personal post-graduate benefits" from their position.

"You can be sure that the prospect of a jump-started political career lurks in the back of our current SBP's mind when he negotiates on behalf of students," the fliers state.

Heinke said he was upset and embarrassed by the fliers' suggestions.

"The fact that me and about five other students didn't sleep last week because we were busy busting our tails fighting this tuition increase doesn't seem very self-serving to me," he said.

While Smiley said she did not know the origin of the fliers, she pointed out the



merits of the message. "I think they made a lot of good points about student government's history over the past few years."

Smith said the posters were great but worried they would discourage students from voting. "I'm worried that they'll see this as a reason for not voting," he said. "But it's exactly the opposite — this is why they should vote. Become active and let's change the system."

Graduate and Professional Student Federation President Lee Conner said the author should step up and identify himself or herself. "What it says to me is (the author) desires to attack and degenerate but not to be held accountable," he said.

Conner said the author was obviously working for or supporting one of the six student body president candidates. "It doesn't take a real genius to figure it out."

The flier suggests that the "machine" grooms its "chosen ones" for the position. "The machine's candidate always wins ... Can you spot the machine's candidate this year?" the author asks.

"It looks pretty desperate to me," Conner said of the flier. "They must be afraid that their candidate isn't going to win, not going to pull the votes."

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Police Seek Suspect, Motive in Murder

By JENNY ROSSER
Staff Writer

Police are investigating the fatal shooting of a 22-year-old woman Thursday, marking the second homicide of the year in Chapel Hill.

Nehesia Kentae Taylor was found shot to death Thursday night after officers responded to a 911 center report of gunshots in the western part of Chapel Hill at about 10:05 p.m., according to a police press release.

As officers searched the area around Sykes and Gomains streets, they were approached by Chapel Hill resident Reginald Eugene Farrington, 34. He then took officers to the 600 block of Sykes Street, where Taylor's body was found.

Farrington, who is not considered a suspect in the murder, had been shot in a finger of his right hand.

Chapel Hill police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said police had no suspects or motives in the case.

Police were not providing the addresses of either Taylor or Farrington but did confirm that both were Chapel

Hill residents.

Cousins said police were not releasing any information surrounding the shooting but were working vigorously to bring the case to a close.

"Police are interviewing witnesses and people in the neighborhood and urging anyone who has information to call Crime Stoppers," she said.

The first homicide in town this year occurred at the Orange Water and Sewer Authority plant on Mason Farm Road. Michael Gregory Crosby of Raleigh was found shot to death Jan. 1. Michael Jordan Cruz, also of Raleigh, was arrested Jan. 11 and charged with first-degree murder in connection with Crosby's death.

Anyone with information about the Taylor homicide should call the Chapel Hill Police Department at 968-2870 or Chapel Hill-Carrboro Crime Stoppers at 942-7515.

Crime Stoppers is offering cash rewards for information about the murder, and all calls are confidential.

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

INSIDE Monday

Competition Grows

A write-in candidate has joined the race for student body president, increasing the number of candidates to seven. See Page 7.

Artsy Leader

The Board of Governors announced the installation of Wilson native Wade Hobgood as the new chancellor at the N.C. School of the Arts. Hobgood will officially begin July 1. See Page 6.

Talk About Town

The Daily Tar Heel is currently accepting applications for the Resident Feedback Board. The group of Chapel Hill and Carrboro residents will engage in an open discussion about local area issues with DTH editors. See Page 2.

Today's Weather

Thunderstorms; High 70s. Tuesday: Sunny; Mid 60s.

Can anybody remember when the times were not hard, and money not scarce?

Ralph Waldo Emerson