#### The Winding Road to the BOG Vote

Monday, February 14, 2000

creased state funding led Decreased state about to a year of debate about whether the UNC system should raise tuition. The debate capped off Friday when the Board of Governors passed significant tuition boosts for five of the 16 system schools.

Board of Governors consultant Eva Klein submits a report indicating \$6.9 billion in capital needs to repair and renovate dilapidated facilities across the UNC system.

April 1999

The BOG submits a \$5 billion bond proposal to the N.C. General Assembly. The Senate approves a \$3 billion bond request, while the House only agrees to a \$1 billion plan that would require a public referendum. The proposal never makes it out of a House-Senate conference committee before the summer session ends.

Summer 1999

After UNC-CH drops from third to fifth in national rankings, a UNC-CH committee of faculty and two student leaders begins discussing tuition increases as a way to raise dwindling faculty salaries at the University.

August 1999

After several weeks of debate, a University committee submits a ndation to the Board of Trustees combining a \$1,500 tuition increase for in-state students with legislative funding to boost the salaries of UNC professors.

The Dialectic and Philan Societies and The Daily Tar Heel host administrators to voice their opinions concerning the proposed tuition increase before the Board of Trustee's vote.

Despite student protests, the University's Board of Trustees approves a five-year plan to raise faculty salaries that would eventually raise each in-state undergraduate tuition by \$1,500 during the next five years.

October 1999

# **ASG Plans to Continue Fight**

By Kristina Casto

Hours after the Board of Governors decided to raise tuition at five UNC-system schools, a UNC Association of Student Governments meeting convened in the Great Hall of the Student Union on Friday evening to formulate a

new strategy for students.
Several UNC-system student body presidents also attended the BOG meeting earlier in the day to show opposition

to increasing tuition ASG delegates from across the system considered two responses to the BOG vote.

The first was to continue fighting proposed increase when it Assembly

The second option discussed was to recast students' energy behind other issues, such as financial aid, faculty salaries and a possible bond referendum

aimed at funding capital improvements.
All are issues the General Assembly

might consider in the coming months.
"We have not withdrawn our opposi tion to the tuition increase," ASG President Jeff Nieman, who is also a BOG member, said. "But the reality is, we need to focus on what we can win.' The board earlier voted against an

alternative proposal from Nieman. His plan would have decreased the magnitude of the increases and limited tuition boosts at UNC-Chapel Hill and

N.C. State University

"We will show the legislature that we mean business, and we are watching them."

RAI MIRCHANDANI N.C. State Student Body President

increase proposal had caused fingerpointing and fighting among UNC-CH students, faculty and administrators. Heinke said the internal disagreement at UNC-CH had

Heinke,

UNC-CH student

body president, said the tuition

distracted people from holding the leg-islature responsible for funding the

Some ASG members said they

hoped to change that. "We need a new gelling of the University community to mind the legislature what their job is,"

ASG leaders proposed to move for-

ward on two points.

First, to bring together a 'Ride to Raleigh,' where students, teachers and administrators from universities across the state would be bused to Raleigh as a unified show of force.

Nieman said he hoped a strong show of students, administrators and faculty in Raleigh would encourage the legisla-

ture to fund the University adequately. Raj Mirchandani, N.C. State student body president, said the 'Ride to Raleigh' would remind the legislature of its duty to the UNC system. "We will show the legislature that we mean busiwe are watching them," Mirchandani said.

ASG leaders also outlined a plan to form a working committee of students, faculty, staff, administrators and BOG members from all 16 schools.

The proposed committee would work to reunify the system behind other issues such as faculty salaries, financial aid and capital improvements.

"We don't have to give up on the tuition increase, but our prime focus is long-term," said Heinke. "Leadership is focusing on the long-term.

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



Jeff Nieman, a nonvoting member of the Board of Governors, argues for an amendment to the tuition increase at the BOG meeting Friday.

#### STUDENT PROTEST

"They are spitting on access to education," said Ali Fischer, a 1999 UNC graduate and vice president of the United States Students Association.

Nieman praised the efforts of The Coalition for Educational Access, comparing the student fight against the tuition increase to protests of the Civil Rights era. "It's not over, this decision is

going to be made in Raleigh."

Coalition member Sandi Chapman said student presence held BOG members accountable to the population they served. "If there was nobody there, they would walk over us," she said.

Student Body President Nic Heinke said the protest influenced the board's decision. "I don't think Jeff's substitute amendment would have gotten the 17-11 vote if the students weren't there."

Student opposition to tuition increases during the last five months sparked a

large display of campus activism.

More than 400 students led a protest at an October 1999 Board of Trustees meeting. About 100 students came to a November 1999 BOG meeting where the board lauded the student fight

Although Friday's turnout was lower than the earlier meetings, coalition member Matt Smith said it was commendable. "I think when we're looking at 9:15 a.m. on a Friday morning, the number of people who turned out from all different schools was phenomenal."

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

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## HALL TUTORING UPDATE

Free tutoring began February 8 in Dey Hall. Tutoring will be available every Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6-9pm on a drop-in basis.

Our BUSI 24 tutor has dropped out. There will be **NO BUSINESS 24 TUTORING AVAILABLE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**.

For this week only (February 15): THERE WILL BE NO PHYSICS 24/25 TUTORING ON TUESDAY, FEB. 15 (Physics tutoring will be available on Wednesday)

This semester there are more Math, Physics, and Chemistry tutors on Wed. nights than on Tuesdays. There are more Business, Economics, and Statistics tutors on Tuesdays than on Wednesdays. You might want to plan your visits to tutoring in these subjects accordingly

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### **LEGISLATORS**

To ignore that is to ignore the reality in which we are having to raise tuition. Garwood said the concessions for student aid provided within every tuition increase and the relatively low tuition already offered made his decision somewhat easier. The BOG approved a \$600 tuition increase, to be implemented over

two years, at N.C. State University and UNC-Chapel Hill.
"Six hundred dollars may seem like a lot of money, but they're going to balance that with financial aid," Garwood said. "Relatively speaking, I think we're

still offering a bargain.' But student leaders opposed to the

plan remained hopeful Friday that they still had a chance to get their message across to legislators. Jeff Nieman, a UNC-Chapel Hill student and nonvoting BOG member, made a motion at Friday's meeting to adopt UNC-system President Molly Broad's plan for a one year, \$200 tuition increase at N.C. State University and UNC-Chapel Hill. The board defeated the motion 17-

11, a narrow margin by BOG standards Nieman said he hoped the 11 dis-senting votes would carry weight with legislators. "While the board should be respected as a whole, when we take this to the General Assembly, we can say that we have at least some support.'

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