

The Daily Tar Heel

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Lawmakers Pass Tuition Increase

A 9 percent tuition increase, part of which will be charged retroactively, will take effect pending the approval of Gov. Mike Easley.

By ALEX KAPLUN
State & National Editor

RALEIGH — After a week of turbulent debate, the N.C. General Assembly approved a continuing budget resolution that includes a 9 percent retroactive tuition increase for all UNC-system students.

The legislation will increase in-state undergraduate tuition at UNC-Chapel Hill by about \$200, while out-of-state tuition will increase by about \$1,000.

The tuition increase will also be retroactive, meaning students will have to pay additional money for the fall semester, which is already two weeks old.

As a result of a 4 percent tuition increase approved by the Board of Governors last fall — which will be folded into the increase passed Wednesday — UNC-CH students have already been charged about \$100 of the tuition increase. The additional retroactive cost for in-state students will be negligible, but out-of-state students could receive a bill for an additional \$400 in the coming weeks.

The tuition increase also comes on top of a \$300 increase for UNC-CH students that was approved by the General Assembly last summer.

Lawmakers had until midnight Wednesday to pass a continuing budget resolution that would keep the government operating for another month while legislators try to build a budget for the fiscal year, which started July 1. Two weeks ago, lawmakers decided to include the tuition increase in the resolution so universities could implement and students could brace for the increase as soon as possible.

Passage of the tuition increase comes after several days of political wrangling between budget writers from both the Senate and the House. Last week, leaders from both chambers informally agreed to a 9 percent across-the-board tuition increase. Those plans appeared to be derailed Tuesday night when the House passed an amendment by a 65-54 vote to eliminate all in-state tuition increases and place the full burden of the tuition increase on out-of-state students.

But last-minute calls from senators to chancellors around the UNC-system staved off the House amendment.

"At one point this morning the Senate conferees were willing to give into the House proposal," said Sen. Howard Lee, D-Orange, who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee. "Some of us felt it was the concession we would have to make to pass the continuing resolution before the deadline."

Lee said several members of the Senate decided to call chancellors from some of the UNC system's medium-sized schools, including UNC-Charlotte and East Carolina University, who informed Senate members that the House proposal could be

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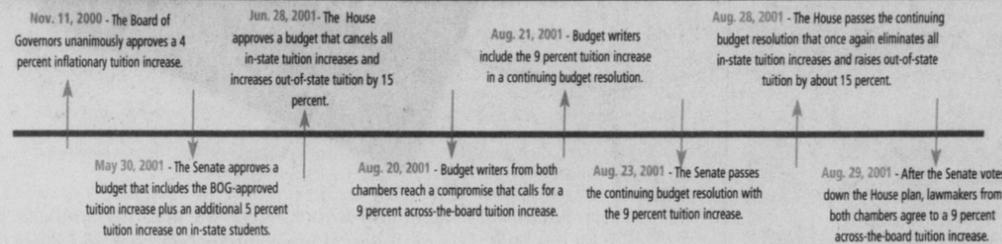


DTH/KARA ARNDT

Rep. Cary Allred, D-Orange, reacts to the decision to pass the state Senate's version of the tuition increase. Allred did not support the Senate's bill and was vocal in trying to convince his fellow representatives.

Budget Problems Lead to Delayed Tuition Hike

The systemwide tuition increase passed tonight by the General Assembly went through a multitude of changes during a 10-month period.



SBP, Others Fight New Tuition Plan

No student leaders went to Raleigh on Wednesday, but some spent the day e-mailing to oppose the proposed hike.

By LIZZIE BREYER
University Editor

As the N.C. General Assembly's deadline for passing a continuing budget resolution that included a tuition increase drew near, student leaders worked against the clock Wednesday to get their message to legislators.

Although Student Body President Justin Young and UNC Association of Student Governments President Andrew Payne said they are frustrated by the budget-making process, they said they spent Wednesday trying to make their opinion known before the legislature voted.

Neither Payne nor Young went to Raleigh on Wednesday night, but Young spent the day e-mailing and calling legislators to express his opinion. "I've been trying to send e-mails, trying to talk to people, trying to make phone calls, but it seems like nothing works and nobody's listening," he said.



Student Body President Justin Young organized a rally in the Pit protesting the tuition hike Monday.

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Bomb Threat Left On Local Vehicle

The report of a suspicious note on a resident's car was received by the Department of Public Safety at 8 p.m.

By KATHLEEN WIRTH
Assistant City Editor

A Chapel Hill resident reported Wednesday night that a threatening note was left on her windshield warning her that a bomb was in the engine of her car.

University police Lt. C. E. Swain Jr., who responded to the call Wednesday night, said the victim drove the vehicle from the Hanes Visitor Lot on campus to 108 Timber Hollow Court off Airport Road in Chapel Hill, at which point she noticed the note on her windshield.

After the victim found the note, Swain said she drove to DPS in a different vehicle to report the alleged threat. Swain said DPS received notice of the note at 8 p.m. "We received a call that a suspicious note was found on the vehicle," he said. "From there we got in contact with the Chapel Hill Police Department."

Chapel Hill police arrived at Timber Hollow Court shortly after the victim reported the note, and set up a 100-foot perimeter around the vehicle in question.

Police then alerted the State Bureau of

Investigation of the threat.

But at 9:23 p.m. a bomb expert with Chapel Hill Police Department investigated the vehicle, and police determined the vehicle did not contain a bomb. "He checked out the car and decided there was no device in the vehicle," Swain said.

Three other bomb-related incidents have occurred this week around the state.

At 11:03 a.m. Monday morning, DPS was notified of an item resembling a pipe bomb on Cameron Avenue, near Davie Hall. SBI officials detonated the object at the scene.

Swain said he did not think there was any connection between the suspicious note and the device detonated on Cameron Avenue.

N.C. leaders received a threat Monday night during the House's legislative session. SBI agents searched the legislative building and did not find any type of explosive device. The incident is under investigation.

On Wednesday, Christopher McMillan, a 1986 UNC graduate, was charged with possession of an unregistered explosive device. McMillan allegedly is responsible for an explosion at a Sprint administrative office building Tuesday morning.

University Police Chief Derek Poarch said police will launch an investigation into the note. "We're going to investigate the complaints and the alleged threat."

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Pit Fence Causes Campus Traffic Crunch

By KARA EIDE
Staff Writer

Students fighting their way through one of the most popular areas of campus this week have been greeted by neon orange fencing that now invades both the Pit and their walkway.

As the Undergraduate Library renovations progress, a fence — which now claims a chunk of walking space between the Pit and the Undergrad — was erected Tuesday to allow work on the building's wiring.

The major effect of this new blocked-off area, which will be inaccessible for about a week, is intense congestion in the main artery leading to the Pit and the buildings surrounding it. Especially during class changes and at lunchtime, the traffic of crammed student bodies in front of the Undergrad and Greenlaw Hall can come to a complete standstill.

Leah McGinnis, spokeswoman for the Undergrad project, said the temporary fencing is there to allow construction workers to do telephone cabling work.

McGinnis said that in the center of the blocked area there is a manhole from which workers will be hand-digging and laying cable underground. She said workers originally put up tape to mark off the area, but it was knocked down. While the area has been blocked off since Tuesday, construction did not begin right away because it is dependent on the weather. McGinnis said workers did not start on Wednesday because there was a possibility of rain in the morning.

Meanwhile, students have become irritated with the inconvenience. Sophomore Shannon Shillinglaw said she found herself moving inch by inch through the clogged area. "I thought I was going to pass out today." She said she might try to avoid this crowded area in the future, but she often forgets until she's there. "Once you're in the gauntlet, you're in the gauntlet," she said.

Sophomore Shonta Rogers also said she found it to be a major hassle. "It's really just out of control," she said. "I'm tired of construction being everywhere I go."



DTH/SEFTON IPOCK

Students are held up by bottleneck congestion caused by a construction fence that takes up a chunk of walking space between the Pit and the Undergraduate Library.

McGinnis said officials are taking efforts to schedule construction inconveniences during non-peak hours but, in some cases, it is not possible. "Doing this work as it becomes necessary allows us to keep the project on schedule, as we're trying very hard to re-open (the Undergrad) by next fall," she said.

McGinnis said there should not be much noise from the work, but noise or not, junior Matt Jones said he is still bothered by the extra hassle. He said his major concern is the unpleasant aesthetics, espe-

cially the damage to the plant life nearby.

Jones said students have been jumping over the stone wall that borders the path and trampling through the plants — something he said he did himself in a mad dash to meet someone. "The foliage is going to be killed within a month or so," Jones said. "The groundskeepers will reap the fruits of what they sow."

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The biggest sin is sitting on your ass.

Florynce Kennedy