

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Tuition Philosophy, Procedure Focus of 1st Meeting

By LIZZIE BREYER  
University Editor

Members of the Task Force on Tuition met for the first time Tuesday to hash out procedural details and debate the merits of some justifications for a tuition increase.

Provost Robert Shelton, the committee co-chairman with Student Body President Justin Young, began the meeting by recapping the mission of the committee, which is charged with providing recommendations to the UNC Board of Trustees before its Jan. 24 meeting.

The committee was formed at the suggestion of Chancellor James Moeser at the Nov. 15 BOT meeting, where the

first formal discussion of a possible tuition increase took place.

Shelton said the group's work will be complicated by the need to work during Winter Break. "We have a very tight timeline," he said. "While many of us in one way or another will be working through the holidays, not all of us work here."

But student members expressed their desire to work under the time constraints, offering to come back to campus to meet over break. "We, at least, are committed to being here," Young said. The committee ultimately set its meeting dates for Jan. 4, Jan. 9 and Jan. 15.

Shelton distributed information to the group for members to review during the

break, data he said he hoped would help compensate for the shortened time frame.

Members of the committee said they wanted guiding principles for their work, and Shelton asked committee members to e-mail him ideas by Dec. 28. "The first thing we need to tackle is statements of principle," said committee member Tim Burnett. "If you don't do that, all the numbers in the world don't matter - you've got to have something to measure against."

After procedural issues were resolved, most of the remaining discussion revolved around whether funding faculty salaries through a tuition increase would result in a conflict between students and faculty. "My sense is that stu-

dents and their parents pay to be taught, and that is the core reason to pay tuition," said committee member Russell Carter. "There needs to be a resolution made philosophically - higher wages are a fact, competitive wages are a fact, and we need tuition to make it work."

The issue of a faculty-student divide was raised by Faculty Chairwoman Sue Estroff at the Nov. 15 BOT meeting, when she said a tuition increase should not imply that money is going from student wallets into faculty pockets.

Carter said he is concerned that faculty members have not come forward to help explain salary needs to students. "It sounds like it should be exactly what stu-

dents want to hear, that the money is going to improve their teaching, and faculty are saying tell them something else."

But student committee member Rebekah Burford said she thinks the solution to a rift between faculty and students is to educate the student body.

"(Students) hear about a tuition increase but don't know what it's about or where it's going," she said. "If they did know, they would be a lot more receptive - the issue we're facing here is that students are ill-informed, and that's the first step we need to take."

The University Editor can be reached at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

## Policy About Tuition May Be in Flux

The state constitution mandates low tuition, but some say increases are needed to stay competitive.

By ALEX KAPLUN  
State & National Editor

"The General Assembly shall provide that the benefits of The University of North Carolina and other public institutions of higher education, as far as practicable, be extended to the people of the State free of expense."

Those words - written into the state constitution 30 years ago - have been used in the past by both student leaders and University administrators to voice opposition to tuition increases.

But now, as officials consider the possibility of a new campus-based tuition increase, University leaders say they must balance that constitutional mandate with an effort to stay competitive and look at tuition in a new light.

While no specific tuition increase proposal has been made, University administrators have suggested that a tuition increase should be used as an additional revenue stream for the University.

"North Carolina has a tradition of great generosity towards higher education," UNC-Chapel Hill Provost Robert Shelton said Tuesday after the first meeting of a task force that will make tuition recommendations to the UNC-CH Board of Trustees.

"Nevertheless, the financial equation is changing in that we can't ask the taxpayers to fully fund higher education. ... The burden falls on us."

Former UNC-system President Bill Friday said he has seen a change in attitude toward tuition, which he said can be largely attributed to a decrease in state funding for the system. Even though the dollar amount of the UNC system's budget has increased steadily during the last 15 years, the percent share of the state budget has fallen from more than 17 percent to less than 13 percent.

As a result legislators and University administrators have turned to tuition as a complementary source of funding, Friday said. "What (the General Assembly) decided is to let the University ask for tuition increases, and of course they are going to grant them every time," he said.

He added that when the UNC system formed in 1971, tuition was only a small part of the University's funding picture. "It was perceived as another University receipt, but it was not perceived as a primary source of income," Friday said.

UNC-system Association of Student Governments President Andrew Payne also said system administrators have settled for revenue from tuition to compensate for losses in state funding. "Instead of going down to the legislature and demanding funding, we've taken the easy way out by placing the burden on students and their families," Payne said. "We have given up our responsibility to put pressure on legislators for funding."

He added that both University administrators and legislators are ignoring the constitutional mandate. "The ultimate question is who should pay," Payne said. "If the state and legislators say the constitution is no longer applicable, well then, we'll go from there."

But Shelton said Tuesday that while the state constitution mandates that tuition be kept low, there is also pressure on the University to remain competitive.

"In the current era, we are an institution that is expected to compete at not only a state and national level but also internationally," Shelton said.

"The people of this state demand that this be a world-class institution."

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## Schedule Leaves Students Out Of Tuition Loop

For the first time since the early 1970s, an issue of The Daily Tar Heel has been published when classes are not in session.

The cause for today's break from tradition: administrators' decision to schedule the first in a series of tuition committee meetings during exam week.

When the UNC Board of Trustees called for the committee nearly a month ago, Student Body President Justin Young specifically requested that meetings not be held during exams or Winter Break. But lo and behold, the committee's first meeting was scheduled during exams - and another is planned for early January before classes resume.

Although Young said he was not upset with the scheduling because the committee's three student members were able to attend Tuesday's meeting, the fact remains that - intentionally or not - the behind-the-scenes way in which the committee is set to address tuition will have the effect of blinding students when they return from Winter Break.

While most students were holed up studying for exams Tuesday, administrators, trustees, faculty members and students gathered on the third floor of South Building for the first meeting of the 2001-02 Task Force on Tuition. The task force plans by mid-January to make several recommendations about campus-initiated tuition increases to the Board of Trustees, which is scheduled to act on tuition at its Jan. 24 meeting.

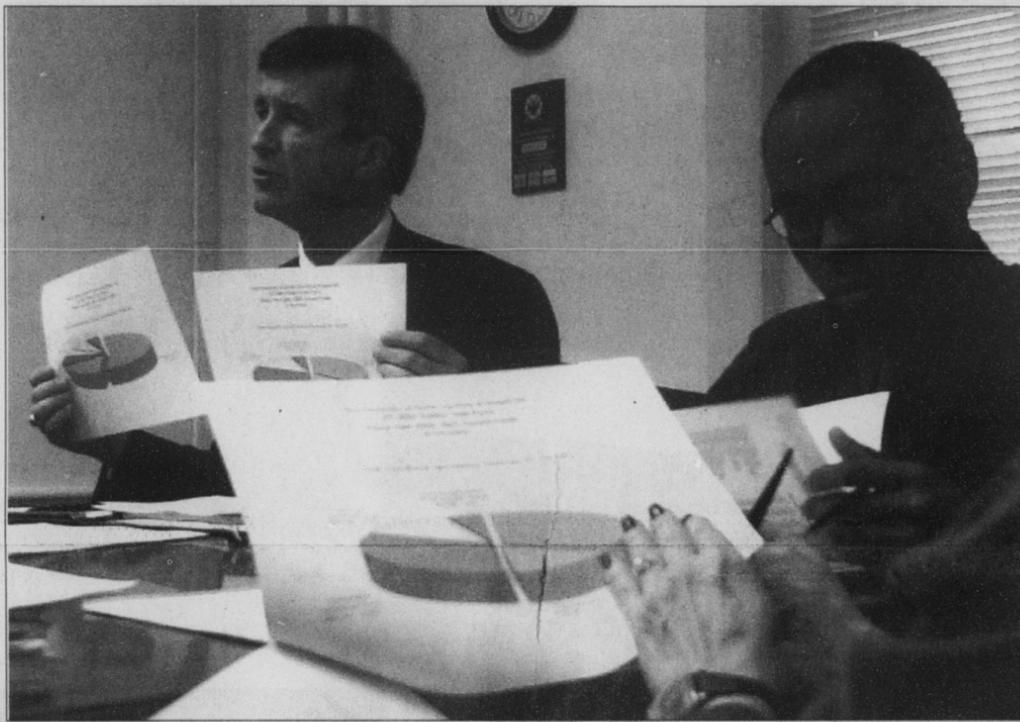
This short time frame will severely limit public scrutiny of whatever proposal eventually is put forth.

If an administration that already has been criticized for holding the views of students in low regard is looking to redeem its image, the recent scheduling decisions do not help.

It has been more than three months since Chancellor James Moeser first announced his intent to pursue a campus-based tuition increase this year. If the need to increase tuition is so dire that it cannot be put off a year to ensure a well-thought-out policy is adopted, why was putting the process in motion not given higher priority? Why has the first meeting of a committee that is expected to offer viable input on tuition been put off until just six weeks before the BOT is slated to act?

One can only assume from the way in which the tuition issues have been handled so far that - in the minds of administrators - the urgency to raise tuition outweighs the need to follow a process that is transparent, thoughtful and responsive to student concerns.

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Provost Robert Shelton (left) and Student Body President Justin Young discuss issues such as whether a tuition increase is the best revenue source for raising faculty salaries at the first meeting of the 2001-02 Task Force on Tuition on Tuesday.

## BOG, Chancellors Discuss Tuition

By ELYSE ASHBURN  
Staff Writer

The UNC-system Board of Governors Budget and Finance Committee wrapped up a round of discussions Tuesday, gauging UNC-system chancellors' intent to raise tuition on their campuses.

Chancellors from East Carolina University, N.C. School of the Arts, UNC-Pembroke and Western Carolina University presented their tuition plans during the teleconference meeting.

Next year the board will vote on a plan to raise in-state tuition systemwide by 4.8 percent - an increase of \$112 per student at UNC-Chapel Hill. Out-of-state tuition will be raised the same dollar amount as each school's calculated in-state increase. The increase is the system's yearly response to inflation.

Any campus-initiated tuition increases would

be in addition to the BOG's proposed increase.

UNC-system President Molly Broad advised chancellors and committee members to remember the tuition guidelines set forth in the N. C. Constitution. "(It) charges officials to keep tuition and fees as low as is practicable," she said.

Broad said consideration of campus-initiated tuition increases is particularly complicated this year. "The issues are very challenging this year, and there are strong arguments on both sides."

The WCU Board of Trustees voted last week to increase tuition by \$100, and the other three chancellors who participated in the meeting stated their intention to propose increases, citing a need to raise faculty salaries as their primary motivation.

UNC-Pembroke Chancellor Allen Meadors said keeping tuition low is a priority but that his campus needs to generate funds to increase faculty salaries. "We certainly want to keep tuition

as low as possible for students, but at the same time our costs go up," he said. N. C. School of the Arts Chancellor Wade Hobgood said he intends to propose a \$1,500 tuition hike. East Carolina University Chancellor William Muse said tuition in the UNC system has traditionally been low compared to that of other public university systems, noting that maintaining low tuition rates has become impracticable. "Having recently come from out of state, it is apparent to me that higher education is a real bargain in North Carolina."

Muse said the university community needs to realize raising tuition is a valid method of promoting campus growth. "It may not be popular, but I don't see any other solution."

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## TPAC Delays Night Parking Fee Discussion Until January

- Nov. 14: At a TPAC meeting, Linda Carl suggests night parking fees as a revenue source
- Nov. 28: Students protest the possible fee for night parking by parking a car in the Pit and attending the TPAC meeting
- Nov. 30: UNC's Department of Public Safety conducts an Internet survey to gauge opinions on the availability of night parking
- Dec. 5: TPAC conducts an educational meeting to examine the survey results but says they will not directly factor into the committee's decision
- Dec. 10: TPAC decides not to discuss night parking until after Winter Break, accommodating students' request not to discuss the issue during exam week
- Dec. 12: TPAC will examine the financial needs of the public safety department at its meeting
- January 2002: TPAC will make its preliminary recommendations on night parking, followed by open forums on the issue
- February 2002: TPAC will submit its final recommendation on night parking to the BOT
- March 28, 2002: The BOT will vote on TPAC's recommendation

By BROOK CORWIN  
Staff Writer

The Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee will not discuss the possibility of charging a fee for night parking until January, accommodating student requests that the issue be tabled until next semester.

The committee will spend its meeting today looking at the specific financial needs of the University's transportation department. A fee for parking on campus after 5 p.m. has been suggested by committee members as a possible source of funding for these needs.

Linda Carl, the committee's chairwoman, said the decision not to discuss night parking until next month was made to ensure committee members would be more informed before making a decision on the issue. "We changed the agenda to make it easier for the committee to understand all

the issues before coming to a decision on any of them," Carl said. "We're going to look at why we need to raise money and for what."

Committee member Derek Poarch, director of UNC's Department for Public Safety, said accommodating student schedules was one factor in the committee's decision. "Students are going to be in exams, and we wanted to make sure students were available before we had discussions on the topic," Poarch said.

Student Body Vice President Rudy Kleysteuber said the delay will allow students to take part in the decision process. "A lot of students, including members of student government, were adamant about not discussing the night parking issue during exams."

Students have expressed concern about limited involvement in parking issues since the committee made its Oct. 25 decision to eliminate on-campus student parking without student input.

Carl said a preliminary recommendation on night parking will be made next month, followed by open hearings on the issue. She said a final recommendation must be made by the beginning of February so the Board of Trustees can vote on the issue at its March 28 meeting.

Committee members said they are looking for a way to fund several projects, including fare-free busing, the expansion of the Park-and-Ride lot and the construction of a new PR lot.

Committee member Emily Williamson, a graduate student in the School of Government, said she hopes discussing these financial needs will enable the committee's three student representatives to find alternative sources of funding. "We're asking to see what the expenses are so we can find ways to fill them other than night parking."

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Reason and free inquiry are the only effectual agents against error.

Thomas Jefferson