

The Daily Tar Heel

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System tuition proposals floated

15 UNC CAMPUSES SUBMITTED PLANS FOR BOG TO CONSIDER

BY CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.

STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

UNC-system Board of Governors members got their first look at tuition increase requests Friday in what marks the beginning of the board's most important yearly decision-making process.

"What we're about to start ... is

annually one of the toughest decisions we are required to make," said Jim Phillips, chairman of the BOG's Budget and Finance Committee, to board members at a workshop Friday morning.

BOG members will consider the schools' requests during the next month before voting at a Feb. 13

meeting.

Every UNC-system school except for UNC-Chapel Hill submitted a request for campus-based tuition increases, with many schools asking for \$600 hikes over the next two years.

BOG members did not consider a campus-initiated increase for UNC-CH, which has not yet submitted a request. The UNC-CH Board of Trustees is set to meet starting Jan. 21 to finalize tuition plans.

BOG members also were told they might be seeing an across-the-board tuition increase of roughly 2 percent — \$59.10 for UNC-Chapel Hill.

Members of a special board-initiated tuition increase committee — including students, faculty and administrators — were as yet undecided on whether there should be an across-the-board increase and, if so, how large the increase should be.

"Right now there is divisiveness,"

said Jeff Davies, UNC-system vice president of finance. "The students, voting as a block, are thinking there should be no increase."

BOG members were encouraged to get all the information they need to complete the arduous tuition consideration process during the weeks before the Feb. 6 Budget and Finance Committee meeting.

The extra meeting will precede the committee's regularly scheduled meeting Feb. 12 at N.C. Central University.

Phillips said board members should consider a number of factors evident in this round of tuition increases.

The board should be wary of allotting campus-initiated tuition boosts for staff salary increases, he said.

If the board tackles that issue with tuition increases, the N.C. General Assembly, which typically takes care of most staff salary

SEE TUITION, PAGE 4

50 UNC workers may see pay hike

\$4.5M set aside for state workers

BY BRIAN HUDSON

ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

About 50 UNC employees could be getting pay increases thanks to \$4.5 million provided by Gov. Mike Easley's office.

The purpose of the money is to ensure a living wage for the poorest employees across the state by establishing a minimum salary of \$18,312 per year.

About 75 UNC employees receive less than that amount, but almost a third would not qualify for the raise because part of their salary is subsidized by University earnings, according to Laurie Charest, associate vice chancellor for human resources.

Charest said that these numbers were only estimates and that other qualifications taken into consideration, such as an employee's disciplinary past, could exclude many from the increase.

Tommy Griffin, chairman of the UNC Employee Forum, said that he welcomes the increases but that he hopes state lawmakers continue to work toward fair wages for state employees.

"I wish they had come up with more money to give raises," he said. "Every dollar helps. We have got to get salaries up to a living wage, and \$18,312 is not a living wage, I don't care what anyone says."

Griffin said he thinks the minimum salary should be \$25,000.

"A person will survive, not live, survive on \$25,000."

Because UNC does not have the power to provide salary increases to state employees, officials have looked toward other ways to improve the University workplace.

At the Employee Forum's annual retreat Friday, delegates discussed a proposal to create a Staff Administrative Standards Task Force in order to correct problems in the management of employees.

"They want to look into departments where standards are not being met, if there was a problem in personnel or morale for

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DTH/BRIAN CASSELLA

Tar Heel fans, decked out in Carolina blue gear, cheer the men's basketball team to a 103-88 victory over Georgia Tech University on Sunday night.

UNC Athletics is asking all Tar Heel fans to show their support through the "Turn it Blue" campaign by wearing Carolina blue to all games.

UNC men's basketball coach Roy Williams, who helped develop the idea, and the Carolina Athletics Association are helping to get the year-long campaign's message out to the student body.

"Turn it Blue" has been in the works since October, but officially kicked off Sunday. For the full story, see page 4.

SEE RAISES, PAGE 4



Sophomores Rose O'Rourke (left) and Jonny Tompkin ride the bus late Friday night. The Safe Ride Program will no longer run buses Thursdays.

BY LIZZIE STEWART

STAFF WRITER

Off-campus students will be without a public transit option Thursday nights due to a funding cut for a student government committee that has forced it to cut back its transportation services.

The student-run program Safe Ride, used to operate from 10:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. Thursday through Saturday nights, has halted services Thursday nights and will start an hour later Friday and Saturday.

Safe Ride, which began running in February 2003, is the only serv-

ice that offers off-campus transportation for students on weekend nights.

Although the number of people using Safe Ride has increased 49 percent to an average of 27 riders per hour, program coordinators saw a dramatic difference between the number of students who used the service Thursday nights and the number who used the service Friday and Saturday nights.

"The number of riders on Thursday nights dilutes the overall average," said Anup Dashputre, Safe Ride's program director.

The change in service is a result

of a reduction of funding in student government's Student Safety and Security Committee.

Safe Ride received \$8,000 from student government for the fall of 2003 and \$2,500 for the spring of 2004. The program's operational costs also increased from \$50 per hour to \$55 per hour, Dashputre said.

The committee decided to cut funding to Safe Ride because it receives money from sources other than student government.

The program also receives funding from the Carolina Parents Council, UNC's Department of Student Affairs and the UNC

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Late-night bus service takes a financial hit

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WORK FOR THE DTH

Applications to work at the DTH now are available. For more details, see PAGE 6

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THE FINAL FRONTIER

UNC junior Kate Harris will hold a lecture about her time in a Mars simulator PAGE 7

SPORTS

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The Tar Heels take home another win, this time against No. 8 Georgia Tech PAGE 14

WEATHER

TODAY Sunny, H 53, L 31

TUESDAY Sunny, H 58, L 28

WEDNESDAY Mostly sunny, H 52, L 31

