

Trustees OK landmark hike

BY BROOK R. CORWIN
AND EMILY STEEL
UNIVERSITY EDITORS

Jan. 22 — In an almost unanimous vote, UNC-Chapel Hill's governing body approved a \$1,500 one-year nonresident tuition increase Wednesday evening, claiming that a pending "crisis" in faculty retention outweighed strong opposition expressed by both the Faculty Council and the student body.

The approved proposal, which will generate \$15.3 million, also includes a \$300 tuition hike for in-state students.

(Editor's note: In March, the UNC system's governing body gave final approval to the increases. The Board of Governors reduced the in-state hike to \$250 but kept the out-of-state increase at \$1,500.)

Wednesday's decision marks a significant shift in tuition policies: the first time a campus-based tuition increase, using a market-based philosophy, has targeted nonresident tuition rates.

"It's necessary that this board address tuition as part of the big picture," said Richard "Stick" Williams, chairman of the Board of Trustees. "If we are going to build the leading public university, we have to make sure all the parts fit."

Trustees said the generated funds will be earmarked for faculty salaries, need-based financial aid, teacher assistant salaries and tuition remissions.

Eliminated from this list are merit- and talent-based scholarships, a controversial component

of a draft proposal that trustees had supported until this week.

Trustees decided on a philosophy that nonresident tuition should reach, but not exceed, the 75th percentile among public peer institutions.

Reaching that goal would cost nonresidents at least \$2,100 more, based on current peer tuition rates. As part of the philosophy, trustees decided to keep in-state tuition in the lowest quartile of those institutions.

Trustees refused to include concerns expressed by Student Body President Matt Tepper that students should be able to plan for tuition hikes before entering UNC-CH.

"Maybe there are students who came with the understanding of this being a low-cost institution for all students," Trustee Tim Burnett said. "But they also came with another understanding of the kind of quality this institution represents."

Tepper drafted a separate proposal prior to the meeting in an attempt to address this concern.

The proposal recommended a 5 percent hike for all current undergraduate students — about \$200 for residents and \$800 for nonresidents — with a \$1,500 increase for nonresident students entering UNC-CH next year.

But the proposal did not receive a motion for adoption, and many trustees criticized it for being unfair to incoming students and bringing in \$2.4 million less in discretionary funds. Trustees argued that current

students can take out low-interest loans to cover increased tuition costs.

"I'm trying to decide if that loan is more onerous than the \$2.4 million you are giving up under your proposal," said Trustee John Ellison. "I'm coming down on the side of \$2.4 million for faculty and teacher assistant salaries. It's not an easy call."

Several trustees said they were sensitive to the financial burden the increase will place on middle class students but were swayed by the need to maintain the quality of education through retaining faculty.

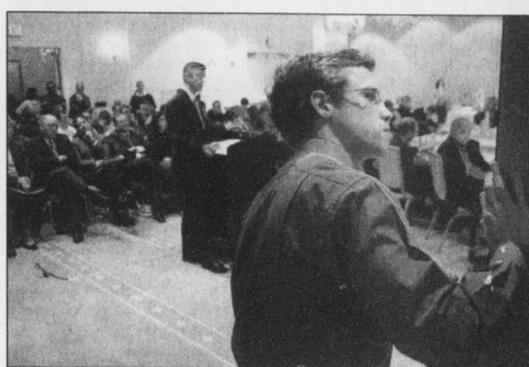
But Judith Wegner, chairwoman of the faculty, said the increase will damage recruitment of nonresident students, particularly graduate students, and only will worsen the problem of keeping faculty from accepting offers from other schools.

"This is important," she said to applause from dozens of students in attendance. "We need medicine, but first do no harm."

Wegner maintained her staunch opposition to the increase, expressed in a resolution unanimously approved by the Faculty Council last week, even after trustees removed merit- and talent-based scholarships from the list of funding priorities.

Faculty members strongly advocated against the use of tuition dollars to hold harmless the costs of athletic and merit scholarships that are funded through private foundations.

Trustees said after the meeting that the removal of these schol-



DTH FILE PHOTO/JUSTIN SMITH
Doug Ornof, an out-of-state student from Virginia, peers from behind a partition as Provost Robert Shelton outlines the tuition increase.

arships was a response to those concerns and to sentiments expressed by students in dozens of e-mails sent to the trustees.

Trustees voted on tuition increases for residents and nonresidents separately at the request of trustees Rusty Carter and Philip Carson. They were the only trustees to vote against the increase for residents, while Tepper cast the lone vote against the nonresident increase.

Several students said they were shocked by the board's action and expressed concern about the implications of the hike.

"I'll end up finding a way to make ends meet," said Doug Ornof, a freshman from Virginia who serves on the Freshman

Focus Council. "But now, I really don't know how."

Before the trustees' final votes were even cast, Wegner said she already was preparing for a campaign to sway BOG members to reject the proposal.

Tepper said the most effective appeal to BOG members would be asking to change the tuition philosophy enacted by the BOT and not the numbers of the approved proposal.

"This seems like a pretty final decision," he said. "But of course we'll continue to pressure the BOG for a tuition philosophy that is kinder to students."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Twists define race for top slot

BY BROOK R. CORWIN
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

March 3 — Throughout a prolonged seven-week campaign, student body president candidate Matt Calabria was always ready with well-measured words.

Late Tuesday night, he finally was at a loss for them.

In the conclusion to what will likely go down as one of the most heated and competitive student elections in school history, Calabria emerged the victor and will be UNC's next student body president.

Calabria received 57.8 percent of the 6,120 votes cast, an 8 percentage point jump from his standing in the first runoff election Feb. 17, which West unofficially won by seven votes. That election was never certified because of West campaign violations.

Calabria's supporters reacted to the results with the kind of exuberant shouts standard in the finish of a student body president race. But the cries also carried a muffled tone of relief as supporters swarmed to the front of the room to embrace their candidate.

Only seconds after the shouts began, the room was almost silent. "You're so worried beforehand just thinking, 'Will it ever be a reality?' and you second-guess yourself all the time," Calabria said of the race's final moments. "The moment you finally know, all you can think of is that it really is the reality."

The supporters who shared in Calabria's victorious moment represented only a fraction of what he said were hundreds of contributors to his successful campaign. While walking to greet the bulk of that team at his campaign manager's house, Calabria repeatedly cited his staff as the principle reason behind his win.

"These people put us over the top," he said. "When it comes down to it, it's the individual talents of the people you have with you. I'll never thank them enough."

After the results were announced, West spent several moments with some of her core supporters in the basement of Carroll Hall before emerging to thunderous cheers from the members of her staff in attendance.

She also was quick to thank her team of campaign workers and wished Calabria the best of luck in putting together his administration. "I hope the student body supports their new president," she said. "I hope he can start the process of restoring faith in student government."

West vowed to stay involved on campus, although she was not sure in what capacity.

The announcement of the election results was delayed for more than an hour by the men's basketball game against Clemson University. It was a fitting end to a race that has dragged on two weeks beyond the typical lifespan of a student body president contest.

West and Calabria finished first and second, respectively, in the Feb. 10 election that featured eight candidates. That sent the two to the Feb. 17 runoff election, after which West's narrow victory eventually was ruled tainted by the Board of Elections because West's boyfriend Alistair Cooper, a UNC alumnus, was found guilty of maliciously soliciting votes in the Undergraduate Library computer lab during the final hour of the runoff election.

It took the board one week to reach that conclusion, during which it sorted through numerous allegations accusing both campaigns of multiple violations.

All charges against the Calabria campaign were dropped, and because West was ruled to have no knowledge of Cooper's violations, a re-election was ordered with the West campaign losing all its remaining campaign funds.

The voter turnout was almost identical to the turnout in the original runoff election, a fact that surprised and delighted many involved in the campaigns.

Outcome aside, this election undoubtedly is one for the books in the history of UNC student self-governance. "This has truly been an historical election," BOE Chairwoman Melissa Anderson said seconds before announcing the results. "In the end, students voices were heard."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

WAVE OF DESTRUCTION

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Dec. 26 — The world's most powerful earthquake in 40 years triggered massive tidal waves that slammed into villages and seaside resorts across southern and southeast Asia on Sunday, killing more than 7,000 people in six countries.

Tourists, fishermen, homes and cars were swept away by walls of water 20 feet high that swept across the Bay of Bengal, unleashed by the 8.9-magnitude earthquake centered off the west coast of the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

In Sri Lanka, 1,000 miles west of the epicenter, more than 3,000 people were killed, the country's top police official said. At least 1,870 died in Indonesia, and 1,900 along the southern coasts of India. At least 198 were confirmed dead in Thailand. (Editor's note: 150,000 are now confirmed dead.)



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
A woman walks near a mosque with the rubbish from the quake and tsunami in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, on Dec. 28. More than 150,000 have been confirmed dead in the disaster, 115,000 in Indonesia alone. The United Nations estimates that the death toll could top 200,000.

Academic freedom enters spotlight

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Academic freedom at the University came under fire during 2004, with two separate incidents highlighting UNC's struggle to preserve classroom rights without stepping on others' toes.

On Oct. 22, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights released a report stating that the University responded properly to a situation in which an English lecturer sent a discriminatory e-mail that chastised a student for making anti-homosexual comments during

class.

"We want to recognize the University for realizing that the lecturer's e-mail message was an inappropriate response to the student's comments," the report states.

The decision marked an end to several months of deliberation and discussions of academic freedom that began when UNC English lecturer Elyse Crystall sent the e-mail to her class Feb. 6.

"We are pleased that the Office for Civil Rights' review found that the University acted appropriately

in this case," Chancellor James Moeser stated in a release.

During the analysis process, OCR officials first investigated whether Crystall's actions constituted an actual incident of racial or sexual discrimination.

According to a letter sent to Moeser on Wednesday, the civil rights office determined that the language in the e-mail "went beyond a permissible reference ... (of) describing the student and targeted him for criticism based in part on the student's race and sex."

Though OCR officials found evidence of intentional discrimination and harassment in Crystall's actions, the group determined that no further action is required by the University to uphold constitutional protections.

Although OCR officials determined that the University was in compliance with the law, their review stressed the negative implications of intentional discrimination and harassment.

The report stated that controversies such as this "discouraged the robust exchange of ideas that is intrinsic to higher education."

Judith Wegner, chairwoman of the faculty, said she is pleased with the outcome of the review.

"I think it was a clear finding by the Office for Civil Rights that the University had dealt with what I

regarded as a mistake in the heat of a moment," she said. "People make mistakes."

A second round

On Nov. 15, students lined the walls of the Pleasants Family Assembly Room in Wilson Library, holding signs that urged officials to reconsider accepting money from a controversial conservative think tank.

Faculty members also aired their concerns at a meeting that mostly dealt with the possible \$14 million donation from the John William Pope Foundation, which would fund a proposed program in Western studies.

The protesters said they were worried that the University's academic freedom would take a hit from the foundation, which they said could exert influence over the campus's intellectual life.

"It would devalue education and harm the reputation of the University," said senior Chase Foster. "Most people in academia know the Pope Foundation is against the University's ideals."

The Popes are the founders of the John William Pope Foundation, the John Locke Foundation and the John William Pope Center for Higher Education Policy.

The Pope Center, which is inde-

pendent from the other groups, has openly contested and criticized UNC for offering courses in women's studies, mandating a cultural diversity requirement and selecting "controversial" books for the summer reading program.

But Bernadette Gray-Little, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, told her colleagues that the Popes have not intervened in the proposal and will not be allowed to control any curricula.

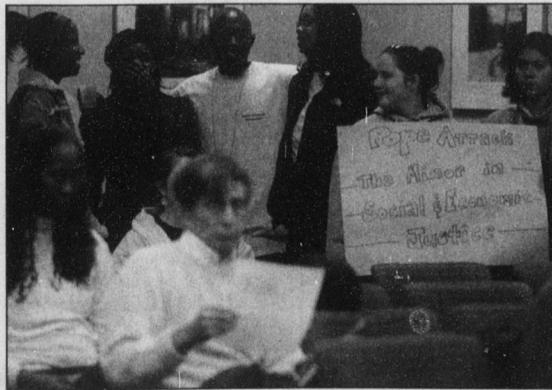
"We must say 'no' to funds that want to exercise that kind of influence on courses," she said.

After the Popes proposed the donation, the Office of Development began searching for a specific program to receive the funds, and faculty members decided that a Western civilization studies program would benefit the most.

A group of faculty was charged with creating a proposal for the program to send to the Pope family. If the Popes accept the proposal, they will provide about \$500,000 of funding each year for the next five years.

An assessment of the program then will determine whether the Popes will donate an additional endowment of about \$12 million.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.



DTH FILE PHOTO/LAURA MORTON

Students line an assembly room in Wilson Library in November to protest the University's proposed acceptance of funding from the Pope Foundation.