

Committees reject change in use of fees

BY JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

While students often pay for both tuition and fees with the same check, this week members of two committees took a stand to ensure that there is a different standard for the two dues.

Although tuition monies contribute to a pool for the University to use at its discretion, leaders established that student fees must further benefit all students.

Judith Wegner, chairwoman of the faculty, put proposals on the table at both the Student Fee Audit Committee meeting and Chancellor's Committee on Student Fees.

She called for a \$150 hike to student fees — a total later reduced to \$50 — that would ultimately fund Olympic sports and allow for an increase in merit based scholarships.

John Adams, chairman of the chancellors' committee, said that in the three years he's been at UNC, he's never seen or heard a similar proposal, noting its timing and nature.

The Student Fee Advisory Committee, which works in tandem with the chancellor's committee, began examining increases to student fees in September and had last assembled in October.

Wegner admitted that the request was different than what the committees typically examine.

"I know this committee has usually looked at incremental changes," she said. "This, to me, really is a policy question that transcends the kind of thing you usually see."

In rejecting the proposal, members of the committee defined student fees as service-based dues.

These types of activities include funding guest speakers, student transit and Carolina Union operating expenses.

"Students have a problem supporting (an increase) while not seeing an increase in services directly by that fee," said Student Body Treasurer Natalie Russell, chairwoman of the students' fee committee and a member of the chancellor's committee.

Margaret Jablonski, vice chancellor for student affairs, said she saw a need to increase funding for athletics and merit scholarships but said it shouldn't come from student fees.

"Both are valid ideas and needs, but I'm wondering why its a student fee solution to a broader problem," she said at the chancellor's committee meeting Tuesday.

Student fee increases should be held to a strict scrutiny and assessed for what they provide each individual student, and not the University overall, members said.

"When you throw merit scholarships and other factors like that into the works, then that evaluation is skewed," Russell said.

Members said they are worried that funding academic initiatives from student fees would open a Pandora's box.

"You can always make an argument of needs from a lot of different areas," Anderson said.

"We would never hear the end of it. ... You get into a really slippery slope."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Money would support various needs

BY KATHERINE EVANS
STAFF WRITER

The Board of Trustees will vote today on the proposal of its Audit and Finance Committee to increase out-of-state tuition by \$1,000 and in-state tuition by \$250.

The increase — 7.8 percent for undergraduate residents and 6.1 percent for undergraduate nonresidents — would accrue a total of \$8,476,463, excluding money paid to professional schools with school-based tuition. It would fund priorities established by the Tuition Task Force: need-based aid, faculty salaries, teaching assistant salaries and boosting faculty positions.

The recommendation followed controversy about an increased burden on out-of-state students.

At Monday's student tuition forum, members of the advisory Tuition Task Force advocated a \$350 increase for residents and an \$800 increase for nonresidents.

"I think out-of-state students are already disproportionately strained," said Student Body President Matt Calabria.

But in a memorandum sent to trustees, Chancellor James Moeser

cited UNC's commitment to low resident tuition and need to fund its top priorities. He recommended a \$1,200 increase for nonresidents and a \$250 increase for residents.

This year, North Carolinians paid \$3,205 in tuition, while out-of-state students paid \$16,303.

Calabria said out-of-state undergraduates paid almost \$700 more than the actual cost of their education, while residents paid well under the cost, estimated at \$15,626.

Leaders agree, however, that an increase is necessary to fund the University's demonstrated needs.

After 40 percent of the new tuition revenue got set aside to cover need-based aid, the remaining \$5.1 million would be distributed to other priorities.

"No one on aid will pay for the increase," said John Ellison, a member of the Board of Trustees and Tuition Task Force.

Calabria, underscoring the importance of salary increases for professors, said that before last year's tuition increases, UNC lost two-thirds of its professors to outside job offers. In the time since the increase, UNC retained two-thirds.

2005-06 TUITION INCREASES

A Board of Trustees committee decided Wednesday to promote hikes of \$250 for in-state students and \$1,000 for nonresidents. This is a breakdown of the potential gains and the funds' possible use.

	Increase	% Increase	Revenue Generated
Undergraduate			
Resident	\$250	7.8%	\$3,036,600
Nonresident	\$1,000	6.1%	\$2,726,100
Total			\$5,762,700
Graduate/Professional			
Resident	\$250	7.3%	\$1,334,438
Nonresident	\$1,000	6.0%	\$2,427,000
Total			\$3,761,438
Grand Total			\$9,524,138
Total Excluding School-Based Tuition			\$8,476,463
Student Aid (40 percent of the total)			\$3,390,585
Other Priorities (60 percent)			\$5,085,878

SOURCE: OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

DTH/MARY JANE KATZ

"In order to attract and attain top-notch faculty we need those monies," Calabria said.

He also said the minimum stipend for teaching assistants — \$5,500 per semester — is far below that of UNC's peers.

Calabria cited unavailability of listed courses and crowded introductory classes as reasons for boosting the faculty-student ratio.

A recent elasticity study states that though the University can be more flexible with resident tuition,

costs in general can increase safely at a rate proportional to that of UNC's competitors.

Jerry Lucido, vice provost for enrollment management, pointed to the study when he outlined the need for increases.

"I hope they increase tuition at levels that keep Carolina affordable for students and their families without compromising quality."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

31 troops die in Iraq copter crash

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A U.S. helicopter crashed in a desert sandstorm in the early morning darkness Wednesday, killing the 30 Marines and one Navy sailor aboard. Six other troops died in insurgent ambushes in the deadliest day for Americans since the Iraq war began nearly two years ago.

Only days before Iraq's crucial elections Sunday, militants set off at least eight car bombings that killed 13 people and injured 40 others, including 11 Americans. The guerrillas also carried out a string of attacks nationwide against schools that will serve as polling centers.

In Washington, President Bush called on Iraqis to defy terrorism and go to the polls despite relentless insurgent attacks. He said it was a "very discouraging" day when the U.S. death toll for the war rose above 1,400.

The CH-53E Super Stallion was carrying personnel from the 1st Marine Division on a security mission in support of the election

when it went down about 1:20 a.m. near the town of Rutbah, about 220 miles west of Baghdad, the military said.

The crash occurred during severe weather, but its cause was still under investigation, said Army Gen. John Abizaid, chief of U.S. Central Command. An Accuweather map showed sandstorms Wednesday in the western region of Iraq near the Jordanian border where the crash took place.

A search and rescue team was at the site. The victims were 30 Marines and one sailor, said Lt. Gen. John Sattler, the top Marine commander in Iraq — the most American service members to die in a single incident since the March 2003 invasion of Iraq.

The deadliest previous incident for U.S. troops was also a helicopter crash: a November 2004 collision of two Black Hawk helicopters that killed 17. Before Wednesday's bloodshed, the most Americans killed in one day came on the invasion's third day — March 23, 2003

— when 28 troops were killed during the U.S. military's drive to take Baghdad and topple Saddam Hussein.

The U.S. military has not seen such a high loss of life in one day in 15 years — since an explosion ripped through a gun turret on the USS Iowa during a training exercise in the Caribbean in April 1989, killing 47 sailors.

Iraqi security forces and civilians have borne the brunt of violence in Iraq, with bombings often killing scores of people at a time. More than 180 people were killed on March 2, 2004, during a string of suicide attacks at Shiite shrines in Karbala and Baghdad.

Violence has only increased ahead of Sunday's election, which will create a 275-member National Assembly and regional legislatures. Sunni Muslim extremists have threatened to sabotage the election, and many Sunni clerics have called for a boycott because of the presence of U.S. and other foreign troops.

POLICE LOG

■ Chapel Hill police arrested a Pittsboro man at 2:30 a.m. Wednesday and charged him with one misdemeanor count of carrying a concealed weapon, reports state.

According to reports, Charlie "Roto Rooter" Williams, 41, was arrested on West Cameron Avenue after he was found carrying a knife.

Police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said police found Williams with the knife after an elderly woman contacted police at about 2 a.m. about a man knocking on her door.

Williams is scheduled to appear March 7 in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough.

■ Carrboro police arrested a Hillsborough man at 2:40 a.m. Wednesday and charged him with one misdemeanor count of driving under the influence and one misdemeanor count of failure to report an accident, police reports state.

According to reports, William Scott McCall, 29, was traveling on Hillsborough Road toward N.C. 86 when he lost control of his vehicle and ran onto the sidewalk.

He traveled across N.C. 86 and struck a state road sign before coming to rest in a hay field.

Reports state that Williams was discovered by an Orange County sheriff's deputy, who then contacted Carrboro police about Williams possibly being intoxicated.

Williams was arrested and taken to Chapel Hill police headquarters for an blood-alcohol test, reports state.

Williams refused to take the Intoxilyzer test, reports state.

He was released on a written promise to appear March 8 in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ Chapel Hill police arrested a Durham man at 1:15 a.m. Wednesday and charged him with one misdemeanor count of possession of marijuana, one misdemeanor count of driving with a provisional license and one misdemeanor count of speeding, police reports state.

According to reports, David Uribe Alvarez, 19, was stopped driving 55 mph in a 35 mph zone on Raleigh Road near the Friday Center.

Police smelled a slight odor of alcohol on his breath and gave him a field sobriety test that he performed poorly on.

Alvarez submitted to an Intoxilyzer test and recorded a .05.

Police also found a small aluminum package in plain view that contained 4 grams of marijuana, reports state.

Alvarez was cited and released into his mother's custody.

He is scheduled to appear March 8 in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

CORRECTIONS

■ Due to an editing error, a headline on the Jan. 26 article "Proposal sees 2nd rejection in 2 days" states that a \$150 increase in fees was set to go before the Board of Trustees on Wednesday. As the story states, the proposed increase was reduced Tuesday to \$50.

To report corrections, contact Managing Editor Chris Coletta at ccoletta@email.unc.edu.

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