

# In-state tuition still may increase

State budget cuts could force hike

BY AMY EAGLEBURGER  
STAFF WRITER

The UNC system's governing body stood united and firm in March against in-state tuition hikes this year, despite requests for increases from 13 system schools.

The board's decision will hold for now, but the stall could be reversed as the N.C. General Assembly examines a proposal to raise resident tuition by 1 percent.

The universities and the legislature have earmarked tuition revenue as ideal funding for faculty salaries and enrollment growth, two areas otherwise lacking in appropriations.

The board's relentless protection of low in-state tuition grows out of a clause in the institution's founding document, which states that tuition will be kept as "free as practicable."

In the strictest interpretation, the clause prohibits tuition increases permanently and led the board to maintain a steady price from 1971 to 1997.

But keeping tuition at its current level is infeasible, given recent budgetary constraints and the likelihood that North Carolina's budget crisis will continue.

"Funding has been cut for almost five straight years," said BOG member Ray Farris. "We haven't had a faculty salary increase of appreciable size in a number of years. ... We are having to cut throughout the university."

Striking a balance between the two, the board eventually passed a \$700 increase for nonresidents at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Graduate and professional students also will feel the squeeze. The hikes will generate \$4.68 million for UNC-CH.

Matt Calabria, former UNC-CH student body president, said this result was amicable to all parties involved.

"I think that most people didn't get their first choice, but at the same time, I think that the vast majority of people were very happy," he said.

But the war over tuition is not won and done.

The legislature still could choose to increase tuition levels, and board members will look again at the issue during the next academic year.

"I think we will see in-state tuition hikes again," said Jeff Davies, UNC-system vice president for finance. "I don't think anyone believes that we will not see tuition hikes in the future."

The revenue gained from this year's round of increases still falls well short of meeting the needs of the system.

"The university is millions of dollars below what it needs in Chapel Hill and in many of the other campuses as well," Farris said.

Even more worrisome to system officials is a new General Assembly proposal to cut funding even further. The proposed 4 percent cut would be devastating to the system, Farris said.

"That would be much greater than the university could experience without injury," he said.

Given that and other adverse economic conditions that might develop during the next year, the board might have to scrap its support of in-state tuition freezes.

But an in-state hike is one that both Calabria and Farris think students can handle without too much hardship.

The decision reached by the board next year will depend on a variety of factors, and no one is willing to place any bets yet on the outcome of that round of talks.

"It's tough when you are predicting future increases," Davies said. "I think that the environment changes so rapidly. That decision will have to be on a year-to-year basis."

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

# University forges diversity study

Marks goals, areas for improvement

BY RACHEL BROCK  
STAFF WRITER

A host of recommendations to improve diversity at the University now lie in the hands of Chancellor James Moeser.

After spending seven months evaluating diversity at UNC, the Chancellor's Task Force on Diversity submitted a final report Thursday to Moeser.

The report includes findings from a study on students, faculty and staff that revealed strengths and weaknesses in the ways the University promotes diversity.

"We had some very good news and some areas we could do better in," said Cookie Newsom, director of diversity education and research for the Office for Minority Affairs.

The task force recommended that a clear definition of diversity be constructed to ensure that individuals understand the University's commitment.

"We need a more unified definition of diversity," Newsom said. "Right now, it is really decentralized."

The task force also recommended maintaining an optimal

number of minority students, faculty and staff on campus so they feel comfortable at the University.

Based on the findings in the surveys of faculty and staff, the task force suggested that administrative and managerial positions should represent more minorities.

It also called for more educational opportunities to learn about diversity and to have open dialogue.

"The undergraduate population has a good representation of diversity," Newsom said. "But we do not merely want presence, but interactions between groups."

The final recommendation is for future research on the subject, so officials said ongoing assessments of diversity will occur.

"We are looking towards our goal in being a leader in diversity," Newsom said. She added that at least one other higher education institution has asked about using UNC's research methods for assessing diversity.

Many respondents to the survey highlighted some of the University's commitments to creating an open atmosphere.

According to the findings of the survey, diversity is an important aspect in the University community, and the campus climate is welcoming to diversity.

The study also revealed that diversity is a beneficial part of experiences at UNC. Respondents noted that the Martin Luther King Jr. annual celebration, the Summer Reading Program and various student organizations play an important role in diversity education.

This summer, incoming students will read "Blood Done Sign My Name," written by Timothy B. Tyson. The book details the circumstances surrounding a racially motivated murder in Oxford in the 1970s.

Past summer reading selections such as the 2002 choice of "Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations" by Michael Sells also encouraged students to learn about other cultures.

The Chancellor's Task Force on Diversity was commissioned last August. Task force members set a goal to submit a final report to Moeser by the end of this semester.

Thomas Mroz, professor in the economics department and member of the student subcommit-

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COOKIE NEWSOM, MINORITY AFFAIRS

tee, said he was pleased with the results and the work of the task force.

"We want to take this issue of diversity to the forefront," he said.

Archie Ervin, director of the Office for Minority Affairs, presented Moeser with the report but said many steps must occur before the recommendations are put into action.

Several meetings will occur during the next few weeks before Moeser prioritizes the recommendations.

Ervin said he is glad that the bulk of the work is complete.

"We've worked really hard on this," he said. "Hopefully, this will be helpful to people at the University."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

# Road renamings saw troubled path

BY ADAM W. RHEW  
STAFF WRITER

Some residents claim it brought back memories of the civil rights movement.

Others say it's just a nuisance. But it seems almost everyone in Chapel Hill has an opinion about the renaming of Airport Road that will officially take place May 8.

During a ceremony, the road will become Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and Martin Luther King Street, a small byway, will change to Jackie Robinson Street.

The ceremony will take place in two parts, the first of which is scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m. outside Town Hall.

Attendees will hear speeches from former Town Council member Bill Thorpe, local NAACP chapter President Fred Battle and Mayor Kevin Foy.

Foy said his remarks will focus on the history behind the name change. "I hope that there is an understanding why this is a good thing for the town," he said.

"What's important to say is that this is a significant event for Chapel Hill ... because of our history and especially our history of how African-Americans have been treated in Chapel Hill," Foy said.

Ceremony attendees also will hear an award-winning poem, written by Culbreth Middle School

"What's important to say is that (the road renaming) is a significant event for Chapel Hill."

KEVIN FOY, MAYOR

sixth-grader Elizabeth Aklilu.

After the poem, speeches and musical performances from several church choirs, celebrants will march to the Hargraves Center, at 216 N. Roberson St., where the festivities will continue.

But the road to the renaming has been less celebrated.

In January 2004 — 11 months before the council voted unani-

mously to rename the road — Mayor Pro Tem Edith Wiggins asked the council to consider renaming the street on behalf of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

After several emotional public hearings, the council in September formed the Special Committee to Consider Renaming Airport Road to study the proposal.

The group — which included local politicians, members of the NAACP and business owners — met for a total of 20 hours in November in order to come up with recommendations to present to the council.

Some citizens, including a few of the committee members, accused council members of selecting a group that was inherently biased toward the renaming.

"They hand-picked who they wanted," said Bruce Johnson, one of three Airport Road business owners on the special committee who voted against recommending the renaming.

Other residents accused the council of delaying the committee selection process to reduce support for the petition.

Foy, who also served on the committee, said both sets of claims are unfounded.

"(The process) was not a smoke-screen," he said. "It was intended to do exactly what we did ... make a recommendation to the council."

The renaming recommendation was not the only one presented to the council in December.

Committee members also made nine other suggestions about race relations in Chapel Hill, including naming a library after King.

Town Information Officer Catherine Lazorko said a continuing concerns committee has yet to be appointed, though work should begin after the May 8 celebration.

Wiggins said she is excited about the future discussions and the renaming.

"Just anticipating it is such a very, very good feeling."

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

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