

**TUITION**

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the minimum teaching assistant stipend from \$6,000 to \$7,000. The remainder of the tuition revenue will go toward faculty salaries. The board's final decision differs slightly from the plan offered by Chancellor James Moeser to the board's audit and finance committee earlier in the afternoon. Moeser suggested raising undergraduate tuition \$275 and \$900 for resident and nonresident undergraduates, respectively, and \$500 for all graduate students. His proposal would have raised about \$8.3 million — more than \$4.9 million after a 40 percent deduction for student aid. The board opted to levy greater hikes on nonresident students, citing a preference not to price North Carolinians out of a UNC-CH education. The precedent for the move lies in years of similar hikes by the trustees. During their last two tuition discussions, trustees voted to raise nonresident tuition a total of \$2,500 while raising resident tuition \$500.

Moeser said during the meeting that he was concerned with how nonresidents would perceive the \$850 difference between the board's hike proposals. "I don't want our nonresident students to feel we see them as cash cows," Moeser said. Trustee Karol Mason, chairwoman of the audit and finance committee, countered and said she thought tuition still was fair to students. "It's still a good bargain," Mason said. Nonresident students are drawn to the University by its academic excellence, she said. "And we're trying to preserve that quality of education." The trend of hiking nonresident tuition has not reduced the number of applications that UNC-CH receives, Provost Robert Shelton said, but it has slightly reduced the number of students who accept UNC-CH's enrollment offer. Jerry Lucido, vice provost for admissions and enrollment management, provided a cautionary note to trustees, saying that while the current proposals might not dissuade applicants, too large an increase in the future might be

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**SETH DEARMIN**, SVP, ON TUITION PREDICTABILITY

harmful. Concerned that unforeseen tuition increases will drive some students away from UNC-CH, Student Body President Seth Dearmin, an ex-officio trustee, proposed a resolution calling for more predictability. The resolution, which was unanimously approved, amends the trustee's tuition philosophy to consider predictability to be "over the short and long term a core element." It also mandates that administrators generate multiyear tuition plans in the future — although such plans will not lock trustees into action. "It's not binding in and of itself, but it sets us out down the road," Dearmin said. During last year's campaign Dearmin said he would push for a locked-in tuition plan so students and parents would have better foresight of campus-based tuition increases.

Several trustees were apprehensive about making long-term tuition plans binding, saying they didn't want to paint the University into a corner should a need for revenue arise. "We can't obligate a future board," said trustee chairman Nelson Schwab after the meeting. "We can't do that." The tuition philosophy that trustees established two years ago has served as somewhat of a guideline for the board during its recent decisions. Trustees solidified a stance that resident tuition would remain in the bottom quartile when compared to peer institutions' tuition. Nonresident tuition would remain within the bottom three quartiles compared to those schools.

Staff writer Whitney Kiskling contributed to this article. Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

**STICKER PRICE**

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upperclassmen applied for aid on time; 78 percent applied on time last year, Ort said. This is partly because the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid is making an extra effort to encourage students to turn in their financial aid applications before the deadline, she said. "It can make thousands of dollars worth of difference." Fifty-nine percent of undergraduates received aid through the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid in 2004-05, and 49 percent of graduate students received aid to complement scholarships offered by the graduate school. In addition to financial aid, graduate students must consider tuition remissions and teaching assistant salaries when comparing prices. Mike Brady, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation, said "I think what graduate students are most interested in is the total financial package that they're offered." Graduate students are looking for a university that shows commitment to its graduate students and a place where they will have the easiest time making ends meet, he said. These students can find it difficult to live off teaching assistant salaries, Brady said, especially because they often must pay for their education without the help of their families. "In general, though, UNC is behind some of our peer institutions in terms of the total financial package that's offered," he said. Brady had expressed hope that the Board of Trustees would consider all aspects of the graduate student financing picture in setting this year's tuition rates. The Trustees authorized a series of hikes Wednesday. But even with tuition on the rise,

student debt continues to decrease. In the 1999-2000 school year, students were graduating with a cumulative debt of \$13,687. That amount dropped to \$11,751 in 2003-04. UNC meets the full financial need of any on-time applicant, in-state or out-of-state, with the majority of that aid coming in the form of grants, Ort said. Every year that tuition increases, the board gives Ort's budget enough extra money to continue to meet the needs of students. Tuition increases sometimes can push middle-income students into categories that qualify them for aid, she said. But not all students find it easy to completely overlook the sticker price of tuition. Jackson, who said she cannot imagine herself anywhere else now, chose to attend UNC because she was unsure of future financial aid and was intimidated by Duke's high tuition. "It was definitely the deciding factor," she said. Jim Belvin, director of financial aid at Duke, said Duke's financial aid program "is as solid as any you would find in the country." Like UNC, Duke meets 100 percent of a student's need, and the university continues to meet a student's need for the entire time of his or her enrollment, he said. Belvin said he is confident that Duke's financial programs are good enough to stay competitive with cheaper public schools in the area and to prevent students from being scared away by high tuition. "I think it's always a concern," he said. "But we're hopefully admitting thoughtful and wise young people who know that the only number that matters is the one they have to pay, not the one the institution charges." Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

**STD TESTING**

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all new STD cases occur among youth ages 15 to 24. Pregnancy Support Services, a Christian organization, has been offering free STD testing for women for almost two years. Their closest clinic, located at 431 W. Franklin St., conducts free tests for chlamydia, gonorrhea and HIV from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. "We're hoping to expand that," says Mimi Every, executive director of Pregnancy Support Services. She adds that they do not currently offer STD testing to men due to the lack of male medical volunteers. STDs commonly are spread in college because of sex with multiple partners, she says, as well as the phenomenon of serial monogamy — occurrences of faithful intercourse from relationship to relationship. "Statistically, college students are some of the most sexually active people in America," Every says. "That doesn't mean that every college student is sexually active — but it's a high-risk group for STDs." When Pregnancy Support Services first began offering STD testing in addition to their regular

pregnancy testing services, Every says they received an average of eight to 10 visitors per month. Since then the number of women coming to get tested has almost doubled, she says. For college students, the most prevalent STDs are chlamydia, gonorrhea and the human papillomavirus, otherwise known as HPV. "Chlamydia and gonorrhea are bacterial, and they're treatable and curable," Every says. "HPV is viral, and it's not curable — it's treatable." And a lack of symptoms is not a good reason to avoid STD testing. According to the Center for Healthy Student Behaviors Web site, 75 percent of women and 50 percent of men infected with chlamydia experience no symptoms. In addition, 50 percent of those infected with gonorrhea might also experience no symptoms. If left untreated, chlamydia and gonorrhea can cause permanent damage to reproductive organs. In addition, untreated, symptom-free strains of HPV might lead to cervical cancer. Emily Adams, director of education and training at Planned Parenthood of Central North Carolina, encourages people to get tested with their partners, adding

that Planned Parenthood is available for STD testing. "I think people like to come (to Planned Parenthood) because of the non-judgmental atmosphere and because it's very patient-centered and patient-friendly," Adams says. Many STD-testing clinics also offer preventative counseling. "We do talk to (young women) about various methods of prevention but we only talk about that in terms of the risk factor," Every says. "There is no such thing as safe sex except for abstinence." The Center for Healthy Student

Behaviors offers STD counseling and HIV/AIDS testing by appointment at 966-6586. Adams suggests general sex safety tips, such as learning to use a condom safely and properly, and adds that it is important to destigmatize STD screening so that is becomes a part of preventative health care. "It's really important that people know their status," Adams says. "That encourages people to make responsible decisions about their personal lives, too." Contact the Features Editor at [features@unc.edu](mailto:features@unc.edu).

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Do you have specific questions?  
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