

The Daily Tar Heel

Allred shapes tuition stance ahead of talks

BY ERIN ZUREICK
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

During the months of scrutiny that go into tuition-increase talks, only one person can claim ownership of the process from start to finish: Student Body President James Allred.

As student government's executive branch leader, Allred wears many hats — he's served as co-chairman of the tuition and fee advisory task force and the student fee advisory subcommittee and is an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees.

Allred said the titles also come with a need to balance his duties as a student advocate and a University official during tuition discussions.

"My campaign talked significantly about ... making that individual day-to-day difference in students' lives," he said. "What makes more of a difference than how much we're charging for them to go here?"

Allred said the work that he puts in before the board's January vote presents the real challenge, noting that a vote against the trustees' final proposal would represent that his discussions were not as effective as hoped.

"The real point here is that the

vote on the (board) is only the last step in a very long process of trying to evolve a fair tuition policy for students," Allred said.

"I think if I vote no it will represent, not a failure, but a disap-

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Former student body president tuition positions

SBP: Seth Dearmin
Year: 2005-06

Vote: Dearmin voted to raise undergraduate resident tuition by \$250, nonresident tuition by \$1,100 and graduate tuition by \$500.

SBP: Matt Calabria
Year: 2004-05

Vote: Calabria voted to increase undergraduate nonresident tuition by \$700 and resident tuition by \$250. The UNC-system Board of Governors froze in-state tuition hikes.

SBP: Matt Tepper
Year: 2003-04

Vote: Tepper voted against raising undergraduate nonresident tuition by \$1,500. Resident increases were approved at \$300 by the Board of Trustees but lowered to \$250 by the BOG.

SBP: Jenn Daum
Year: 2002-03

Vote: The UNC-system Board of Governors passed a one-year moratorium on tuition increases.

Group backs tuition cap

BOG to vote Friday on Bowles' 6.5 percent plan

BY ERIC JOHNSON
SENIOR WRITER

UNC-system officials moved a step closer Tuesday to establishing a direct link between tuition rates and state funding, giving preliminary approval for the most significant change in tuition policy since 1998.

The plan, supported by the system's tuition policy task force, will cap tuition increases for resident undergraduates at 6.5 percent each year through 2011, effectively limiting the amount of additional revenue collected from students.

UNC-system President Erskine Bowles presented the plan last week, and the Board of Governors likely will offer final approval Friday.

The result, system officials hope, will create a heightened incentive for lawmakers to come through with taxpayer dollars.

"I think the plan will put pressure on the legislature and take pressure off of students," Bowles said.

"We're asking the legislature to meet those needs instead of meeting them out of tuition."

But state funding has not expanded in recent years at the level envisioned by the new policy, and some fear that the tuition cap could put a severe strain on university revenue.

The policy anticipates an annual increase in state funding somewhere near 6 percent, based on an average of 5.8 percent since 1972. But since 1997, the state has put forward an average of just 3.3 percent.

"This policy is only going to work if the legislature joins us in this commitment," said former Gov. James Holsouser, an emeritus member of the system's Board of Governors.

"If there's a significant unmet need, we're

going to be back having tuition hearings like we've done over the last decade."

Those kind of contentious hearings, where chancellors annually argued their need for more tuition revenue, are exactly what the new policy is meant to avoid.

Predictability is one of the pillars of the four-year plan, and BOG members say they are reluctant to allow any exceptions to the 6.5-percent cap, even during difficult financial circumstances.

"The exception applies in every year, and there's nothing we can do to take that away," BOG Chairman Jim Phillips Jr. said "But as we said, there's going to be a very high threshold."

To support the expectation of increased state funding, Bowles said he's planning to put forward an ambitious budget request for the university system.

Lawmakers will be asked to find \$38 mil-

SEE TASK FORCE, PAGE 4

SECURING A SAFE AFFAIR



DTH/KEITH HODSON

Independent contract construction workers put the final pieces on the roof of a carousel at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds in preparation for the fair's opening this Friday. Many rides could not open on time last year because they did not meet safety standards.

BY LINDSEY NAYLOR
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

RALEIGH — Booths and vendors already crowd the N.C. State Fairgrounds in preparation for the annual blowout of fried foods, pig races and fast rides.

But workers have much to do before gates are open to the revelry-seeking N.C. public.

The 2006 state fair kicked off amid safety concerns and a last-minute rush by Wade Shows, the fair's midway operators, to meet North Carolina's strict safety standards.

Only 59 of the 120 rides were up and running for the first day.

But 2006 construction is on schedule, organizers said Tuesday, and fair attendees can expect all attractions to be ready for this Friday's grand opening. The fair runs until Oct. 22.

Steve Troxler, commissioner of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, said last year's problems stemmed mainly from Wade Shows' inexperience and its unfamiliarity with state safety regulations.

"We can't stress enough how important safety is," he said.

"We're one of the few states in the nation that have a rule that says, 'If there's anything wrong with it, the ride will not open.'"

Powers Great American Midways, a

North Carolina-based company, is operating the games and 110 rides for this year's fair.

Corky Powers, owner of the company, said he's excited to be working in his home state.

Construction still is in the opening stages, and many of the attractions have yet to arrive on the grounds.

But fair crews will be working continuously until opening, and the rides should be ready for N.C. Department of Labor safety inspections throughout the week.

Powers said the operational and safety efforts necessary to get the N.C. State Fair in gear are extensive.

SEE FAIR SAFETY, PAGE 4



DTH/ANTHONY HARRIS

Freshman Lindley Barrow signs up to vote during Vote Carolina's voter drive Sept. 28 in the Pit. The deadline to register is Oct. 13.

Voter deadline approaching

BY KELSEY O'NEILL
STAFF WRITER

This year, Friday the 13th is more than a day that gives some people nightmares. It also is the voter-registration deadline in North Carolina.

Johnnie McLean, chief deputy director of the N.C. Board of Elections, said gubernatorial and U.S. Senate election years normally see a last-minute surge of voter registrations.

"This year you're probably not going to see a lot of that," she said, citing the lower-profile nature of the November ballot.

But UNC campus groups are working up to the deadline to combat historically low youth turnout and to encourage student registra-

"Young people tend to be mobile and transient, so it makes it more difficult to register."

ERIK ENGSTROM, PROFESSOR

in Orange County.

Should I register locally?

Erik Engstrom, UNC professor of political science, said students often are discouraged from registering locally because of the time and effort it takes to register and become informed.

"Young people tend to be mobile

SEE VOTING, PAGE 4

Branches in midst of power struggle

Leaders cite lack of professionalism

BY MAC MOLLISON
SENIOR WRITER

Against a backdrop of strong contention between the executive and legislative branches of student government, Student Congress members convened later than usual Tuesday night after their regular meeting time was pushed back.

In an act of frustration and protest, Lauren Anderson, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation, presented her thoughts to an empty room at the regular meeting time.

Anderson routinely addresses representatives at the body's meetings.

"It's out of control," she said afterward, referring to the body's problems with member tardiness. "It doesn't help that there's obvious tensions between the executive branch and Congress."

"For at least one meeting, they were OK. After that, it went downhill."

Monday's revelation that Student Congress leaders posted an update to the Student Code

without Student Body President James Allred's OK is indicative of larger problems.

Both Allred and Congress Speaker Luke Farley acknowledge that a significant rift between their respective branches of student government is developing.

"Congress has been deeply concerned with challenges to their power, and to me, that's not what student government is about," Allred said. "In the end, student government only

works when it exists as a collaborative group and when everyone's working together."

Farley said he agrees that the branches should work together. But he traced much of the blame to a lack of cooperation from Allred.

"I do agree with the student body president that student government works best when it works together," he said. "But the caveat is that James Allred wants things to work only his way. That's not really working together, that's working for James Allred."

Farley said that Allred has

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online | dailytarheel.com

MIXED REACTION A GLBTA panel discusses interracial dating

SINGING PRAISES Author returns to UNC to lecture on gospel music

EDITOR'S BLOG Journalism professor loses bet, dons hog hat



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CHILI FOR CHILDREN

Kappa Delta and Beta Theta Pi hold a chili dinner to benefit Dance Marathon, which raises money year-round for the N.C. Children's Hospital.

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PREPPED TO PLAY

UNC quarterback Cam Sexton didn't practice Monday but says he will be ready for Saturday's matchup against South Florida.

this day in history

OCT. 11, 1966 ...

Old East Dormitory is designated as a National Historic Landmark in Memorial Hall on the 173rd anniversary of the laying of its cornerstone.

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