FUND

University of Wyoming reviews credit tuition

Numbers show drop in hours taken

BY ELIZABETH DEORNELLAS

UNC-Charlotte Chancellor Philip Dubois was president of the University of Wyoming when it switched from block to per-credithour tuition in 2003.

"I think it's a very difficult transi-tion," he said. "The implementation of it requires a lot of work."

Dubois said the switch in policy generated a contentious debate at the university, which enrolls about 13,000 undergraduates.

Once a decision was made by the Board of Trustees, I think stu-dents adapted fairly easily and we went on forward," he added.

Here's a look at some of the ques-tions the University of Wyoming had going into the switch, with answers furnished by a study the university conducted three years later:

paring for the added complexity of

awarding financial aid according to a per-credit-hour tuition model.

reason they chose UNC-CH to pilot the switch is because UNC-

CH already is redesigning admin-

istrative systems for billing and financial aid. The redesign should

be complete by 2010.

"I think Chapel Hill is really on-track," Mabe said.

Mangum, the leader of a group

working on the administrative

systems redesign, said UNC-CH

is working to determine what kind

of systems would be necessary to

"Our challenge is to do this in a fair and equitable way," she stated. "We have not reached any con-

clusions and definitive answers

that we can share outside of the

working group. Policy discussions beyond the issue of feasibility have

not begun on this campus to my

knowledge."
Chapel Hill and other system

schools are pushing undergradu-ates to finish degrees in eight semesters to accommodate increas-

ing enrollment growth and to tamp down the escalating cost of housing and educating students.

Mabe said he believes charging tuition by credit hour will not work

The fact that you might save on

tuition for one less course one term, you have to weigh that against staying in school a whole other year and other things," he said.

"So any kind of rational deci-

sion - it seems to me that would

come out on the side of continuing

to move forward and getting your degree in a timely fashion."

Student Body President J.J. Raynor said UNC-CH student

But a motion to have the reso-

lution come before the general assembly of delegates failed by a

19 to 10 vote.

Some, including Speaker of UNCCH Student Congress Tim Nichols, argued that the committee's decision should be respected. Nichols was one of three to vote against the resolution

in committee. He declined multiple

Clevinger said the students were

"It's a shame certain individuals cannot differentiate between stu-

robably driven by their own opin-

ions, not those of their institutions.

dent interests and their own indi-

vidual ideological beliefs," he said.

who, as assistant vice president of the committee, was unable to cast

a vote, said the issue's unpopularity

UNC-CH student Ron Bilbao,

requests for comment.

against that effort.

ASG

19 to 10 vote.

handle the switch.

UNC-system officials said one

TUITION

Q: Did students take fewer credit

attempted dropped from 13.4 to 13.3

Q: Did the number of students taking more than an average credit load drop?

A: The percent of students tak-ing more than 15 hours dropped from 32 percent to 28 percent.

Q: Did students taking more than an average load reduce their credit hours?

A: The average credit load of students taking more than 15 hours remained steady at 17.2 hours.

Q: Did part-time students take more hours?

A: The average part-time student

government is gathering student input on the subject for Chapel

Hill administrators and General

that students who had greater

access to Advanced Placement

courses in high school might be advantaged under the new system and that science majors might be

disadvantaged.
Gary Pielak, former head of

UNC-CH undergraduate studies in chemistry, said undergraduates

conducting research must take

"So that would mean that most students would max out, certainly

those students doing research would," he said.

of UNC-CH faculty and a chemistry professor, said many science

majors enter Chapel Hill with a

lot of course credit and are able to take fewer hours as they advance to

higher-level courses.

Templeton said he is less con-

cerned about potential conse-

quences for specific majors than about the possibility that a financial

incentive to take fewer credit hours could reduce the richness of a typi-

There's a tension between

Another issue that needs to be

addressed is how fees, which pay for athletics, recreation and other

student services, would be charged

according to a per-credit-hour tuition model.

"A lot of details are going to have to be worked out on that," said Rob

lson, UNC-system vice president

He said each campus currently

Pembroke delegate who opposed the resolution, said those who voted against it probably based their deci-

sions on their personal feelings about the issue, as she did.

"The decision we made might not reflect our school, but it most

certainly reflects how we feel,

Docuette said he expects the reso-

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cal undergraduate experience.

But Joe Templeton, chairman

additional credit hours.

Raynor said she is concerned

Administration staff.

continued to take roughly 4.7 credit

Q: Did fewer students register for courses and then drop them

A: Course withdrawals stayed steady at 5 percent.

Q: Did undergraduates take longer to finish a degree?

A: The first three years of data proved inconclusive

Q: Did fewer students participate in the honors program? In dual

A: Yes, the honors program director found students were more reluctant to take courses not needed for degree requirements. However, the percent of students enrolled in dual majors did not

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"We don't want to do anything that will encourage people to take less hours."

ROGER PERRY, BOT CHAIRMAN

at a flat rate to all students and which are smaller for students tak-

It's been a campus decision.

associate vice president for finance, listed 10 other universities that charge tuition by credit hour, including Michigan State University, Arizona State University and the University of Florida.

charging by credit hour and expansive exploration of courses offered to undergraduates," he said. "It might inhibit people from taking courses they would enjoy and benefit from." said Provost Marilyn Sheerer jumped at the chance to partici-

"She's a can-do kind of person

the implementation details, he

Contact the Projects Editors

determines which fees are charged ing fewer courses.

Nelson explained, adding that the goal is to create a more uniform policy systemwide.

Claudia Odom, UNC-system

The UNC system's push in that direction is due in large part to its focus on online education as a way to cut costs while making the system more accessible to a wider range of students.

ECU was chosen as a pilot for the change in tuition model because of its emphasis on online education, Mabe said.

ECU spokesman John Durham

happy to try new initiatives and programs," Durham said. ECU has not yet appoint-ed a task force to hammer out

"We really are just truly at the very beginning of this."

lution to come up again in January.
"I think it was a learning experience, and I made it clear to folks

that we have some work to do,'

Doucette said. "I'm fine with that

as long as in January we come back

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million for unfilled faculty positions. Twenty more positions have yet to be budgeted. All told, about half of the fund this fiscal year will be spent on faculty recruitment and retention, a ratio Earp said probably will stay constant for the next several years. That investment might prove to

have lasting benefits. All interviewed faculty said they plan to stay here for many years because they believe the state and University have an abiding dedication to studying cancer.

"I plan to retire here," said Claire Doerschuk, who studies lung cancer and other pulmonary diseases The institution has made a commitment, and they're getting a commitment back from me

'Collateral gain'

The cancer fund does not profit

eryone on campus.

The vast majority of the money already set aside went to the can-cer center, along with the schools of medicine, pharmacy and public health. Even so, some benefits have stretched to the College of Arts and Sciences, where administrators hope to play a continuing role.
"The college is not just standing

on the street corner selling apples," interim Dean Bruce Carney said. "We're a junior partner, but we're still a partner."

Several of the college's faculty have been lured away in the last couple of years, and the cancer fund could provide a small amount of relief.

Joseph DeSimone, a nanomedi-cine researcher in the chemistry department, is the fund's anchor in the college. The fund has budgeted \$9.4 million over several years to retain DeSimone - who was being courted by universities across the country — and to hire several other faculty in nanomedicine.

DeSimone sees the fund as an opportunity to bridge the physical and medical sciences, a step some of UNC's competitors have taken.

"The UCRF gives the University the tools and the horsepower to head in that direction," he said.

DeSimone and others hope the fund can expose students to the importance of cross-disciplinary studies in modern medicine.

For example, the college is in the process of hiring a cancer researcher in the social sciences, who could establish new course

Faculty hired with help from the fund often start new research centers, form new partnerships across campus and are active in teaching

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the legislature will renege on its

be collateral gain," Earp said.

ingness to pay for it.

Legislators planned to grow the fund to \$50 million a year by next fiscal year, up from \$40 million this

year, most of which comes from tax revenue. But a tight budget will have them wondering whether the

state can afford the extra millions.
"We're concerned," said Kevin

FitzGerald, the medical school's

executive associate dean for finance and administration. "We're going

to do our best to make a real strong

Cancer research at UNC has

enjoyed strong support from state Senate leaders. Senate President

Pro Tem Marc Basnight, D-Dare,

championed the fund and has been

a staunch advocate for campus con-

struction related to cancer research. Sen. Richard Stevens, R-Wake,

a higher education appropriations

committee chairman and a former

UNC trustee, said he doesn't think

case for what we're doing.

Budget woes

and training students, whether in the classroom or in the lab. "We hope and believe there will \$50 million commitment.
"When you consider the poten-

tial impact on the welfare of the state ... it's a good investment," Stevens said. "This was, is and should be a very high priority."
Bill Zamboni, who runs a drug Ultimately, the cancer fund is dependent on the legislature's will-

development lab here, said faculty need to show the legislature the fruits of its investment.

"We need to show them that: 'Look, this is money well spent. Look what we've done with the \$40 million. We can be even more productive with the \$50 million," said Zamboni, who left his home town Pittsburgh to become the first can-

Despite the darkening budget picture, the cancer center is not making contingency plans. In fact, if the legislative commitment holds, the cancer center could draw high-level faculty from financially

injured universities, Earp said.
"Given the economic downturn, it does put us in a better position to do what the legislature and the governor want us to do, which is to be the best cancer center in the country.'

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TREE CITY



econd-graders at Morris Grove Elementary School recite poetry Friday at the Chapel Hill Arbor Day celebration. Town leaders and students joined to plant a tree and to receive the Tree City USA Growth Award. Visit City News at dailytarheel.com for the full story.

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Monday's puzzle

Solution to

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as many years to receive the Rhodes Scholarship. See pg. 3 for story.

A league of their own

A UNC senior is the seventh in

International study

A Campus Y group has plans to start a soccer team for the homeless in Chapel Hill. See pg. 3 for story.

Cutting back

Chapel Hill town departments are looking at ways they can cut their budgets . See pg. 8 for story.

Off-campus safety

Students identified several areas with poor lighting in an off-campus lighting tour. Go online for story.

Their own Thanksgiving

Game schedules force many athletes to stay at UNC during Thanksgiving See pg. 10 for story.

Cost of driving to Charlotte to drop off with a "free" ad on craiglist.

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can cause people to keep quiet. Bilbao is a member of the UNCCH Coalition for College Access. "I'm not too surprised by the vote," he said. "But I'm very disappointed." Ashley Timmreck, a UNC-Caribbean Breezes are Calling YOUR Name...

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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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Annoying bunkmates

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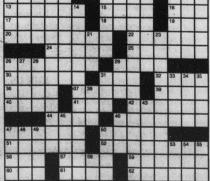
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