

Tuition increase could be lessened

By Amy Tsai

Summer State & National Editor

Out-of-state students at UNC-CH will still see a steep tuition increase this fall — but the increase may be \$169 lower than originally mandated.

Last year the N.C. General Assembly bypassed the UNC-system Board of Governors in determining system schools' out-of-state tuition increases, a departure from precedent.

But in their 2014-15 fiscal year budget proposals, both the N.C. Senate and House proposed flexibility for the UNC system to adjust out-of-state tuition rates — as long as tuition increases still raise an estimated \$27.2 million, the amount cut from the UNC-system budget last year.

"Since the short session, there were signs the system might receive this flexibility," said Charles Perusse, UNC-system chief operating officer.

The state government still has not finalized its 2014-15 budget as of June 21.

Under the original hikes, out-of-state students at four system schools, including UNC-CH, would have seen a tuition increase of 12.3 percent. There would have been no tuition increases for out-of-state students at UNC-Charlotte and nothing added to a 9.2 percent increase previously implemented by N.C. State University. All other schools' increases would have been 6 percent.

At its June meeting, the UNC-system board unanimously voted to reduce the 12.3 percent out-of-state tuition increases to 11.7 percent and enact a 4 percent increase at UNC-C.

"Since we have to have a \$27 million cut, this is the most equitable way to get there," Perusse said.

UNC-CH would see an out-of-state tuition increase of \$3,300 instead of \$3,469.

Last winter the University proposed a 2.5 percent out-of-state tuition increase of about \$700 based on what its competitors were doing, said Stephen Farmer, UNC-CH vice provost for enrollment and undergraduate admissions.

UNC-system schools have initiated their own tuition increases for most of the past decade, Farmer said.

"It would really surprise me to see our proposing anything approaching the increase that was imposed this year," he said.

Brian Daza, a UNC-CH junior from Maryland, said he wishes for a middle ground.

"I can understand why the state wouldn't want to go that low, but I don't think it needs to be so high to put the extra burden on out-of-staters,"

he said. "If you have a good school and people want to come to it, you shouldn't punish them for it."

Robert Nunnery, who is graduating from UNC-Pembroke in fall 2014, attended the system's June board meeting as the 2013-14 president of the UNC-system Association of Student Government. The ASG president works with the board as a non-voting member.

Nunnery said the board's hands were tied on further minimizing out-of-state tuition increases due to the state legislature.

For the 2014-15 school year, the University struggled, but succeeded, in funding financial aid to keep up with a 12.3 percent out-of-state tuition increase, Farmer said.

Contact the desk editor at state@dailytarheel.com.

State arts advocates ask for funds

By Sarah Vassello
Staff Writer

This article appeared in an earlier edition of The Daily Tar Heel. It has been updated and edited for space.

MAY 12 — North Carolina actor and playwright Mike Wiley was headed for destruction before he found his love of the arts. He discovered theater before becoming tempted by gang activity and spiraling toward a violent future.

"That was different for a kid who grew up below the poverty line," Wiley said. "Early on, I had some individuals in my life who said 'You can do this, too, and you don't have to be held back because your mom works the night shift, and your dad isn't around.'"

Wiley used his voice to speak up about the importance of public arts at Arts Day, a two-day event in Raleigh where advocates from North Carolina met to network and discuss support of the arts with state legislators.

Arts Day is a product of ARTS North Carolina, an advocacy nonprofit organization comprised of N.C. residents involved in public arts.

Margaret DeMott serves as a board member of ARTS as well as the director of artistic services at the Durham Arts Council. "Our job as representatives of the arts — and as people who are championing them — is to keep that communication vibrant and fresh and new," DeMott said. "Arts advocacy, in this context, (means) we're talking to our legislators."

Devra Thomas, the board chairwoman of the Orange County Arts Commission and Orange County leader for Arts Day, said the goal of the county's presence is to maintain support for the arts.

"We are very blessed to have

elected representatives who, for years and years, have been supportive of the arts," she said.

DeMott said the effects of Arts Day are a long-term building process. "We go with the belief that we are going to impact decisions that are made this year, and I think every year we have impacted decisions, but it's not just about the immediate," she said.

Musician, author, community activist and Arts Day speaker Si Kahn agreed there is a need for state support.

"It would hardly be an understatement to say that the working conditions for artists in North Carolina — and,

for that matter, in the United States — are hardly ideal."

Clyde Edgerton, president of the Arts Council of Wilmington and New Hanover County, will be the featured speaker on Arts Day's legislative day, riling up the troops before sending them off to meet the legislators.

"The public schools is where we can show that the imagination is important, and that art is important, because it helps us become more human — embraces uncertainty," Edgerton said.

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