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Board passes tuition increase, changes to admissions

By WESLEY ROBINSON
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The Board of Regents approved tuition increases, housing rate increases and voted to keep miscellaneous salaries the same at Tuesday's meeting.

All measures had been recommendations prior to the Board's vote.

Undergraduate tuition will be increased 2.95 percent, just below the Council on Postsecondary Education's cap of 3 percent. Graduate tuition rates, which are not bound by the CPE recommendation, will go up 3.4

percent.

President Doug Whitlock said while increases to higher education institutions will affect students, universities are fortunate to have governor Beshear in office because his cuts to higher education have not been as severe as other state-funded areas because of his dedication to education.

Jennifer Lowe, a senior middle grade education major from Monticello, cited a couple of reasons for the tuition hike not being good for students.



TURNER

"We [as students] struggle as it is, plus I commute," Lowe said.

The Board also approved a hike of resident hall rates by 5 percent as well as average increases of 3 percent on meal plans.

James Street, vice president of administration, said the new residence hall would not be completed until the last week of August. Weather delays prevented the contractors from putting up drywall as quickly as they would have liked on the third floor's north wing will not be completed in time. As a result about

50 students will be displaced until the third floor of the hall is completed. Students will be given the option to stay in Telford Hall at a pro-rated cost if necessary.

The Board voted to keep salaries for regular, part-time and student employees the same as the 2012-2013 year.

The Board approved a change in admissions standards to fight enrollment decreases. The change will allow admission of students with either a 2.5 GPA or an ACT score of 20. The old standard was a grade point average of 2.0 and an ACT score of 18 to be ac-

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Records released in Hoskins case expose improper behavior

By WESLEY ROBINSON
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Eastern released the remainder of the documents regarding the termination of Debra Hoskins. The records revealed human resource policy violations, falsification of records, unethical use of university procards and alleged sexual harassment during her time as Center for the Arts director.

More than 700 pages of reports, university audits, investigations, emails and other correspondence detailed the university's reason for attempting to fire Hoskins June 12, which was blocked by the Center for the Arts Community Operations Board. Hoskins resigned shortly thereafter.

Among allegations:

- Retained personally identifiable credit card information, discovered at a March 20, 2012 inspection of the Center's ticket box office.
- Falsified invoices for events using incorrect flat rates.
- Procard transactions May 20, 2011 to Dec. 31, 2011 of which nearly half were made by other than Hoskins, totaling \$14,564.
- Using the procard for unauthorized meals nearly a quarter of which were not for potential donors or sponsors as is university policy.
- Hoskins offered a Center business manager position to someone before the job was officially posted.
- Overpayment on Center events in-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Hoskins resigned as the director of the Center For the Arts after the university attempted to fire her June 12, 2012.

Hoskins and the university did not federal law requiring state funded institutions to disclose most of the documents related to her tenure as Center director and subsequent termination of employment at Eastern. Hoskins could have further appealed the decision but elected not to.

The records redacted the names of students and other university employees who could potentially be harmed by the documents being released.

Peter Baniak, editor of the Lexing-

ton Herald-Leader said the law has supported the Herald-Leader's request for the records and is pleased they have been released. The documents sought by the Herald-Leader related to her tenure as director of the new \$33 million facility, which opened last year.

Previously withheld documents were released in March included in the documents internal audit report, which detailed the mishandling of credit card information, complimentary tickets, the underpayment of acts performing at the Center, overpayment of service contracts, issues with the Center's procard and the sale and storage of alcoholic beverages.

Earlier this year, the university and Hoskins released some of the documents concerning her tenure, many of which highlighted concerns about the center's questionable handling of customer's credit card numbers and information from her former employer, Centre College's Norton Center for the Arts in Danville.

"We are pleased that the records which we originally asked for under the open records act have now been released," Baniak said.

As for the nature claims and reports of the records, Baniak has a different outlook:

"We're going to let the records and our reporting in the newspaper speak for that," Baniak said.

Most of the allegations against

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Task force nears final proposal

By ZEYNAB DAY
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The Strategic Budget Reallocation Task Force recently addressed concerns regarding the Voluntary Buyout Program (VBP), Enhanced Retirement Transition Program (ERTP), Staff Reduction in Force Program (RIF), and the Tuition Waiver program changes.

A draft of proposed changes and updates was sent to President Whitlock, President-Elect Benson and Board of Regents Chair Craig Turner.

An email released by The Provost's Office listed May 6 as the final day for faculty to apply. The statement also listed May 13 as date of notification of acceptance for the VBP and May 20 as the deadline for revoking application and acceptance to the VBP.

According to the email, individuals and work units will be notified of position changes, restructuring and reorganization, within the next two weeks. Once the May 20 deadline for withdrawing participation in the VBP has passed, supervisors will begin their final reorganization plans.

"Until the VBP is concluded and reorganization plans are finalized, we are unable to identify who will be subject to a RIF," the email said.

Janna Vice, co-chair of the Strategic Budget Reallocation Task Force, said changes were made to the Tuition Waiver Program to make it more generous than initially proposed after receiving feedback from faculty and staff.

"We discussed a compromise that's still

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Model Lab tuition raised by \$500

By KASEY TYRING
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The future of Model Laboratory School is no longer in jeopardy. Model could have been closed as a result of the strategic budget cuts said James Dantic, Model's director.

The Board of Regents approved \$500 tuition for the 2013-2014 school year with an additional \$500 increase the following year.

"As both a Model parent and Model educator, I don't want parents to pay anymore than they must," Dantic said. "The increase in tuition will place a greater financial burden on parents to send their children to Model. The challenge in this tuition increase is that it comes without a reciprocal increase in programs, resources, facility enhancements or staff."

By raising the tuition by \$500 the first year, Eastern will be saving about \$350,000. The increase in the 2014-2015 year will save the university another \$350,000. The two tuition increases would re-

place more than half the \$1.2 million Eastern gives Model every year.

"There are two fundamental ways to balance a budget that is costing the University a nominal \$1.2 million: raise revenues or cut expenses," James Street co-chair of

"As both a Model parent and Model educator, I don't want parents to pay anymore than they must."

James Dantic
Model Lab Director

the strategic reallocation task force said. "It appeared that some elasticity existed in the Model tuition while there wasn't a source elsewhere in the Model budget to cut significantly and keep the school operational as an asset to the Col-

lege of Education."

Eastern students log more than 10,000 undergraduate study hours each year for more than 20 different departments of the university.

While the required tuition increase is a much better outcome than shutting the school down completely, Dantic said the decision presents challenges to Model families because it compares Model to private schools.

"Model is probably more 'public' than other public schools in Kentucky due to its additional responsibilities beyond [Pre-Kinderergarten] through 12 instruction in providing ECU undergraduate experiential and educational requirements associated with their university coursework," Dantic said. "We need to be careful about avoiding any perception that we are a private school based upon a narrow interpretation of student tuition which only funds a portion of our budget. Though our parents pay tuition, Model should not

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Campus burglaries increased during spring semester

By WESLEY ROBINSON
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As the Police Beats report more thefts, ECU Police wants students, faculty and staff to help prevent burglaries.

Between Jan. 1 and April 19, ECU Police has responded to eight second-degree burglary cases and three third-degree burglary cases, said Lt. Brandon Collins. Four of the second-degree cases were closed by arrest, three are unsolved and one was dismissed because it was an unfounded case. One of the third-degree cases have been closed by arrest, the other two remain open.

Collins said "solvability factors" determine how long it takes to solve a case. Such factors include whether there are suspects named by the victim, witnesses to the crime and serial numbers or identifiable markings.

"We work cases that have active leads first," Collins said.

"We will go back a few months after the others are reported to see if any new leads are available before we close them due to no solvability factors."

ECU Police Chief Brian Mullins said negligence is the primary reason for most of the cases. He offered a common tip to students, faculty and staff: Don't leave valuables unattended, lock offices and remove all valuables from vehicle and report suspicious activity.

"Just call us, even if you're wrong [about a potential crime occurring] it's OK, it's what we are here for," Mullins said. "Without a question, always report"

Textbooks, smartphones, laptops and backpacks are some of the more commonly stolen items on campus. Mullins said more thefts happen

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