

Tuition, fees increase this year

By ELIZABETH BRUCE
Assistant Online Editor

In a recent decision by the Tennessee Board of Regents, tuition and fee costs for college students was increased by six percent.

This decision affects the University of Memphis, all five of TBR's regional universities, including Austin Peay State University, as well as the community colleges and technology centers.

This increased the annual in-state tuition for APSU students by \$230, bringing the cost to \$4,058 from \$3,828.

In addition to the increased tuition, TBR also approved a mandatory fee increase for APSU.

This change increased fees by \$171. APSU

had the second highest fee increase, trailing behind Middle Tennessee State University and the University of Memphis, both with fee increases of \$282.

Some see these increased costs of education as sudden and unexpected, others equate it with other national inflation rates, while some feel that if it goes toward their school and their education, the price is worth it.

"It's bound to happen; minimum wage, gas, everything is going up. As long as it goes back to schools, I have no problem with it," said sophomore Joanne Oliver.

Sophomore Kelley Law agreed, "It should go back to schools. As long as it's not paying TBR's salaries, I'm OK with it."

Students receiving financial aid may find

themselves paying for more of their college education if federal grants and scholarships don't increase to meet the state tuition increase set by TBR.

"We're still going to go to school here, but the V.A. won't recognize [the tuition increase] until it goes nationwide; so I'm going to end up paying more out of pocket," said Jason Scott, freshman.

APSU has a large non-traditional population, both on the main campus and at Fort Campbell.

Many of these students have obligations other than school — full-time jobs and families.

With the higher tuition, some may not be able to take all of the classes they need and

could easily end up putting college off altogether, thus deterring enrollment.

"I don't feel that it's right. A lot of people, if they can't cover it, won't come. Some can't afford it; it will make them drop out; not want to come," said Freshman Monica Haller.

The TBR's tuition and fee increase will be felt by all of the state's students next year.

Enrollment, financial aid, and course loads of Tennessee students will show its cost.

Examples of fees students pay for each year can be seen in a student's account summary on AP self serve.

These fees included in a account would be SGA, sustainable campus, MC technology access fee and the general access fee. For more information contact the business office. ♦

TUITION



"That's bad because it is already expensive. The more we have to dish out, the more we have to give back." - Quiyana Thomas, political science, freshman.

"University and college should be non-profit organizations and should be a tool to train students for life so they can give back to the economy." - Jonah Miller, marketing and advertisement.

"I don't like getting it increased. I saw the new signs; did my money go to that?" - Darius Bennett, english, freshman.

"Considering that I paid for it myself; it is a lot more. It sucks." - Lauren Duarte, corporate communications, sophomore.

"It sucks. Cheaper is better. Financial increases are unacceptable." - Lucaus Ross, history, freshman.

Banner knocks out APWeb, new "go-to" site

By MARC WALLS
Guest Writer

This fall, Austin Peay State University was one of nine Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) institutions to introduce the new Banner student system.

The system is designed to allow TBR to create a unified digital campus as part of its efforts to ease the exchange of information within schools.

"TBR is placing great emphasis on improving retention rates. By standardizing all the institutions on Banner, we will be able to more easily identify issues and help improve student success," said TBR Chancellor Charles Manning, through a press release on the SunGard Web site, that (<http://www.sungardhe.com>)

The Banner system is a product of SunGard

Higher Education, a division of SunGard; a company with an annual revenue of over \$4 billion dollars.

It is the world's most widely used collegiate administrative suite of student, financial aid, finance, human resources and advancement systems.

Banner — used by students as the Self Service program to register for classes, apply for admission and accept financial aid awards — replaced the APWeb program this fall.

Students and faculty had been using for many years.

The new system and its implementation has not been without its share of bugs.

"I personally don't care for the new system so far," said Ashley Jalinsky, history major. "I tried to

add a class and each time it dropped another one of my classes."

"Everyone was very nice and helpful, but it was a whole lot of running around campus and trying to catch professors when they were available," she said.

"Most problems we have encountered with Banner have been able to be fixed easily while few have taken some investigating," said Telaina Wrigley, registrar.

"I believe the biggest adjustment for students has been getting used to new terminology," said Wrigley.

The changes with Self Service have included replacing student's social security numbers with the new student ID designed as a method of identification, as well as getting used to the

alternate pin rather than the run number and having to enter it every time a student chooses to make changes to their schedule.

A popular feature of APWeb — the degree audit — is now named the degree evaluation.

"I liked APWeb and its simplicity, so I didn't like the switch at first," said Leslie Cline, freshman, education major.

"But I've gotten used to [Self Service], and I like how I can manage everything from one spot," Cline said.

"I do believe AP Self Service is much more user friendly and has a much better appearance than our APWeb for students had," Wrigley said.

"It is amazing how easily students adapt to change," she said. ♦

New research gear for Physics

By TANYA LUDLOW
Assistant News Editor

The Physics Department announced that it has been awarded a \$176,177 grant from the National Science Foundation. Alex King, professor of astronomy and physics, said that this grant will have a major impact on the research for both students and faculty at Austin Peay State University.

King said that the grant money will be used to fund high performance computer clusters.

"The basic idea with large computer clusters is that you can model very complicated structure systems on them, especially tensegrity structures," King said.

Tensegrity structures refer to the integrity of structures held together by tension and compression. Protein is an example of a tensegrity structure. Properly modeling complex systems on the average desk top would take "days or months," King said.

In contrast, a computer cluster is able to run individual parts of the system at the same time which "speeds up computation considerably," King said. King also says that the computer cluster will allow valuable research to be conducted in the field of additional variable star searches.

Computer clusters can be used to locate previously unrecorded variable stars, or stars that vary in brightness. This information can be added to the databases of these stars and lead to insights on the structure of the galaxy.

This grant complements a physics department which currently has the most undergraduate majors of any physics program in a Tennessee school.

Although King points out that there are bigger departments in other schools in terms of graduate students and faculty, APSU is unique in its emphasis on undergraduate involvement.

"We spend a lot of time with our undergraduates," King said. King also pointed out that the department has grown in the past two years and the addition of two new faculty members was a major factor in winning the NSF grant.

"At heart, this is a research equipment grant. Up until last year our department was not big enough to justify this type of grant," King said.

Additionally, the computer cluster will enable more research in the new Governor's School in Computational Physics at APSU. "Not a lot of physics departments have a push in computational physics like we do here," King said.

APSU students are also excited about the opportunity to use the computer cluster. Chase Cox, 21, a physics major said, "With Austin Peay hosting the governor's school in computational physics, it's a great step to have an up to date cluster. And it will help having a computational cluster on campus to help professors with research. It will provide more research possibilities for undergraduate students on campus."

Cox also said that previously, students had to go to different universities to do research, but with the computer cluster at APSU they won't have to leave campus.

Matthew Mitchell, a junior physics major said, "I think it's really important that we do research as undergraduates, and I think it will give more students opportunities." ♦

Winkler vying for custody

HUNTINGDON, Tenn. (AP) — Mary Winkler is seeking the immediate return of her three daughters, or at least frequent visitation with them, according to an emergency motion filed on her behalf Sept. 10.

The motion in Carroll County Chancery Court in Huntingdon says Winkler's continued separation from the girls ages 2, 8 and 10 is "unconscionable and detrimental" to them. It says she has not had parenting time with the children in a year.

"Mother would show that she does not represent a threat of substantial harm to the children and therefore they should be returned to her immediately in order to serve their best interest," says the motion filed by Winkler's attorneys, Kay Farese Turner and Rachel Putnam of Memphis.

"In the alternative, mother respectfully requests that she be granted substantial visitation with the three minor children immediately with such visitation occurring on a regular and frequent basis," the document states.

Winkler's former in-laws are seeking to terminate her parental rights and adopt the girls.

Dan and Diane Winkler have also filed a motion in Carroll County Circuit Court trying to stop Mary Winkler from appearing on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" Wednesday. She is scheduled to talk on the show about fatally shooting her husband, Matthew Winkler, who was a Church of Christ preacher in the small town of Selmer.

She shot Matthew Winkler in the back with a shotgun in their home on March 22, 2006, after enduring what she described as an abusive marriage. May Winkler, 33, was convicted of voluntary manslaughter, but served only five months in jail, followed by two months in a mental health treatment facility.

The Winklers state in their motion that they "do not believe it is proper to try this case in the press" and that the publicity would harm the children.

"It is in the best interest of the children to live normal lives," their motion states. ♦

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