

CAMPUS NEWS

Tuition to increase in 2009

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In an e-mail sent out on Friday, March 20, the Penn State Board of Trustees detailed plans to raise students' tuition by as much as 5 percent.

John Surma, chair of the board's subcommittee on finance, said that an effort is being made to decrease this number.

Some students have expressed concern over increases in tuition.

"It's hard because I'm out of state," says Amber Weber, a freshman majoring in political science. "I'm from Ohio and I already pay over \$30,000 a year to go here. Tuition is already high enough and it is just going to get harder to pay especially if it is going to keep increasing every year."

The Penn State system, along with most other schools, has raised tuition almost every year in order to pay for rising costs that are associated with the school. Among these costs are items like electricity for the dorms, heating and other bills that come.

Penn State officials realize that times are hard right now, and because of this, a one percent reduction, at least, will be considered. This is all depending on the University's appropriation, and other economic ties that will occur between now and when the board meets in early June.

"If we could, we would propose no tuition increase whatsoever," Surma said in the e-mail. "But that would create an additional shortfall that could seriously disrupt the quality of education at the University. We wish that increases could be smaller, and that our internal cuts were less severe, but we must be

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diligent in preserving the long-term fiscal stability of the university."

In order to lessen the cost of the tuition increase, faculty and staff salaries will be frozen, and the University will make about \$20 million in cuts to the budget.

"This makes me feel a little better," Weber says. "It is nice to know that they are at least trying to help us out."

"I don't like the fact that they are doing this," says Melanie Powell, a freshman majoring in psychology. "It just makes things hard because I already am going to end up paying more back on my loans than college originally costs because of interest. Now I'm going to have to end up paying even more than what I originally planned for."

While many students are upset, there are some that do understand that this is not something that can be avoided. The country is in a difficult situation right now and the University is doing all they can to provide the best education for their students.

"I don't really have an opinion," says Phil Heidenreich, a junior majoring in political science and history. "I don't like

having to pay more, but we all have to pay it. The only way to get out of it is to transfer to another school. I'm not going to transfers schools either, so I'll just pay it back eventually."

While the tuition is being raised on students, other applications are also being raised. According to Director of Financial Aid Jane Brady, federal aid is also being increased such as grants like the Pell Grant. The amount of money that can be offered will be increased to almost \$4,000 for the 2009-10 school year.

"Not all of this is Penn State's fault," says Brady. "Penn State was hurt just as much as everyone else in the country was. We had money invested into the economy for our scholarship entitlements. When the market starts doing poorly, this affects our ability to help students."

But no matter how much money has been lost, according to Brady, Behrend still was able to give out over \$1 million this past year to local students. Brady also gives helpful tips for students that may have any questions or worries about this increase.

"Get your FAFSA in as soon as possible with the current information," said a statement on the Penn State Behrend financial aid website. "Take advantage of everything that is here on campus as well. The students are paying for resources like the CDC and LRC, so use them. Part of your tuition money goes towards tutoring and other activities that they sponsor. I also encourage students to look for outside scholarships. Our newest financial aid counselor, Terra, has been working hard updating all that information."

For more information on the outside scholarships, read the PDF file on the Penn State Behrend Financial Aid website.

Traffic

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One driver, upon seeing the traffic stop, halted their vehicle in the middle of the road, and turned around to try to make it to the Bayfront Connector. The police noticed; within a few seconds, one yelled out, "We've got a runner, Steve," and an officer pulled away after the driver in his cruiser. He caught up to him before the driver had made it more than fifty yards down the Bayfront Connector.

The stop at Behrend involved upwards of seven police cruisers. The supervisor mentioned the need for at least three officers to be at the stop, but said that the police would bring more based on the traffic on the road. Each time the officers have come to Behrend, they had brought more manpower than the minimum, according to the supervisor, in order to move traffic along as quickly as possible.

The supervisor of the operation said that the traffic stops conducted within the campus required no coordination or forewarning to the college. Director of Student Affairs, Dr. Ken Miller, said that he knew nothing of the traffic stop ahead of time, and the event was not organized through the college.

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After fast start, winter season slowly settling

By Matt Alto
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With the 2008-2009 winter season starting to come to an end, the hopes of this year's season being the snowiest on record in Erie are slowly diminishing. According to the National Weather Service in Cleveland, the total amount of snow measured during the 2008-2009 season at the Erie International Airport is 141.7 inches. If the area was not to receive another flake of snow, this season would go down in history as the fourth snowiest on record.

The snowiest winter ever recorded in Erie was 149.1 inches in 2000-2001. At this moment, this year's winter season still has a chance to creep into the second spot if another 1.4 inches of snow falls. With an additional 7.5 inches, this season could claim the title of being the "Snowiest of Record." One thing is certain: the 2008-2009 season is one for the Erie weather record books.

Each month of the 2008-2009 season has set a snowfall

record for their given month except for February. November, December, and January all placed in the top ten snowiest on record for each of their respective months. December went down in history as the second snowiest on record. When January came to an end, this winter season was on pace to become the snowiest ever in Erie. October went down as the ninth least snowy with .4 inches of snow. Currently, this month will go down as the least snowy March on record. With all this in mind, what can we expect from April?

According to the Farmers' Almanac long-range weather prediction, our region can expect a big northeast storm system that could produce late season heavy snow in mid April. But for the most part, the Almanac is predicting periods of unseasonably cold temperatures. On the other hand, The Old Farmer's Almanac long-range weather prediction says that we could expect "above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation" for April, the opposite of what the Farmers' Almanac

said. Lastly, the Climate Prediction Center's long range models for the month of April seem to support The Old Farmer's Almanac by predicting normal temperature and precipitation amounts for the month. The average daily high in the month of April is 55 degrees while the average precipitation is 3.38 inches of rain and 2.3 inches of snow.

If Erie sees its average snowfall for the month of April, it will move into second place. If we hope to see the overall record go down, a big snow producing system will have to move through our area. It is not uncommon for Erie to see large amounts of snow in April. Just four years ago, Erie received 14.8 inches of snow. But the long-range weather predictions quickly dismiss the possibility of a large snow producer, leaving the chances of the snowiest season on record slim.

The question now remains: will the 2008-2009 season finish as one of top three snowiest on record?

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Dog

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35 19-year-olds, and 25 20-year-olds in the bar at the time of the raid. The owners, bartender, and bouncer will all be charged with "contributing to the delinquency of minors" and "providing adult beverages to minors."

Herb Karg, a former Shaggy Dog Tavern employee who worked at the Dog from August to December 2008, says minors were never served during his time at the establishment.

"If I was bartending I would check ID's before 9:00 p.m.," says Karg. "After that, we had someone sitting at the door checking ID's."

Karg also stated that the Dog had a "generally younger looking crowd" due to its proximity to Gannon and drink selection.

"The owner, Kenny Toggia, was known to have allowed underagers into the Dog on a regular basis," says Karg. "I rarely worked the door checking ID's so I don't have any knowledge of admitting persons under 21."

In an interview with *The Erie Times-News*, Toggia claimed that at the time of the raid he was in his apartment on the second floor of the same building as the Shaggy Dog, and was unaware of

minors inside the tavern.

Due to health code violations, the Dog was shut down the day after the raid. According to reports, the establishment had a "non-working toilet, sewage running in the basement, unlit exit signs, wiring in danger of catching fire, and a portion of the rear of the building near collapse."

"[The Dog] had a janitor of sorts to clean the floors and take out the trash every day and clean the bathrooms," said Karg. "But the building had a fire in it before I had even gotten there. The kitchen had collapsed and the back room was in poor shape. Before I quit, we attempted to solve a heat issue in the back room by building a room inside a room and adding insulation. Aside from that, the property was (and still is) uninsurable. After the bust on March 14, the building was condemned."

Due to the high amount of minors being charged, the bar could lose its liquor license and be terminated. Karg doubts The Dog will be able to recover from the incident.

"The fines are excessive and [so are] the building repairs needed to make the building [safe]," said Karg.

Monday

High: 44°F
Low: 30°F

Periods of sun with a slight chance of rain/snow.

Wednesday

High: 51°F
Low: 35°F

Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain.

Tuesday

High: 50°F
Low: 36°F

Mostly cloudy skies with a shower possible.

Thursday

High: 55°F
Low: 40°F

Partly cloudy.

Interesting weather fact:

The greatest amount of snow to fall in a 24 hour period in Erie, PA was 26.5 inches. This occurred December 11-12, 1944.

Weather forecast courtesy of student meteorologist Matt Alto.