

The Lion's Eye

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Tuition hike hits students in wallet

PSU Delco costs are up 13.5 percent

By SHAWN PETTIT and
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Lion's Eye staff writers

It's a new school year and it's time to spend a whole lot of money.

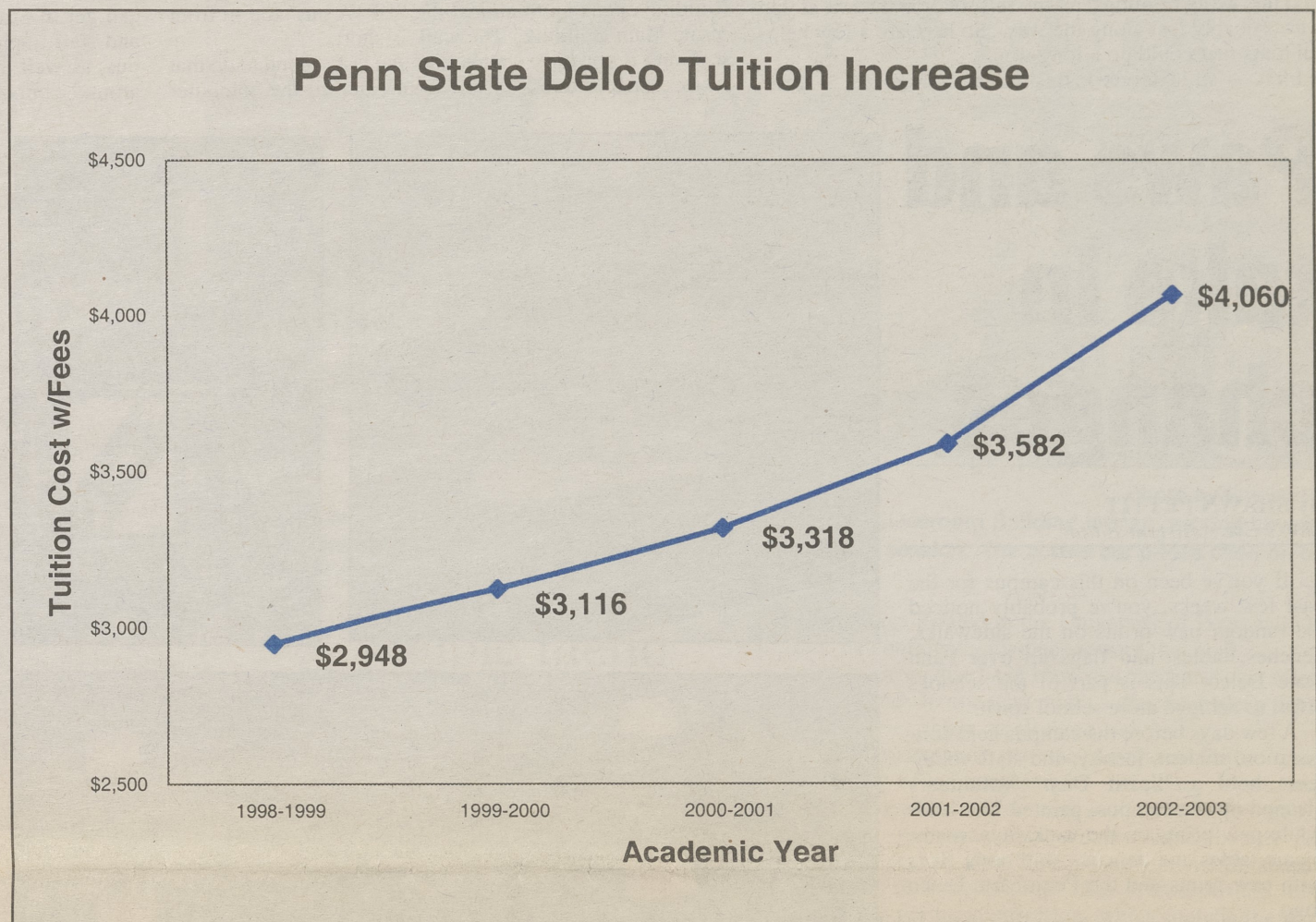
A whole lot more than last school year. This year, Penn State University has increased its tuition costs by 13.5 percent. Last year's semester tuition at Penn State Delco, including technology and activity fees, was \$3,582 for associate and lower-division students and \$3,729 for upper-division students. This year, the semester tuition with fees has been raised to \$4,060 for associate and lower divisions and \$4,227 for the upper division. The total increase is about \$478 per semester.

"It all has to do with state funding," said Jeffery Wirth, who works in the bursar's office. He said that due to the economic downfall over the past few years, the state has fallen into a deficit in its education budget, and that results in higher tuition costs for state schools.

Wirth also said the process of how funds are distributed between campuses affects the costs.

"All tuition goes through the university, which is a \$2.3 billion research university," he said. "A certain amount of funds are allocated to the Commonwealth College, which distributes funds to their 12 campuses according to the amount of credit hours each campus takes in."

Diane Disney, Dean of the Commonwealth College, which includes Penn State Delco, says that the increase in tuition here is not as high as other Penn State campuses.



Graphic by Karen Karaszkiwicz

Tuition for students at Penn State Delco rose an average of \$478 from last semester to this semester. Since the 1998-99 school year, the increase has amounted to a 23 percent hike tied for the highest in Delaware County.

"That's one victory," said Disney.

But when asked about any increase in state funding, Disney said it was not likely.

"If the economy gets a jump-start in the next few years, then we might see a small increase, but for now, tuition costs aren't going to change very much," she

said.

The actual increase in the past three years has been a record-high 23 percent. The only other college in Delaware County with an equal increase is Widener University, a private institution.

The actual funds that are allocated to Penn State Delco are split between

various student organizations and expenditures in the school. Campus activities, equipment, facilities, program support, recreation, diverse issues, and support services, among other things, are paid for by the student activity fund.

Actual funding from tuition is used to run and maintain the campus.

Penn State remembers: Tribute to 9/11 victims

By SARAH GALLATIG and
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Lion's Eye staff writers

In remembrance of the events of 9/11, students at Penn State Delco came together for a candlelight vigil one year later.

At 8:46 a.m., the campus held a moment of silence along with most of the U.S., to honor the victims and heroes of the tragedy. Although the winds of Sept. 11, 2002 created problems in keeping the flames lit, "the candles (were) burning in our hearts," Doreen Hettich-Atkins, director of student life, said.

The Lima Fire Co. sent a crew to speak to the students about the loss of their brethren in New York City that day. After a fireman spoke, Hettich-Atkins asked the Penn State Gospel Choir to lead the students in singing the national anthem and "God Bless America."

After the choir finished, student Dalesqui Bertier sang an emotional rendition of a gospel song in honor

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of the occasion.

Penn State Delco has many different activities and displays to commemorate the anniversary. In the Vairo Library there is a display case filled with different artifacts from the collection of Mike Iezzi. Included are photos, pieces of the rubble, and firemen's IDs.

In the Classroom Building, you can find window murals painted by

Connie Kirker's art students. Murals include one stirring picture of a fireman flanked by a flag and paintings of the Statue of Liberty and the World Trade Center.

In the campus bookstore are many books relating to the 9/11 attacks. Ranging from "The Idiot's Guide to Understanding Islam" to "In Their Eyes" and other accounts from Ground Zero.

The school also held forums for students to voice their feelings on the 9/11 anniversary. In the Main building, the school offered a "Remembrance Room" for students to bring things such as poetry, photos or any other thoughts they had about the tragedy.

The school also held discussions in which the students expressed their emotions concerning 9/11. There was a picnic Friday, Sept. 13 at which students were encouraged to wear red, white and blue.

If you need to talk about the tragedy, call Hettich-Atkins in student life (610) 892-1331 or (610) 892-1278.

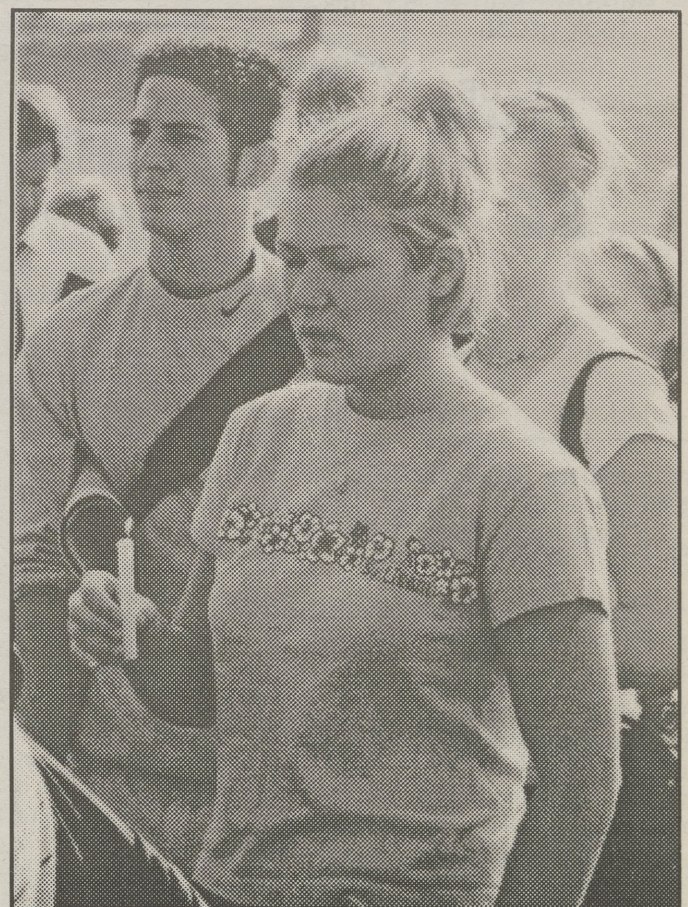


Photo by Meredith Becker

Students observe a moment of silence at a candlelight vigil on the Penn State Delco campus at 8:46 a.m. on Sept. 11.