

PSU room and board fee to rise \$160

By MARK E. JONES
Collegian Staff Writer

HERSHEY — An average student earning the minimum wage will have to work about 40 more hours than he or she did last summer to pay next year's room and board charges.

The price of a standard double room increased \$40 per semester, as did the cost of the average student's meal plan. That means most students will pay an extra \$160 per year for room and board services.

The University's Board of Trustees adopted the changes at its meeting in Hershey on Saturday.

With the changes, the average on-campus student will pay \$3,530 in room and board charges next year — an increase of 4.7 percent over this year's bill of \$3,370.

The cost of tuition next year is uncertain pending the state's decision on how much funding Penn State will receive. Gov. Robert P. Casey has proposed to restore the funds that were cut this year from the University's allocation, but he has suggested no increase over Penn State's 1990-91 appropriation. A "zero increase," as it has been called, would probably mean a substantial jump in tuition.

Although \$40 will be the average per-semester per-room increase, the amount will vary depending on the size of the room. A single room will cost \$110 more per year, while temporary accommodations will increase by \$60 a year.

Monthly rents for family housing will increase by \$10 to \$20, depending on apartment size and utility arrangements.

The increase in room and board charges will help the Housing and Food Services meet its need of \$60,560,918 for operations next year. That represents a \$4 million increase over last year's figure of about \$56.5 million.

Edward P. Junker, chairman of the Committee on Finance, told the trustees. "We think that we've come with a proposal that is well thought out, within the consumer price index and inflationary considerations."

In addition to the \$2.5 million generated by the room and board increases, Housing and Food Services expects to receive more than \$1 million from new housing at Commonwealth campuses and about \$182,000 more from conferences and other sales.

Housing and Food Services is self-supporting. Its funding will not be affected by the state's appropriation to higher education.

William McKinnon, vice president of business and operations, said the \$4 million increase in the department's budget will offset increases in food costs, utility costs and overhead, as well as employees' salaries, wages and fringe benefits.

Junker commended McKinnon for his work on the budget. He said about 70 percent of Housing and Food Services employees are covered by a contract that requires Penn State to meet a 5 percent salary and wage increase.

Obie Snider, a trustee and agricultural expert, questioned McKinnon on why the price of food would rise next year.

"For those of us in agriculture," he said, "it's hard for us to understand, with the extreme price deficiencies that we are getting for our products, why the food budget would increase as much as it has — over half-a-million dollars."

McKinnon said that, among other reasons, the price of foods is uncertain because of a severe water shortage in California that may hamper that state's growing season.

Snider said, "It's time for the University to learn that all they need to use is produced right here in Pennsylvania."

Penn State agrees to tuition waiver

HERSHEY — Officials at the University Board of Trustees meeting announced they have created a tuition waiver for dependent children of Pennsylvanian military officers killed or missing in action in the Persian Gulf War.

Charles R. Fuget, deputy secretary and commissioner for higher education, said the 14 state-owned and four state-related institutions agreed to the tuition waiver.

Most of the institutions accepted the proposal with no hesitation, Fuget said.

The state government knows of 27 men and women from Pennsylvania killed in the war and 15 eligible children. The state has not calculated all

the deaths and dependents yet, Fuget said.

The tuition waiver would cover the costs of eight semesters or four academic years after the student is admitted to the institution, Fuget said.

The state approached the colleges and universities about creating a scholarship for the children of those killed in the gulf war, Fuget said.

University President Joab Thomas said he first learned about the tuition waiver last month when he was in Harrisburg presenting the University budget to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

—by Bridget Mount

Dinkins marches with Irish gay group

By BETH J. HARPAZ
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Mayor David Dinkins was booed Saturday when he marched with members of an Irish gay group rather than at the head of the nation's oldest and largest St. Patrick's Day Parade.

A smattering of cheers was drowned out by boos from thousands along the Manhattan parade route.

"One term mayor!" some spectators chanted as Dinkins, wearing a green jacket, walked by with the Irish Gay and Lesbian Organization. Some sprayed beer and shouted obscenities at the mayor and the gay marchers, who were accompanied by heavy security.

"They shouldn't be here. The day is for the Irish," said spectator Robert Garrison of Harrison, N.J.

"It makes me sad, but it's mostly ignorance," said gay marcher Kay Glidden. "They don't know what they're talking about."

"Every time I hear someone boo, it strengthens my resolve that it was the right thing to do," Dinkins said later.

Parade officials had tried to keep the gay group out of the parade. The officials cited time constraints in ruling the group couldn't march. Dinkins, fearing there could be discrimination involved, intervened on behalf of the organization.

Parade Chairman Frank Beirne then ruled the group could march with any other unit if they were invited. Division 7 of the New York County Ancient Order of Hibernians extended an invitation.

The controversy leading up to the parade had been all but forgotten as thousands of marchers wearing everything from green eye shadow to green shoes began the 230th march up Fifth Avenue.

Asked if the controversy had put a damper on the festivities, Grand Marshal Mary Holt Moore looked at the crowds and the sunny sky before responding, "It doesn't look it, does it?"

In Chicago, tens of thousands turned out for the city's downtown parade, which featured more than 1,200 marchers and 70 floats.

The Chicago River was dyed green as it is each year in honor of the holiday commemorating St. Patrick, who lived from 389 to 461 A.D. and was chiefly responsible for converting the Irish to Christianity.

At the New York parade, Dinkins was greeted warmly by a prominent opponent of gay rights, Cardinal John O'Connor, who reviewed the parade from the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

As always, the parade carried on amid an assortment of political statements.

The head of the police Emerald Society band wore a huge green sash reading, "Free Joe Doherty," referring to the jailed Irish Republican Army member convicted of killing a British army captain in 1980. Other marchers wore similar sashes and buttons.

Tributes to those who served in the Persian Gulf War were everywhere. "We support our troops" read a banner held by students from Mother Cabrini High School in Manhattan as they walked uptown.

Yellow ribbons, while not as plentiful as the green that bathed people from head to toe, were in evidence along the parade route. Dyan and Patsy Sarge of South River, N.J., waved American flags as the marchers came past.

"For our boys who just came home," explained Dyan.

The color scheme was confusing to Shao Lian, 28, a visitor from Canton, China, who was seeing her first St. Patrick's Day Parade.

"Are they wearing green because it's spring?" she asked.

Springlike weather arrived just in time for the parade, with temperatures in the high 40s, mild winds and sunny skies. There were more than 150,000 marchers in about 200 different units. The parade traditionally draws as many as 2 million spectators, but police had no estimate by late afternoon.

New York and Chicago, of course, didn't have the parade market cornered this weekend.

HOW IS UNITED FEDERAL BANK CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS NITTANY MALL BRANCH?

BY CLOSING IT.