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Tuition hike looms

Depending upon state funds, tuition may increase between 4.5 percent and 9.8 percent for some.

By Peter Panepinto

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UPPER BURRELL, Pa. — Penn State President Graham Spanier proposed two different budget scenarios at Friday's Board of Trustees meeting, presenting the possibility of a

nearly 10 percent hike in tuition for in-state students.

"Every effort has been made to keep tuition as low as possible," Spanier said. "We wish to avoid the financial hardships being felt by our students."

The scenarios, called Scenario one and Scenario two, are dependent on Gov. Ed Rendell's state budget, which



Spanier

is yet to be finalized despite the July 1 deadline's passing.

The Board of Trustees meeting concluded without a set tuition rate. One of the two scenarios will be selected by July 17, Spanier said.

Scenario two — the 9.8 percent increase for in-state students and a 7.9 percent increase for out-of-state students — is based on Rendell's June 26 state budget proposal, which would lead to a \$60 million loss in state funding to Penn State.

In-state students would pay \$640

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Tuition

Scenario one: Tuition for in-state students will be increased by 4.5 percent, \$295 per-semester, and 3.7 percent, \$443 per-semester, for out-of-state students.

Scenario two: Tuition will be increased by 9.8 percent, \$640 per-semester, for in-state students and 7.9 percent, \$960 per-semester, for out-of-state students

One of the Scenarios must be selected by July 17. If the state budget is not finalized in time, Scenario two will be chosen for the fall semester.

Budget may put burden on PSU

By Peter Panepinto

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UPPER BURRELL, Pa. — With two different state budget proposals on the table, Penn State President Graham Spanier has pitched two distinct university budgets, with one that he says places more of the burden on students.

"This is a very difficult year for us and a very tough time to be a trustee," Spanier said. "These conditions force us to set a tuition increase that will be painful to us and our students."

Penn State's Board of Trustees met Friday at the Penn State New Kensington campus to discuss the university's operating budget for the 2009-10 year. The board agreed on two different plans — Scenario one and Scenario two — reflecting two different state budget proposals made by Gov. Ed Rendell, one in March and one in June.

Under Scenario one, based on Rendell's March 3 proposal, Penn State will receive \$318.1 million in state appropriations — a \$20.3 million cut from last year's \$338.4 million appropriations — bringing the 2009-10 university budget to almost \$3.8 billion.

If Rendell's June 26 proposal is approved, Penn State's 2009-10 appropriations will be \$277.5 million, a \$60.9 million decrease from last year. Under this scenario, the 2009-10 Penn State budget will be more than \$3.7 billion.

Spanier said Scenario two would set the university back to 1997 appropriation levels and force the university to "shift more of the burden on students and parents." Spanier said Penn State has never had to plan two budgets in its history.

"If the appropriation comes late, we will have to set fall tuition at Scenario two, but we will lower the spring tuition," Spanier said. "If we use Scenario two, then things have gone very bad in Harrisburg."

University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) President Gavin Keirans said he's hoping Scenario one gets the green light and he said the governor's proposals have pressured the university to create new methods for the 2009-10 budget.

"Obviously we prefer Scenario one," Keirans said. "I hope a remedy can be made to get us closer to the 4.5 percentage for tuition," he said of the possible 4.5 percent tuition hike in Scenario one.

Spanier said the university asked the commonwealth for a 6.9 percent, or \$24.5 million increase, in state appropriation for the 2009-10 year.

With state funding in question, the university is taking other measures to cut costs.

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Officials back flu decision

By Kevin Cirilli

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Despite criticism from some Penn State students, university and state health officials are defending their decision not to release an official statement announcing the first reported probable cases of swine flu on-campus.

"It's in every single county in Pennsylvania. It's very common. It's everywhere. At this point no one is reporting on individual cases," said Dr. Margaret Spear, director of University Health Services.

But she also said the Pennsylvania Department of Health recommends to let the community know when the "first case or two" is reported.

Spear said she felt Penn State did that on June 26, when the university reported its first two students, who live off-campus, were recovering from the illness. No such statement was released regarding the first on-campus case of swine flu.

"We made a very public announcement about it," Spear said of the first Penn State-related case. "Our sense is that we let the community know that it's in our community."

Shawn Jones (junior-communications) didn't get the message. Jones, who said he was unaware of on-campus reports of the virus, said he thinks the university withheld a statement so panic wouldn't strike students.

"When you have people sharing bathrooms, the university should let the students know," Jones said.

Last Thursday, Penn State officials con-

See FLU, Page 2.

Timeline

May 1: Penn State releases a statement calling for "voluntary social distancing" to prevent swine flu.

June 2: First confirmed case of swine flu in Centre County.

June 26: Penn State announces first two students with swine flu are recovering.

July 9: A Penn State student confirms the first case of swine flu on-campus. The university confirms three more off-campus cases of swine flu and that two on-campus students have been tested for probable cases of the virus.



Nathan A. Smith/Collegian

Chole Phillips, 5, of Muncy Pa., plays under waterbuckets set up on Allen Street as part of the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts.

Arts Fest weathers showers

By Beth Ann Downey and Evan Trowbridge

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Playing under the water buckets wasn't the only way to get wet this weekend at the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts.

Saturday's intermittent rain showers, out of place in the otherwise sunny weekend, soaked visitors and caused the postponement of some scheduled events.

Although the rain may have put a damper on outdoor attractions, it seemed to increase attendance at inside events, such as the much anticipated multimedia performance from Ensemble Galilei.

The group took the stage Saturday night to a full house at the Schwab Auditorium.

"It's the perfect storm," said Arts Fest Executive Director Rick Bryant, adding he was glad that so many festival attendees heard about the show.

He said many of the indoor performances throughout the weekend were better attended than past years, and the performance from local choral ensemble Essence of Joy even had as many attendees in the State College Presbyterian Church as the church sees on Easter Sunday.

Lisa Faust, the audience service manager at Schwab, said it was great to see the auditorium packed. However, she said she could understand that people who purchased buttons to attend the event and weren't able to get in would be angry.

"Because it's not ticketed, everyone with a button can come," she said. "It's just kind of a crap shoot."

Pete Stern, a professor of psychology at Penn State Berks and a festival attendee, said he wished the performance had been held in a bigger venue so more people would have had the opportunity to see the show.

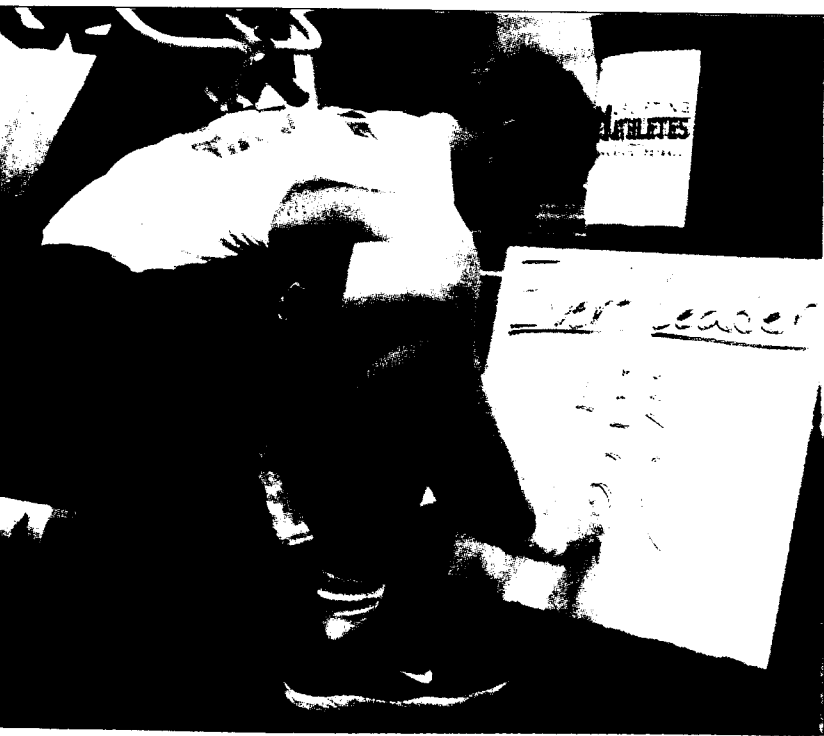
"We have to find something else to do now," he said. "We're really bummed."

Families and students who missed the opportunity to see capped performances enjoyed other forms of free entertainment on Saturday.

Jimmy Hall, whose performance was sponsored by the Penn State Alumni Association, played to a crowd on the Old Main lawn shortly after the rainstorm, but lawn chair space was limited and the wet grass was not seen as the ideal place to sit.

Fooing April drew a bigger crowd as the band played the stage on Allen Street. Kim

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Nathan A. Smith/Collegian

Penn State linebacker Sean Lee updates the Lift for Life leaderboard Friday.

Lions raise \$81,000 for charity

By Wayne Staats

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While continually flipping an immense tractor tire across Holuba Hall, Jared Odrick and his grunts drew cheers from onlookers.

Odrick helped his team finish second at the seventh annual Lift for Life competition Friday. The event raised \$81,000 for the Kidney Cancer Association, bringing the seven-year total to almost \$400,000.

"It's the toughest we'll get all year," Odrick said about the workout. "The competition is really tough. We're yanking back and forth with Navorro [Bowman] and Sean [Lee]."

Placing first in the challenge was team Slik Mick and the Magic Trix, which consisted of tight end Mickey Shuler and linebackers Bowman, Lee and Josh Hull.

Bowman and Lee replaced senior quarterback Daryll Clark and graduated tight end Greg Miskinis on last

year's winning Lift for Life team.

"I think I put on a better performance than [Clark] would. He would have been passed out halfway through — I don't think he'd be happy I said that," Lee said with a laugh.

Joining Odrick in second place was the rest of The Mad Real World Team: Brennan Coakley, Jack Crawford and Andrew Quarless. We're Going In, which consisted of Chris Colasanti, James McDonald, Kevin Newsome and Graham Zug, finished third.

Twenty-four teams participated in 11 events. Besides the tire flip, other events included were the bench press and squat jumps.

Senior punter Jeremy Boone said this year's event was especially hard for him because it was the last one in which he would compete. He set his personal goal at \$1,800 raised but surpassed it, reaching \$3,000 Friday.

Boone competed on the team 4th & Long with fellow kickers and punters Ryan Breen, David Soldner and Collin

Wagner. He joked that their goal was to just complete each event and not pass out or quit at any station.

"When we first got here, we were like, 'Why don't we just do it?'" Boone said. "Have all the kickers, give the crowd a little bit something to laugh at."

Despite the challenging workout, running back Evan Royster said having fan support kept the team focused on raising money. As for the difficulty, Royster joked that he would make it back to his bed to pass out for a while.

Fellow running back Stephfon Green, who was teammates with Ollie Ogbu, Johnnie Troutman and Devon Still on the Monstars, said he was excited for the challenge.

"You have no other emotion in your body but just to be happy because you know you're doing it for a cause," Green said. "The same people that come out and watch you play every Saturday are the same people you're giving back to."