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Florida International University

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Cuts on the way for Pell Grant program

LAUREN ROVIRA
Staff Writer

Patrick O’Keefe wants students to join in on the fight against cuts to the Pell Grant program as the federal government is looking to cut it the coming fiscal year.

“Fill out or no more Pell Grant” yells the text of the latest Facebook note from the president of the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus.

The note asks students to submit a pre-written letter with their name to their respective congressional representatives.

The letter is written in the form of a personal plea to Congress regarding the importance of the Pell Grant to the student sending it.

Two propositions are being debated in Congress on how to limit the Pell Grant.

The first, which would provide the federal government the largest savings, is to increase semester requirements for Pell Grant recipients from 12 credits to 15 credits per semester. This solution would save approximately $2.6 billion annually.

The other would limit the number of semesters students would be eligible to receive aid from the current 18 semesters, or nine years, to 12 semesters, or six years, as Pell Grants are only applicable toward the fall and spring semesters.

When and if these cuts take place depends on when Congress finishes debating.

Pell Grants are grants from the federal government specifically for low-income students, unlike Bright Futures scholarships, which come from the state and are merit-based.

The Pell Grant fund has been unable to keep up with the number of students entering the program.

A total of $34 billion would be necessary to maintain the Pell Grant at its current level of fund distribution, according to Sanjeev Udhnani, vice president of SEG-MMC.

Last year $23 billion went toward Pell Grants. If they were to be capped at that amount, nine million students, or 30 percent of all students, who would otherwise receive the grants would not be able to.

The proposed cuts have driven Univer-

ity President Mark Rosenberg to action.

Rosenberg traveled to Washington, D.C.

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SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

 Rubio represents, teaches students

KATRINA BRUNO
Staff Writer

University students are once again learning Florida politics from a Florida politician.

Sen. Marco Rubio is co-teaching a “Florida Politics” course this summer at the University in addition to his senatorial obligations.

Throughout the course, which meets on Mondays and Fridays during summer C, students learn about Florida politics from a young and respected republican leader with extensive experiences and political expertise to share with students.

Rodrigo Flores and David Ortega, senior political science majors and students in Rubio’s class, believe his return to the classroom is a great opportunity and experience for students.

“He brings a lot to the classroom. Rubio is very educated and has a lot of knowledge on both Florida and national politics,” said Flores. “He doesn’t seem very biased.”

“It makes the class more attractive in the sense that you’re learning politics from someone who has put it in to practice,” Ortega said.

Rubio, who the University hired in May as a “senior fellow,” will co-teach four courses at the School of International and Public Affairs alongside professors Dario Moreno and Nicol Rae, one with Rae in Spring 2012.

“I will be teaching the undergraduate political science class entitled ‘Legislative Process with Senator Rubio’... I am looking forward to the experience!”

While contracted, Rubio will assist with four classes and will be paid $24,000 for the year.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, a democrat from California and head of the Senate Ethics Committee, approved the emulation.

Senators earn $174,000 and are able to obtain outside compensation that does not exceed $26,955, which is more than what Rubio will receive.

In the early 1970s his parents emigrated to the United States from Cuba.

RUBIO, page 2

MISS FIU

Student represents school in positive light

ALFREDO APARICIO
Lifestyle Editor

Ana Perez had only participated in one pageant before she came to FIU. Having fallen in love with college life, she entered the Miss FIU pageant in hopes of representing her school spirit in a positive light.

“The only reason I first entered the Miss FIU pageant was because it was about FIU and that’s my greatest love,” recounts Perez. “I had absolutely no idea what I was in for, but I’m really glad at what it turned out to be because I’ve learned so much through the process.”

Becoming Miss FIU out of the 13 girls who entered, Perez described the experience as “amazing.”

“There aren’t enough words to describe the experience,” says Perez. “In just the past few months, I have grown so much as a person because it really makes you see your goals up close and for me, I really want to be the best person I can be in order to achieve them.”

The support of her family has also kept Perez steady throughout the pageant, especially though the initial training period which consisted of many different components and some rituals.

“I pray, a lot. To me, my faith is my luck, so I pray to God and some saints and family members who have passed.”

Perez’s mother has always been at the center of her success by helping her do her make-up, practice her walk for the competition and supporting her financially. “My mother has always supported me no matter what. For her it’s about me being happy and says as long as I’m doing the right thing to get there, she will always be proud.”

Perez also participated in the Miss Florida Scholarship Pageant 2011 that took place this past July 3-9 in St. Petersburg.

While the weeks consisted mostly of rehearsals and preliminaries, Perez got a chance to introduce herself to the city on camera, make an appearance at the Tampa Rays baseball game and tour the stadium.

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COMING UP | Sports

Check out Sports for an update on the men’s soccer team as they begin preparations for the upcoming season.

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A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

Wednesday, July 27, 2011
RUBIO, page 1

America in an attempt to escape Fidel Castro’s regime.
When he was 8 years old, Rubio and his family moved to Las Vegas, Nevada where his father worked as a bartender and his mother worked as a housekeeper. Rubio said his father wished only that his son would be involved in a career where “...he could wear a suit to work,” in an interview with Jonathan Karl, senior political correspondent for ABC News. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in law from the University of Florida before and earned his juris doctorate, cum laude, in 1996 from the University of Miami. He later served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2000-2008. In 2006 he was elected as speaker of the house. Once his term as speaker of the house ended in 2008, he began teaching at the University and continued to do so until 2010. Despite his credentials, some students are opposed to University administration’s decision to re-hire Rubio as a professor, as said Ludwig Pereira, president of the University’s College Democrats. "It is [our] belief that it is ethically wrong for professors to influence the student’s ideology or political views," Pereira said. “As a senator and a professor his students openly know his stance on every political and ideological subject, so whether done by persuasive manners or by being a role model he is influencing his students. That is something we do not support.” However, the College Republicans’ president disagrees. Jonathan De La Torre, current president of College Republicans at the University and a previous student of the senator in 2009, said Rubio’s ability to understand the message of Pell Grants recipients to members of the state legislature. Denis Halpin, Emilio Collyer and Kevin Gonzalez the president, vice president and comptroller, respectively, of SGC-BCC went to Tallahassee after collecting 300 testimonies from students who receive Pell Grants. SGC-BCC members also told state representatives the impact the travel would have on them. Across South Florida, Pell Grants comprises an essential part of funding for many students’ education.

Receiving the Pell Grant will help aid financially for the pricey college; it may go towards classes or books that otherwise would be difficult for my parents to [pay for],” said Sonam Santadasani, an incoming freshman nursing major. According to figures provided by Steve Sauls, the University’s vice president of governmental relations, 48 percent of University students, or approximately 16,000 students, receive Pell Pell grants. Half of those, or 8,000, have an expected family contribution of zero meaning these individuals are in the lowest income bracket and comprise the “neediest” in the university. SGA is currently pushing different propositions for the changes to Pell Grant to relieve students that would otherwise see cuts and changes that may ultimately detract from their ability to graduate.

The point of contention for SGA is that the first of the two propositions, O’Keefe and Udhnani have spoken about rallying for students’ purposes, but note, “Rallying would be great, but without a strong proposal on our side it’s just fluff.” They are currently working to remove a proposed amendment from the table and instead create a merit-based factor for the program. They plan to suggest that students who are not in good academic standing with the University, which is below a 2.0 GPA, be cut from Pell Grant.

Sen. to teach until Summer 2012

RUBIO'S CLASSES

• Advanced Legislative Politics in Summer 2012

PEL GRANTS, page 1

during the week of July 18 to protest the reduction of the grant program.
“Getting a quality college education these days is a costly enterprise,” he said to members of Congress. “Most of our students work and support families. Most of our drop outs are not failing they just don’t have the financial wherewithal to continue.”

Members of SGC at the Biscayne Bay Campus also travelled to relay the message of Pell Grants recipients to members of the state legislature.

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“Students that are truly using the grant for school and trying to advance themselves would receive all that is coming to them” Udhnani assured.

SGA is in favor of the proposition, to limit the number of semesters one is eligible for grant to 12 semesters rather than 18.

“Six years should be long enough for our students to get their under-graduate degree done,” Udhnani said.

There are no hard figures for how much the government will save by implementing the GPA floor,” Udhnani said. “But ultimately we’d like to see it mirror Bright Futures, and make students more fiscally responsible.”

Udhnani went on to say that what SGA would need now is to get the plan into legislator’s hands.

“Marco Rubio is in favor of Pell, but he may be torn between his personal philosophy and his party affiliation,” Udhnani. “Democrats are on board for the most part, we’re trying to get Republicans to side with us also.”

“We understand what other students are going through because we’ve been there,” said Udhnani. “Our members of SGA are working their very hardest to avoid any drastic cuts.

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**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Golden Panthers to start season against George Mason**

Jackson Wolek
Staff Writer

In Isaiah Thomas’ first two years as head coach for the FIU men’s basketball team, he had scheduled at least one team from the top conference to play against.

In his first year they played at North Carolina for their first game of the season, and in his second year they took on Florida State at home and LSU on the road.

This year, the team will start out in the annual 2011 Dick’s Sporting Goods NIT Season Tip-Off starting Nov. 14.

This is the second time that the Golden Panthers will participate in the tournament, the other time coming in the 1998-1999 season.

Their first opponent will be George Mason on the Virginia Tech campus. They have faced off against George Mason twice before, the last time coming in 2007 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena where FIU lost 86-68.

If the Golden Panthers can get past the first round, they will then play the winner of Virginia Tech and Monmouth in the next night.

There are 16 teams in all, the top seeded teams being Syracuse, Virginia Tech, Stanford and Oklahoma State.

The final four and championship game will be held in Madison Square Garden, as well as the consolation game.

There will also be third and fourth round games for the teams that do not make it to the final four from Nov. 21 to 22 at the campuses of the three highest remaining seeds.

However, no team will be able to play each other twice and the games will be assigned according to location.

This will be yet another great chance for FIU to make themselves more nationally known because ESPN will broadcast on ESPN, ESPNU and ESP3.com.

Last year, the team had only one game on ESP3 against Louisville.

It will be a tough match-up for FIU as they face a George Mason team who won 27-7 overall and won the Colonial Conference with a 16-2 record.

They also made it to the third round of the NCAA tournament before being bounced by Ohio State.

On the other hand, FIU finished with a 11-19 record, 5-11 in the Sun Belt conference, and lost 73-38 in the second round of their conference tournament to Middle Tennessee.

The losses of Marvin Roberts, Phil Gary and Eric Frederick will mean that they will now have four players who are 6 feet 9 inches and above.

This will give them the ability to interchange lineups much more than last year, as well as increase their rebounds and not have to worry so much about foul trouble (an issue that plagued the team last season).

The added size and depth, plus the fact that they will be able to play with their complete roster against George Mason, unlike last year when they had to wait for players to be eligible, should make for an interesting game to start the new season.

The rest of the 2011-2012 schedule will be released in early Sept.

**Greatest challenge for FIU football: themselves**

Being at the top of the hill is not always the most glamorous place to be.

And the Golden Panthers are on top of a hill called the Sun Belt Conference. Although it is far from the largest hill in the college football landscape, it is the first time that this decade-old program has garnered this much respect from their peers.

After years of toil and scraping along in the depths of the Sun Belt standings, the team broke through last year and was rewarded in the most recent preseason coaches poll.

Fall practice begins in less than two weeks and for the first time, the Golden Panthers will have the pressure of fighting from an elevated position. It will also be the first time the program will have to defend something with any kind of worth: a championship.

Those raised expectations pose a number of different hurdles and obstacles for this team to overcome when Sept. rolls around. And the biggest one that can knock the Golden Panthers from their newfound perch is not the teams that will be lining up against them on game days, and it won’t be the schedule, which is considerably less daunting than it was in past years.

The largest potential pitfall that could set this team backwards instead of forward might just revolve around themselves.

**AVOIDING LETDOWN**

Much like after the Golden Panthers over performed in 2008, it is very possible for the team to suffer a relapse into mediocrity.

But this team is much more prepared for the demands of newfound success than their 2009 counterparts, with a majority of key starters returning on both sides of the football and a team that will be yearning to relive the exhilarating thrills of the bowl season this upcoming winter.

But in order to get there, they have to deal with new realities, the most important one being that this is not a team that is going to sneak up on anybody.

For Sun Belt teams, FIU is the crown prize. They will be looking to take down the top cats for their own satisfaction and bragging rights. Taking down the conference champs could be a potential turning point for anyone in this conference (look at the jolt last year’s team got when shocking the then-defending champion Troy Trojans on their own home turf).

Teams like Troy, North Texas and even lowly Florida Atlantic, which seem to hold some kind of secret method to defeating the Golden Panthers on any given year, will be coming in to FIU Stadium looking to make expectations.

**FOOTBALL**

**COMMENTS**

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Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Greatest challenge for FIU football: themselves

Raised expectations come a whole new array of obstacles and challenges for this season’s squad as they defend a championship.
Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt believes the Golden Panthers can finally win the conference and be among the best teams in the country. "If this year will be interesting because we will have competition in every position on the field," Chestnutt said. "One or two players, if they do what they do, their positions are safe, but besides those two players all the other positions are up for grabs. The competition is only going to be good for our team."

One of those secure players is senior Victoria Milicucci, who is coming off a year in which she was an all-Sun Belt Conference Second Team honoree. With expectations being so high last season and falling short of winning the conference tournament, it places added pressure for a team on the rise. But the Golden Panthers are looking to turn this pressure into motivation. "The players are so hungry to be better … they want to win the conference and be a Top 25 team in the country," Chestnutt said. "All it does is fuel the fire."

But just as this team has improved, so have the other teams in Sun Belt. Still, Chestnutt expects his team to stack up well against in-conference rivals. And the ultimate goal has not changed. "We expect to be challenging for the conference title every year and this year is no different," Chestnutt said.

Along with these expectations comes a hint of desperation for some of the players, as this will be the final year for nine players who are entering their senior year. This season may also be a historic one for FIU, because if they win 10 or more games this season, it would be the first time FIU has had three consecutive double-digit winning seasons. On the whole, this year’s team is attempting to reach new heights starting Aug. 19, when the Golden Panthers travel to Stetson for their season opener. "The expectations this year after being ranked top 10 in the region for the last two seasons is that the goal of being a Top 25 team in the country is more in the forefront this year," Chestnutt said.
“Harry Potter” website convention bewitches fan “family”

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Staff Writer

A decade has come and gone, full of invested time and devotion all leading up to the final frame of what many consider to be the end of their childhood. At least they didn’t have to do it alone, thanks to the fans site, “The Leaky Cauldron.”

The website hosted the LeakyCon 2011 Harry Potter Conference in Orlando from July 13-17 to celebrate the release of the eighth and final film, “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2,” based on the series of books by J.K. Rowling.

Melissa Anelli, webmistress of the fan site and author of the book, “Harry, A History” and her staff worked hard to ensure that the “Harry Potter” era went out with a powerful spell, raising over $120,000 for charity in the process.

“I chose to attend LeakyCon because I’m a hardcore Harry Potter fan! The fact that it took place during the week of the final film’s release was also a major contributing factor,” said Sama Askari, a senior and information technology major. “To me, that meant that this would be the last time the entire fandom could feel this level excitement and anticipation at once, together.”

LeakyCon 2011 was held at the Royal Pacific Hotel, but from the moment you walked in through the doors leading to the Pacifica Ballrooms you were transported, as if by Floo Powder or Portkey, to an extraordinary world. Like a scene from the books, wearing robes and having duels became the norm, offering the perfect balance between the Wizarding and Muggle worlds.

Over 3,000 people from across the globe took part in the five day event that featured special main stage performances with formal and informal programming. Highlights included an interactive panel with actors from the film: Scarlet Byrne (Pansy Parkinson), Evanna Lynch (Luna Lovegood) and Chris Rankin (Percy Weasley), two nights of Wreck, musicians, a term used to describe the music that draws influence from elements based on the “Harry Potter” series, Harry and the Potters and The Remus Lupins; a performance from Team Starkid, the creators of the online sensations, “A Very Potter Musical” and “A Very Potter Sequel.”

Saul Perez, a senior, information technology major, said, “My favorite part of the conference was when Evanna Lynch picked up the guitar and rocked out with Harry and the Potters on stage during Wizard Rock Night.”

Savannah Currier, a sophomore, English major also enjoyed the live music at LeakyCon 2011.

“I met the first Wizard Rock band that I have ever listened to. I got to talk to people I had never dreamed I would meet at this event and found that it is now my favorite genre of music,” said Currier.

For those in attendance, the word “family” was one that many people used to describe the intricate community of “Harry Potter” fans. “It amazes me how quickly I made great friends within the fandom,” Askari said.

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“Though the movies are done and the books have long since been finished and read, the magic of this series will continue to bloom just as strongly until all who know of it are gone,” says Currier.

In the middle of the summer movie season, there is always one particular type of movie I am looking forward to—superhero movies. I love seeing the characters from the comic books that I read portrayed on the big screen.

The storylines that directors Jon Favreau, Bryan Singer and Christopher Nolan bring to the silver screen sparks excitement in audiences.

Director Joe Johnston has put himself into that group with films such as “Indiana Jones” and one of his own films, “The Rock- eeter,” to bring to life one of Marvel Comics’ most beloved characters.

“Captain America” follows Steve Rogers, a 90-pound asthmatic trying to join the military during World War II. None of the armed services will take him for being too frail and weak to fight until a German scientist by the name of Dr. Abraham Erskine passes Rogers through the medical exam and puts him through a top-secret project that turns Rogers into a superhuman.

At first, the military is skeptical of Rogers’ experiment, so he is used as a promotional figure to get Americans to contribute to the war effort. Rogers joins the fight when, while overseas, he sees the war effort first-hand.

When Rogers encounters the evil Nazi scientist Johann Schmidt, otherwise known as Red Skull, he takes matters into his own hands and becomes Captain America.

Chris Evans plays Captain America, the first avenger, cast as the title character. I was worried because of his past role as the Human Torch in the Fantastic Four franchise. The fact that he has already played another character in the Marvel universe had me thinking that I would be distracted watching Evans perform as Rogers.

While watching “Captain America,” I completely forgot that Evans ever portrayed the Human Torch. Evans as Rogers is much more likable and genuine than he ever was as the Human Torch. Evans plays Captain America with a likeable, won’t-give-up spunk that captures the American attitude of an idealistic war hero—a complete change from the joking and terribly acted Human Torch. Evans is a genuinely good-hearted guy that I liked as the main character.

Hugo Weaving is menacing as the Red Skull. However, it does not feel like he has control of any part of the story. I preferred seeing Schmidt the character, as opposed to Red Skull.

While Red Skull matches Captain America in strength and presence, it is Rogers’ drive to succeed, despite being the underdog, that pushes him to be greater.

As for the rest of the cast, actress Hayley Atwell plays Peggy Carter, a strong-minded woman plays Rogers’ love interest. The two share a pleasant chemistry that grows throughout the film. Atwell’s lukewarm performance as the leading lady is forgettable, which is a shame since the character is well written. Tommy Lee Jones plays the one-dimensional Colonel Chester Phillips, but with not much screen-
REEL TO REEL

"Captain America". A refreshing take on a beloved hero

PAGEANT, page 5

Dali Museum. On Sunday, after the competition had ended, Perez had brunched with her princess—a girl she is responsible for mentoring throughout the year—and their families. Although Perez did not place within the top 10, she still welcomed the experience, the friendships she had made and the opportunity she had received to showcase her talent on stage.

"I thought I was going to be more devastated," confessed Perez, "but the experience was so new and exciting that just being there was enough. It also showed me to have confidence in myself and not to compare myself to anyone because at the end of the day, I still have my goals."

"The girl who won, Kristina Janolo, had been competing for various years and this year she won, but it took dedication," said Perez. "It showed me power of perseverance."

Fornos,Perez will continue the year as Miss FIU, executing her platform and promoting awareness of the Children’s Miracle Network, Alternative Breaks and the Miss Florida Education Organization. "My platform consists of implementing Alternative Breaks in high schools. Alternative Breaks is an organization that helps find a community service project—based on a social issue of their choice—and work on it during their breaks in winter and summer."

"Alternative Breaks also encourages students to participate in team building and self-esteem training."

"High school is the time where people are looking to find their way," said Perez. "It’s all academic and I feel that this program will introduce them to a new type of learning and teach them valuable skills."

In the future, Perez will continue to pursue higher education and eventually attain a Ph. D in English to become a professor. "The future is so close but so blurry to me," says Perez. "I have so many interests but I am confident everything will fall into place soon."

Perez also has dreams of joining Teach for America or a similar organization, write a book or two, produce documentary, and become a motivational speaker.

"I don’t know what I will do first or what I will do for the rest of my life, but I do know that wherever life takes me, I will be helping people. After all, that is the basis of everything I want to do," Perez said.

"Sorry to disappoint you," Pausch said to those who were expecting faulty. Pausch chose to be strong through his struggles and he suggests we all do the same. This introductory anecdote captures the reader’s attention from the very beginning and the book just goes up from there.

The professor and creator of the widely used virtual reality teaching program, ALICE, is a self-admitted lover of clichés. He writes: "As I see it, the reason clichés are repeated so often is because they’re so often right on the money." Throughout his book, the professor refers to such clichés as "the truth will set you free" and "don’t complain, just work harder."

Although such advice may be nothing new, Pausch delivered it through tales of personal experience that all readers can relate to—like being denied acceptance into the college of one’s dreams.

Pausch felt that we should “not tell people how to live their lives. Just tell them stories and they will figure out how those stories apply to them.” By keeping this mindset and saying things like, “we’re not going to talk about spirituality and religion although I will tell you that I have experienced a deathbed conversion,” Pausch’s words inspire, mostly due to their light and understanding qualities in the midst of his ailing health.

According to National Public Radio, after Pausch lost his battle to cancer in 2008, Zaslav said, “I knew he was going to move the world.” Pausch has done just that. Named ABC News’ “Person of the Week,” Pausch has accumulated over three million views on the video of his lecture while his book has become a phenomenon and one of the most influential of the last decade, attracting the interest of talk show moguls, Oprah.

The professor’s profound words, “I’m dying and I’m having fun” and “I’m going to keep having fun every day, because there’s no other way to play it,” has kept the attention of viewers and readers for threesome years, and will continue to inspire for years to come.

"Captain America" hits the right notes of emotion and humor at the right times. The action is fun, the characters feel genuine, and the unusual setting for a superhero film makes "Captain America" a refreshing summer film that continues Marvel’s current success streak.

"Captain America" A refreshing summer movie. Look for it every Wednesday this summer.

Cover to Cover is a biweekly book review column. Look for it every Wednesday this summer.

COVERAGE

LIFE AFTER DEATH

“The Last Lecture” an appropriate testament for valued professor

CAPTAIN, page 5

Many professors regard their last lectures as last testaments—a way to transmit their last, most important bits of wisdom. However, Computer Science Professor Randy Pausch delivered his last lecture in a way no other professor ever has.

His nonfiction narrative “The Last Lecture,” is a book full of advice about school, careers, upon from his lecture, “Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams,” which he delivered at the age of 46 shortly after learning he had pancreatic cancer.

Pausch started off his speech by dropping to the floor and did push-ups to prove his disease had not made him the weak man everyone expected to see.

Pausch felt that we should “not tell people how to live their lives. Just tell them stories and they will figure out how those stories apply to them.” By keeping this mindset and saying things like, “we’re not going to talk about spirituality and religion although I will tell you that I have experienced a deathbed conversion,” Pausch’s words inspire, mostly due to their light and understanding qualities in the midst of his ailing health.

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**Tuition hike an undesired student burden**

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

University students can expect to pay about 15 percent more in tuition starting in Fall 2011. As state legislators further reduce funding, the University is relying more than ever on student tuition. Starting this fall, students will be the majority shareholders of the University.

I am not happy with next semester’s tuition bill, but the bright side is we are keeping our university operating at full capacity for another year.

For the next academic year, the University has formulated a milestone budget plan. Univer-
sity President Mark Rosen-
berg said in a town hall meeting held on May 19, 2011, “For the first time in history, the greater portion of the University’s operating budget will come from tuition.” Budget cuts will cost the University almost $16 million in the next academic year. While this is an astonishing cut to the University’s budget, it is unfair that the burdens should have to fall on the students.

The imminent tuition boost will obviously not be a welcome expense to any student’s wallet.

A 15 percent increase can cost an average full time student about $150 to $200 per semester, if not more. The imminent tuition boost will obviously not be a welcome expense to any student’s wallet, and in an economy where financial aid is being reduced, salaries slashed, and simple part time jobs are becoming increasingly hard to come by, many may see themselves having to put forth extra effort just to stay in school, including myself.

Jeanine Castro, a biology major, claims the tuition increase is “Outrageous! I already work two jobs to stay in school and the tuition hike will make my budget even tighter.” Further increases in tuition will make obtaining a degree almost impossible for many students and it is unfortunate that many continue to struggle.

According to an article in “Backslash Magazine,” many institutions of higher learning are being forced to raise their tuition anywhere from 5 to 30 percent, such as the University of Texas and the University of California, respectively. In the United Kingdom, some universities have increased their tuition by an outstanding 300 percent, resulting in riots and student uprisings.

I am glad there has yet to be any political unrest in the U.S. because of tuition hikes, but it will not be long before higher tuition, higher gas prices and even higher food prices make a college education simply unaffordable. If things do get worse, a call to action may be necessary, and we students have to exercise our right to free assembly when matters directly affect our futures.

Many of us are just too invested in our bachelor and graduate futures. Students who are beginning their college careers in the fall, however, should be wary of future tuition hikes.

*A University Editorial*
SGC-BBC prepares for the fall semester

DEBORAH SOUREINAN
Assistant News Director

A recent impeachment, an appointment and talks of renaming the Wolfe Center, the Student Government Association’s Bisacay Bay Council is making changes and moving forward as the fall semester approaches.

A senator missing in action forced SGC-BBC to call for an impeachment.

Former senator of Hospitality and Tourism management, Xin Zheng, ran unopposed for office during the 2011 general elections and has been out of contact ever since.

“I have never met him personally,” said Pablo Haspeo, speaker of economics. “He has never responded. I’m assuming he got the email and just didn’t reply,” said Collyer.

Filing a leave of absence with SGC-BBC could have avoided this impeachment process. The impeachment was held on July 20, 2011 and in a six to one vote, Zheng was removed from his post.

The ground for impeachment in this case was “incompetence.”

According to Haspeo, Zheng was also absent during the pre-general meeting.“We contacted him about three weeks in advance to let him know he was scheduled for an impeachment and he never responded. I’m assuming he got the email and just didn’t reply,” said Collyer.

While one member was removed, the council appointed Jing Dong, a Hospitality Management student, to the Cabinet as marketing coordinator.

The council also discussed plans of placing a “Panther Statue” on campus as well as plans to renovate BBC’s Wolfe Center.

The statue is likely to be placed at MMC’s US Century Bank Arena. Convocation is held for incoming freshmen at the Arena and graduation. Placing the statue where it’s the first thing students see upon entering the last time on their departure from school only makes sense, said Collyer.

In regards to the renovations, engineering students will be brought in to create sculptures for the Wolfe Center, this will be the first time this is done at BBC.

“President Rosenberg is very happy that we have set forth to change the Wolfe Center and we have a vision for it,” said Collyer.

As the summer comes to an end, SGC-BBC still looks to fill the seat that Zheng was removed from as well as several other seats that are still vacant.

Jonathan Szydlo contributed to this reporting.

SPASH Bash

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama ends ban on homosexuals in armed forces

ERIC WERNER
LOUIA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

The ban on gays in the military has stood for nearly a century.

In 60 days, after decades of changes, lawsuits and lobbying, that will change.

On Friday, President Barack Obama fulfilled a 2008 campaign pledge, formally ending the ban. After meeting with Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the president certifi ed to Congress in December that the military has stood for nearly a century.

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