

# Senate approves 4% increase in technology fee

## STUDENT SENATE NOTEBOOK

John Wayne Ferguson  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The UNH Student Senate unanimously passed the first student fee of the year on Sunday, approving a 4 percent increase to the Technology Fee.

The Technology Fee for the 2009/10 school year will rise to \$126 dollars per student, a \$5 increase from 2008/09. The entire revenue will amount to \$1,849,050, a \$97,575 increase from fiscal year 2009.

A majority of increased revenue from the fee, about \$20,000, will go toward equipment replacement and the remainder of the costs from the renovation of Demeritt Hall. The additional money will also go toward paying salary benefits of CIS staff, adding to student work-study hours, course fees and increasing content management storage.

The bill was presented by senators Jeff Moyer and Stephen Boutwell and met very little resistance from the other senators. The fees support was bolstered by the fact that over half of the increase in fees were required by the university, or followed the university's suggested guidelines.

"[This bill] clearly shows fiscal responsibility," said SAFC Chair Andrew McKernan, who also noted the vital role CIS plays at UNH. "I'd like to see someone go a day without e-mail."

## Support given to Health Insurance Window

In the second long-discussed resolution of the evening, the senate debated supporting the opening of an "enrollment window" of the university's health care program for students who cannot afford their own health care or do not have health care through their parents. The window would allow those students to enroll in the plan now, instead of waiting until the beginning of next semester to be insured.

The resolution, proposed by Health and Human services chair Julie Rocco, was intended to support those students whose healthcare situation may have been adversely affected by the current economic climate. However, opening the window could also carry certain risks, according to Assistant Vice President and member of the Health Insurance Review Committee Kevin Charles.

Charles told the senate that there is no way to tell what af-

fect opening the enrollment window could have on the health care program. If only a few relatively healthy students join, the effect will be minimal, but, if many students join or if the new students require expensive treatments, it could be detrimental to the two-year old program. Charles opening the window was a gamble and that the premium students pay could go up if more members are added.

The discussion in the senate then turned to whether the University should support the enrollment window in order to help "hypothetical" students while also risking the money of the students that were already enrolled in the plan.

"I think the university needs to step up [to support needy students] every once in a while," said Rocco, in response to senators who said the window's risk was too great.

The senate passed the resolution with seven "nays" and no abstentions. The vote was only to support the plan and not enact it. During the discussion, Charles said that the Health Insurance Review Committee had not yet come to a decision on whether to open a window.

## Senate urges support of RecycleMania

Prior to the start of new business, Joyce Massicotte, the Special Projects Coordinator for the Office of Sustainability, spoke to Senate about the university's ongoing environmental efforts, including the currently ongoing RecycleMania program.

According to Massicotte, UNH currently sits in 116<sup>th</sup> place at the midway point of the 198 school competition, which ranks schools based on the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, or have the highest recycling rate. In the Northeast division of the competition, UNH trails Plymouth State, Harvard and SUNY - Binghamton, but is ahead of Yale and UMaine - Orono.

Massicotte said she would like to see UNH break the top 100 by the end of the competition, said getting ahead of Harvard, who currently sits at No. 73, would be "great."

Later in the meeting, the senate unanimously voted to support the RecycleMania program and to encourage all members of the UNH community to participate in the program.

Massicotte also spoke about two more efforts being undertaken by the Office of Sustainability. First was an upcoming effort to get the university to create a policy requiring students to use only Energy Star refrigerators in dorm rooms

and to limit the number of fridges to one per room. Second was the announcement that the UNH Climate Action Plan was moving into its next phase, which will involve open community meetings to discuss how UNH can continue building on its environmental efforts.

## Lounge recycling bins encouraged

The senate very briefly discussed a resolution proposed by the Residential Life Council concerning the placement of recycling bins in dorm lounges. The resolution urged the department of Housing to place recycling bins in lounges in order to encourage recycling by student who utilize the study areas. According to Residential Life Council Chair Leslie Fanning, the Department of Housing supported the proposal, though it remained unclear how many new bins would be purchased, what the cost would be and who would ultimately be in charge of emptying the bins.

Some senators also raised the concern that community recycling bins would be used for the disposal of empty alcohol containers by underage students, which has derailed similar proposals in the past.

## Senators added/removed

Four student senators were removed from their positions at Sunday's meeting. Senators Jeff Willis (Upper Quad 3), Joelle Calcavecchia (Gables 3), Jack Lepine (Gables 9) and Karen Coutinho (Commuter 5) were all removed via a Senator Removal Bill.

Senator Paige Leggassie (Gibbs) was also removed by the bill, but was immediately reinstated as a co-Gibbs Senator alongside Vivian Sevilla. Three other new senators were welcomed alongside Sevilla; Senators Lynette Boutin (Upper Quad 3), Matthew Skoog (Gables) and Ryan Deziel (Congreve).

## Miscellany

Student Body President John Banks urged all senators to attend Thursday's men's basketball game at Lundholm Gymnasium. Banks asked that the senators all wear their senate T-shirts and said that they all be receiving hats for attending the game... Senate Speaker Nicholas Wolf announced that candidacy petitions for Student Body Elections are now available on the door of MUB 119B. Potential Student Body President, Vice-President and University System Student Board Representative candidates must gather 300 non-duplicated signatures from full-time undergraduate students and submit their petitions by March 9... Student Trustee Nicholas Benton updated the Senate on the latest Board of Trustees meeting. According to Benson, the most relevant action taken at the meeting was the official renaming of the Whittemore School of Business and Economics. Henceforth, the school will be named the Whittemore Graduate School of Business and Economics. The undergraduate business school will now be named after UNH alum and donor Peter T. Paul.

# Mind/Body Dialogues to promote self-image and discourage eating disorders

Terri Ogan  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As part of the MUB Current Issues Lecture Series, 10 UNH students will take the stage in the Strafford Room this Wednesday at 7 p.m. for the third performance of the compelling Mind/Body Dialogues.

The Mind/Body Dialogues is a powerful, monologue-based play exploring the detrimental issues of eating disorders and self-image concerns that plague our society.

As the third performance in one year, this inspirational theatre piece has received positive feedback from the UNH community.

A unique aspect of the enlightening production is the open-dialogue following the play. The cast members allow the audience to ask questions and share different experiences pertaining to self-image and eating disorders. The cast and Suzanne Sonneborn, the nutrition educator at UNH, give information about such issues, and suggest resources on campus that can provide help and support.

"Even though it's a tough subject, in my mind it's reality," Sonneborn said. "People are dealing with real issues that are hard to talk about. It's a valuable experience for the audience and cast members because most people are touched by an eating disorder. If it's not them it's someone they know."

The President's Commission on the Status of Women is co-sponsoring this event with the MUB and Health Services. The commission understands that body image and self-esteem have always been and continue to be an ongoing struggle for women, said Dawn D. Zitney, co-chair of the commission and office supervisor of the Office of Health Education and Promotion (OHEP).

"To better understand body image issues and the impact they have on women (and men), in our culture on and off campus, we need to provide students a safe, open and engaging space where these issues can be brought to the forefront and dialogue can emerge," Zitney explained. "The Mind/Body Dialogues provides this opportunity to the UNH Community."

Two students from the Boston area created the script for this powerful, 50-minute production in 2003 for the Multi-services Eating Disorder Association (M.E.D.A.). Since then universities all over New England have purchased the right to produce the play in order to spread awareness about self image issues, and to let people know that they are not alone in the battle to overcome an eating disorder.

"Anorexia nervosa has the highest mortality rate of any mental illness," said Sonneborn. "The biggest challenge is admitting, 'yes, I have a problem'. It's a huge road block to convince someone of their problem."

According to the National Eating Disorders Association (N.E.D.A.), 10 million females and 1 million males are fight-

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Russell Dorand

ing for their lives due to an eating disorder. In 2001 the UNH Counseling Center and Health Services did a joint survey on eating disorders and the results concluded that 25 percent of UNH students struggle from an eating disorder.

"There are some people that may not be diagnosed with an eating disorder, but still have a distorted image of themselves," Sonneborn explained. "95 percent of all people in America are unhappy with their body."

Many people suffer from disordered eating that is not defined by medical criteria. Statistics from the N.E.D.A. conclude that this struggle with body dissatisfaction causes over one-half of teenage girls, and nearly one-third of teenage boys to use unhealthy weight control behaviors. These behaviors include skipping meals, fasting, smoking cigarettes, vomiting, and taking laxatives.

UNH freshman psychology major Russell Dorand, who plays the roles of a Sergeant and eulogy reader, hopes that people will gain inspiration from the play and obtain professional help, whether for themselves or someone they know.

"We're really hoping to help people find the ability to see a change within themselves," said Dorand. "Even if people don't need individual help they can help others. Even how they look at random people on the street, maybe they'll be less judgmental."

Broaching on sensitive areas, such as eating disorders in males, with the audience is crucial because of the potentially fatal outcomes that result from these mental illnesses, Dorand said.

"Eating disorders affect everyone," explained Dorand. "It's more socially acceptable for females to have an eating disorder than males, but I think it's far underreported. Men do struggle with this issue of body image, not just women."

The President's Commission on the Status of Women supports this "important production at UNH to help educate all of us and to shed light on the resources available at UNH to assist students," Zitney explained. "Body image issues and eating disorders are not a thing of the past - they are real—they are here at UNH—and they are not only a women's issue they are a community issue."

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