

Fees remain area's lowest

# OTC Board approves \$9.25 tuition increase

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Ouachita Technical College approved a tuition increase for the 1993-94 semesters, a code of ethics for the school, and discussed the fund raising campaign for North Central Association accreditation, at Wednesday's meeting of the board of trustees.

OTC President Ken Martin said the amount of money the Arkansas Department of Higher Education will allot for the college's budget is based on a tuition increase, from \$25 to \$33.

"Our budget is going to be based on that figure," Martin said. "The state is recommending that we increase our current fee to at least \$33 in order to get our bottom-line budget for next year."

Martin said he recommended the increase, and asked for an additional \$1.25 to fund other projects on campus.

He said \$1 of the additional money would be split evenly between building maintenance and improving

OTC's parking facilities. The other 25 cents would set up a budget for the college's recently-formed Student Government Association.

"We have to find some additional sources of revenue to legitimize the college," Martin said. The extra \$1.25 tacked onto the increase would pay for improved lighting in the parking lot and resurfacing.

Board member Dewey Stiles asked if the tuition increase would hurt OTC competitively. Martin said OTC's tuition would remain well below those of Garland County Community College, Henderson State University, and technical colleges in Saline County and Pine Bluff.

Dean of Finance Bob Jones said GCCC's tuition is \$45 per credit hour, and HSU's is \$68.

Danielle Stanley, an SGA member, said students were expecting an increase in tuition, since the college is seeking NCA accreditation. "I don't

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think the students will be shocked by an increase."

Martin said the extra \$1.25 would be restricted to parking, building use and SGA. "We can't go into those funds for money for other projects." Board secretary Lenore Leeper said she wanted to see the tuition upped to an even \$35 to provide more money for maintenance and SGA activities.

The board voted to approve an increase to \$34.25, with Leeper voting against the motion.

In other action, the board approved a code of ethics statement. Jay Lewis Moles said the NCA is requiring ethical standards of conduct from institutions seeking accreditation or candidacy. "We're going to be held by (NCA) to those standards. We decided just to have an institutional code of ethics statement," Moles said.

The statement the board voted to adopt is a "broad," Moles said, and covers areas such as courtesy, leadership, performance, and leadership.

Board President George McClure, Jr., said NCA's criteria has improved OTC "even further than intended. We're learning a lot about ourselves and where we stand as a school. I think a lot of good things have come about."

Dean of Finance Bob Jones told the board the Futures Unlimited Foundation's fund-raising campaign is about to "kick into second gear." He

said OTC faculty and staff participated "100 percent" in an internal fund-raising drive, which brought in \$9,907 in money and pledges.

McClure said the foundation's external drive has so far raised \$78,000 toward its \$250,000 goal. If the college can meet that goal, the state will provide matching funds to total \$500,000. That money will be used to further OTC's accreditation drive.

"I'm pleased with the progress we've made," McClure said. "We're a third of the way toward meeting our goal, and we did it in a very short period of time."

In other business, Jones said a local construction company, Wayne Neighbors, submitted the low bid on a building renovation project to begin in two weeks on the campus. Neighbors offered a bid of \$49,500 for the \$60,000 project, Jones said. He said the company plans to complete the renovation by June 1.

Martin told the board the college's SGA — composed of Charles Turner Skip Warner, Wesley Malone, Stanley and Larry Moore — "has really taken the tiger by the tail" in voicing their concerns for OTC.

"They've shown phenomenal interest in the operation of this college," Martin said. "It makes sense to have an SGA because students are the consumers of our product. They should be closely involved in OTC's administration, and they're an active bunch."

The SGA will report to Martin what they see are areas of concern that relate directly to students.