

State-To-Bate

VOL. 29, NO. 18

FROSTBURG STATE COLLEGE, FROSTBURG, MARYLAND

MARCH 1, 1978

Higher Education Activity Costs Per Full-Time Equivalent Student--FY 1979 Allowance*

FSC To Remain Open

The following statement was issued by Dr. Nelson P. Guild, President of Frostburg State College, at 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 25, 1978.

"After having received a telephone call on Saturday, February 25, from Acting Governor Lee, I am deferring the decision to close down for three weeks beginning March 3.

"The Governor indicated to me that, in his opinion and in the opinion of his advisers, the tentative settlement of the coal strike, announced several hours after the College's shutdown was announced, makes it unlikely that a three-week shutdown of the College will be necessary. "Consequently, the College will revert to its original schedule for this semester, with the understanding that the schedule will be altered only if the coal strike settlement is not ratified by the United Mine workers."

Report Recommends Equitable Distribution

by Sindia Patterson

Funds should be distributed equitably among the institutions of higher learning in Maryland, according to staff report of the Maryland General Assembly.

The report recommends that the state's present system of funding be stopped. Currently, the state divides public higher education into three groups: University of Maryland, State Colleges, and Community Colleges. These separate funding of these three groups causes some disparities to exist. For instance, the University of Maryland has 53.3% of students and receives 59.0% of state money. In contrast, 31.3% of state moneys goes to the state colleges with 36.9% of the students. According to the report, an equitable distribution of state money would subtract over eight million dollars from the University of Maryland's budget.

The General Assembly Committee report also complains that the state is not giving a fair share of its revenues to Higher education institutions. "Higher education did not

	Bowie	Coppin	Frostburg	Salisbury	Towson	Univ. Of Balto.	St. Mary's	Morgan	UMCP	UMES	UMBC
Library											
Library Cost Per FTE	\$232.19	183.05	139.87	139.68	136.08	251.12	265.57	168.62	171.79	281.60	226.26
Object 11 (Books & Films) Per FTE	\$59	48	8	34	42	82	61	53	48	59	82
Non-Salary Library Exp. (Obj. 2-11) Per FTE	\$93	92	22	64	69	134	132	73	62	71	100
Library Salary Per FTE	\$139	88	118	76	67	116	134	96	109	206	126
No. Library Hours Per Week	125	92	83	100	80	106	81	90	85	72	82
Travel \$ Per Total Position in Instruction, Admin., Student Services **											
	\$143	261	53	89	92	116	137	122	100	73	70
Physical Plant											
Fuel & Utility Costs Per Sq.Ft.	\$.81	.57	.81	.68	.99	.84	.52	.92	.59	.65	.77
Tuition and Fees (Full-time)											
Resident	\$772	730	861	705	747	700	775	847	790	560	768
Non-Resident	\$1722	1680	1761	1655	1647	1720	1675	1747	2380	1630	2298

*Supplemental information to Table VII of document: "Higher Education in Maryland" (36.02.00), by the Division of Budget Review, Department of Fiscal Services of the General Assembly.

**Figure includes all positions (professional and classified).

receive a proportional share of the available increase," according to the report.

Additionally, "Faculty and administrative salaries are higher at some lower division community colleges than equivalent salaries at State Colleges and the University of Maryland College Park." These inexplicable discrepancies result from state budgetary decisions. There preference for community colleges hurts other state institutions.

Maryland residents are being discriminated against through these funding decisions. If we all pay the same rate of tax to support education then the Frostburg resident is being discriminated against because a lower quality of education is available to him. For instance, the state pays \$1,230 per FTE student at one institution and \$3,951 per FTE student at another. How can the quality of education be equivalent?

The Maryland General Assembly report, important because Annapolis is beginning to recognize the unfairness of their budgeting decisions, recommends that the state "distribute available funds equally among the segments of higher education" and "provide for comparable subsidies of Maryland students regardless of which institution they choose to attend."

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is a special budgetary issue which was compiled through the joint efforts of students, faculty, and administrators.

Fact Book States

Funding Inadequate

Introduction:

The following information has been gathered from a variety of responsible sources. It is concerned primarily with Frostburg State College but extends to other four-year public institutions throughout Maryland. Largely self-explanatory, the information points to these conclusions: 1. State funding of the operating budget at Frostburg State College, and perhaps other institutions, has become inadequate to ensure a quality education at reasonable cost to students.

The alternatives to adequate state support are further increases in cost to students, thus limiting access to higher education, or a decline in quality, thus limiting the value of education provided. Educational costs are not easily defined or measured, but they are nonetheless real and significant considerations that must be addressed.

2. State funding of higher education throughout Maryland is administered in what appears to be an arbitrary and unreasonable manner.

In the absence of a consistently applied formula for funding the state universities and colleges, these institutions can hardly plan ahead and budget resources wisely. State control of these institutions' budgets, through the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning, is excessive and is located in the hands of those who lack expertise and account-

ability for deciding educational priorities. Disparities in funding among all institutions of higher education in the state seem far in excess of what differing needs might reasonably justify. It is no easy task to devise a system of funding that is dependable, efficient, equitable, and responsive, but this too is a need which must be addressed.

I. General Information

In essence, state general funds have paid a decreasing share or percentage of operating costs, while enrollments, costs, and, necessarily, student fees have continued to rise.

1. The amount now budgeted for Frostburg State College for next year is, all funds considered, \$22,000 less than the amount appropriated for this year -- even though statewide general funds have been increased by \$268,175,457 or 13.2%. The increase for higher education itself is only 8.7%, or \$10.9 million less than a 13.2% share would entitle it to.

2. State support of Frostburg's operations has dropped from 64% of costs in 1973 to 47% for 1979. Enrollments have increased by 16% during this period.

3. Although the state has, in recent years, authorized the college to add needed faculty positions, the state has not granted funds to pay for these positions. One result is that the college, rather than the Department

of Personnel, must pay the fringe benefits for fifteen positions, representing a drain of almost \$200,000 annually of operating funds. 4. Although the state recently allowed faculty and staff members, at their individual preference, to shift from the state retirement system to TIAA-CREF, the college has been obliged to pay the employer's share of the latter contributions out of its operating budget.

5. For the next fiscal year the Board of Trustees' formula for funding the state universities and colleges would yield almost \$1.7 million more in general funds for Frostburg than the maximum figure allowed by the Governor's budget. The Board's formula is ignored, even though there is no other formula for funding these institutions.

6. Although student fees are the only substantial source of income besides state funds, the Governor has provided insufficient state funds and has deferred any increase in student fees for the time being (despite the authority of the Board of Trustees to set such fees.) 7. The cost of higher education has been rising twice as fast as state general-fund support for the state universities and colleges.

8. Tuition and other student fees increased by 81% at Maryland's state colleges between 1972-73 and 1977-78, while such fees throughout the nation in-

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Editorial

Yes Governor, believe it or not, there is a Frostburg State College! With the way you insisted on cutting this institutions budget there was some doubt as to whether or not you were planning to keep a state college at Frostburg or simply move the cite of the new state prison, now that the Continental Can deal has fallen through.

But, quelshing any rumors as to your competency, you showed your concern for this campus community in dealing with the energy crisis. This time you overstepped your boundaries and forced Dr. Guild to keep this school open regardless of adversity. Though you may feel the matter was a simple misunderstanding (due to a blunder by one of your advisors) and could be cleared up by a mere telephone call. The official statement calling for Frostburg to remain open showed total disregard to an already overly inconvenienced student body, not to mention faculty.

Tell us Governor what happens to this state institution of higher learning if on March 6, the coal miners choose not to ratify the contract? How much money will an emergency evacuation of Frostburg cost the taxpayer? How much more will students paying for their education be forced to endure. And finally one last question Governor, perhaps you or your advisors could instruct our administration on how to survive your insensitive and capricious budget. If by chance you cannot come up with these answers, then we would suggest you get some new advisors before the state gets a new governor.

Letter to the Governor

Dear Governor Lee:

The recent resignation of J. Carson Dowell as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the State Universities and Colleges has dramatized the pressing issue of state support for higher education. Mr. Dowell resigned in protest against inadequate and unresponsive state funding of four-year public institutions. The faculty of Frostburg State College regret this resignation, and we join in that protest. For persistent underfunding by the state and its unresponsiveness to continued appeals have now resulted in a budget crisis at the college, which will be hard pressed to avoid a deficit this year. Academic programs, student services, library resources, maintenance of buildings and grounds, as well as the morale of the whole campus community, are being seriously impaired.

Specific examples of the problem are numerous. All overtime is frozen--meaning that roads, lots, and walks tend to remain covered with ice and snow. Duplication services have been sharply curtailed, meaning limited distribution of instructional materials and campus communications. Most travel funds have been eliminated, meaning limited faculty anticipation in professional developments that affect what and how we teach. Vital periodicals are being dropped from the library -- such as Chemistry Abstracts, expensive but essential to academic credibility in that field. No funds remain for maintenance and replacement of equipment. Routine supplies remain lacking at the

student health center. Positions are being reallocated from departments that need them to those that need them more. Even more drastic measures are possible, such as furloughing some classified and administrative personnel.

The college must contend with a level of funding that makes these and other steps necessary. It must also contend with a Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning that readjusts institutional priorities on the stated presumption that the college has deliberately reduced its budget request in some areas so that it may later complain about funding deficiencies.

Our institution is of course not the only one that has experienced such difficulties, and our voice is not the first to be raised. Surely, the case has been made -- by college presidents, governing boards, a commission and task force, accrediting bodies, the Faculty Senate of the State Colleges, the State Board for Higher Education, and the Department of Fiscal Services of the General Assembly (see reports of the latter, numbers 36.02.00 and 36.03.04). All have pointed more or less directly to serious difficulties in the state's funding of higher education. Inadequacies, inequities, inconsistencies, unresponsiveness, and inordinate controls have not gone unremarked. Still, such questions as the following remain to perplex this faculty:

1. Why is the Board's funding formula ignored in the Governor's budgets? (For Frostburg the formula would yield almost \$1.7 million more in General Funds for next year than

the maximum request which you allowed.) And why, among all institutions of higher education in the State, are the four-year public colleges and universities the only ones whose levels of State funding are not determined by formula? 2. Why should the college face a budget for next year actually \$22,000 less, all funds considered, than the current year's appropriation -- despite continued inflation and stable or increasing enrollments and despite a budgeted increase in statewide general funds of 13.2%?

3. Why should state budget analysts without expertise in higher education in effect be setting educational priorities by line-item control of institutional budgets?

4. Why should state funds cover a steadily declining share of college operating costs -- which have had to be met by proportionate increases in student fees? (From 1973 to 1979, the state share at Frostburg has fallen from 64% to 47%, and a similar decline is evident throughout the state college system.) Why should Frostburg State College find it necessary to impose the highest student fees of any public institution in the State, including the University of Maryland, while ranking 7th among the 11 institutions in General Fund support per student?

5. Why, when fee increases are the only other means of meeting operational costs, should the Governor have abrogated the authority of the Board of Trustees to set fees?

6. Why should state funding of faculty and administrative positions not keep pace with increasing enrollments? (State funds have provided for no new positions at Frostburg over four years, despite a substantial increase in enrollment during that time and a student-faculty ratio that has grown by over 25% in the past ten years.)

7. Why should the state build expensive new buildings on the Frostburg campus but allow insufficient employees to maintain

them? (Frostburg has acquired three new buildings in the last two years, amounting to over 300,000 square feet of space, without having a single new state-funded position approved for their maintenance and operation.)

8. Why, in fact, should such a discrepancy exist between capital and operational appropriations? (Frostburg now has a new clock tower costing well over \$50,000, but appropriations for library books have dropped from \$100,000 to \$25,000 over the past five years.)

9. Why should the library book appropriations for eleven public institutions in Maryland range from \$8.00 per student (at Frostburg) to \$85 per student? With an average cost per book of \$16, by what rationale should any college have to live with an appropriation allowing for less than one book per student?

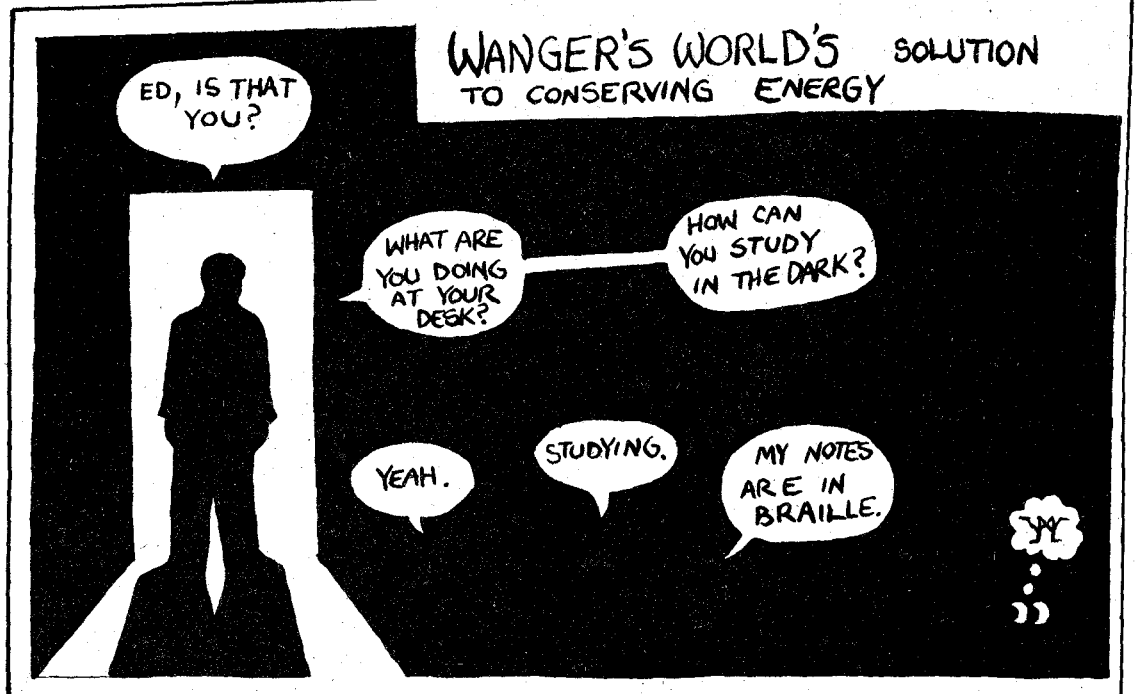
10. Why should Maryland rank so high among the states in family income (3rd) and in state and local taxes paid (5th to 10th) but rank so low in support

of higher education (40th in appropriations per \$1,000 of personal income)?

These and other questions deserve address. And the pressing needs at Frostburg and other public institutions of higher learning deserve expeditious action. As a faculty and as citizens, we call upon you to support the following measures:

1. Immediate fiscal relief for Frostburg State College in the amounts requested by the Board of Trustees.
2. Development and Executive recognition of a workable formula for determining sufficient and equitable funding for the state universities and colleges.
3. Reform of state policies, procedures, and practices in the funding of higher education, directed toward ensuring minimally adequate support of critical budget objects, consistent application of policies, and greater freedom for institutions to set educational priorities and to manage effectively the funds they do receive.

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State-To-Date is a weekly publication of the students of Frostburg State College. Opinions expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the College or any subdivision thereof. The staff welcomes input and response from the readers. Letters to the Editor must be signed (the writer's name will be withheld from print upon request) and should not exceed 200 words; subjects which merit extra space may be submitted as guest editorials. Free advertising is available for registered campus organizations on a space available basis. Deadline for articles and letters is 1:00 p.m. the Friday prior to publication; deadline for advertisements is 4:00 p.m. the Wednesday prior to publication. All material submitted automatically becomes the property of State-To-Date. State-To-Date is located in 232 Lane Center, phone 689-4326.



STATE-TO-DATE

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Frostburg State College is in trouble. The state's way of allocating money is "chaotic," according to Guild. He adds that, "It's a non-system that needs to be examined: In what way are funding decisions made? Why are resident students paying sharply differing tuitions?"

These questions are raised by the bar graphs below. The graphs were prepared by Tom Edwards, of the Office of Institutional Research. To understand the graphs, a basic vocabulary is needed:

FY '79: is Fiscal Year 1979 (July 1, 1978 to June 30, 1979).

FTE Student: is the state's formula for counting enrollment. It measures full time equivalent students. The figure is compiled by dividing the total number of undergraduate credits offered at an institution by 15.

General funds: state money. Special funds: student fees. Federal funds: primarily student financial aid.

#1

Frostburg students pay the highest tuition and fees of all public state colleges and universities in Maryland. The student union fee, the highest paid in the nation, is included in this exorbitant amount.

Tuition and fees at Maryland's state college have increased 81% since FY 1973; in that time period, the average increase across the nation in tuition and fees was only 35%.

The reason for this dramatic increase in student fees is a lack of state support of higher education. Although Maryland ranks third in family income, it is 40th in appropriations for higher education per \$1,000 of income.

These figures demonstrate that Maryland is not contributing an equitable amount to its institutions of higher education. More than this, the graph shows that Frostburg is getting the worst treatment of all institutions in Maryland.

#2

The library can only buy 1/2 a book for each stu-

dent according to this chart. The average book costs \$16. Frostburg is shown in this chart as being dramatically underfunded.

5/6 of our periodicals will be cut by FY '79. The legislature does not understand that we will only have 1975 new volumes next year. This misunderstanding exists because Frostburg is a Government Documents Depository and will receive 10,625 government documents in FY '79. The legislature counts the 12,600 new volumes and doesn't think we need more.

#3

Again, F.S.C.'s library is glaringly underfunded, receiving nearly 1/3 of the second lowest allocation for periodicals.

Students pick up the second highest tab for special funds. The third lowest amount of federal funds is appropriated to Frostburg. We receive the fifth lowest amount of state aid per FTE student. \$300, 216,869, the amount repre-

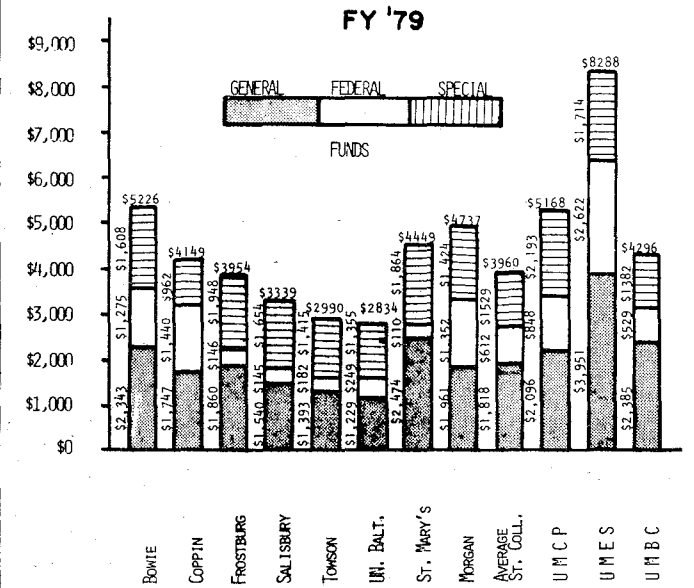
sented by this chart, is apportioned haphazardly and inequitably.

Travel allowances are used in many important ways. Faculty members attend conferences and keep up with recent achievements in their fields. This knowledge can only enrich the college as a whole. Student organizations, such as the Forensics team and the Speech and Theatre Department, increase their skills through practical experience. Frostburg, the institution which is farthest from the metropolitan area, is afforded the least travel money. This will have dramatic effects on the vitality of student organizations, the effectiveness of administrative endeavors, and the professional status of faculty members.

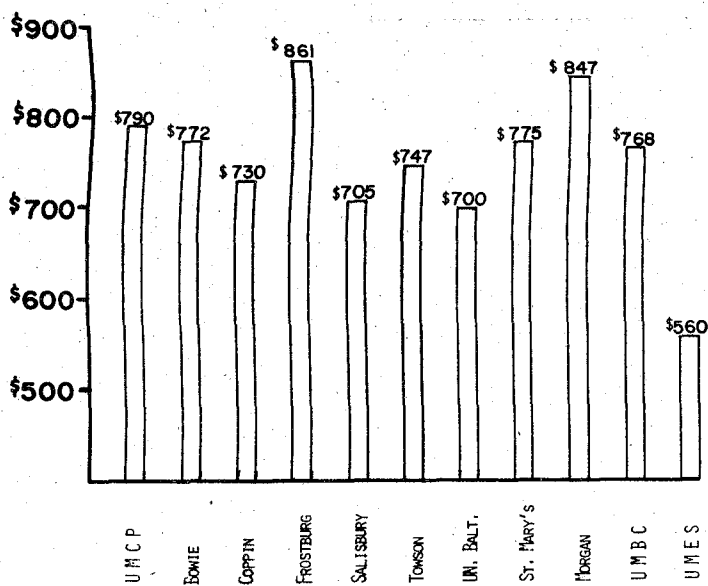
The following graphs speak for themselves.

FSC FINANCIAL TROUBLE PRESENTED THROUGH GRAPHS

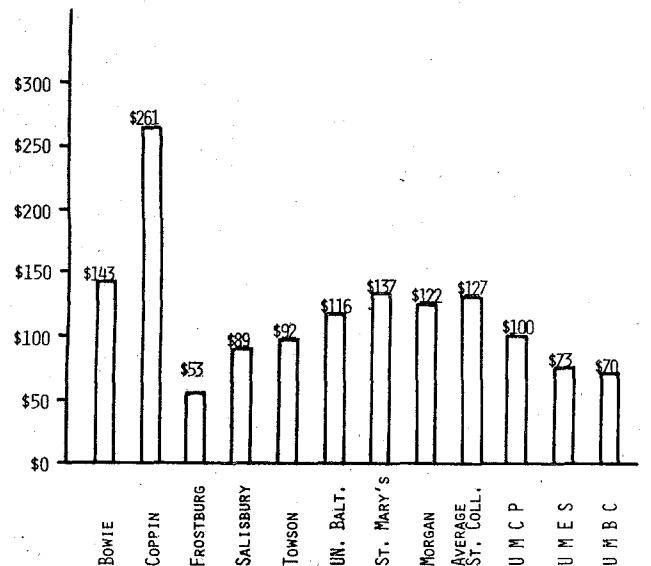
COSTS PAID BY GENERAL, FEDERAL AND SPECIAL FUNDS PER FTE STUDENT



RESIDENT TUITION AND FEES (FULL TIME) FY '79

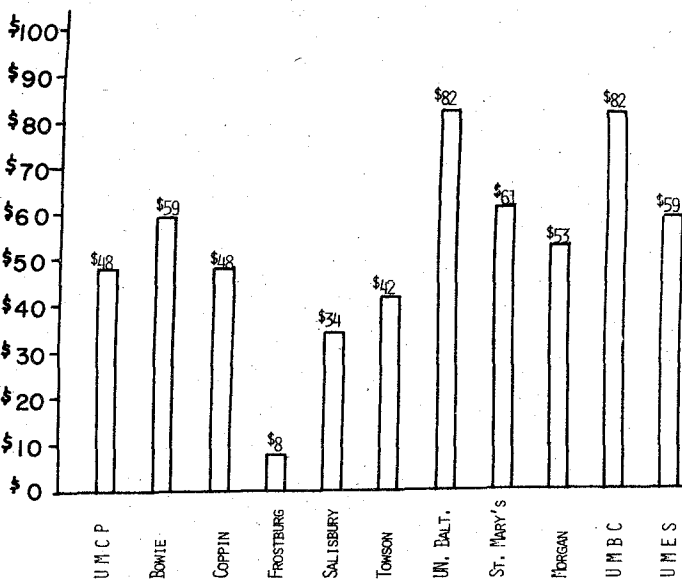


TRAVEL ALLOWANCE PER POSITION FY '79

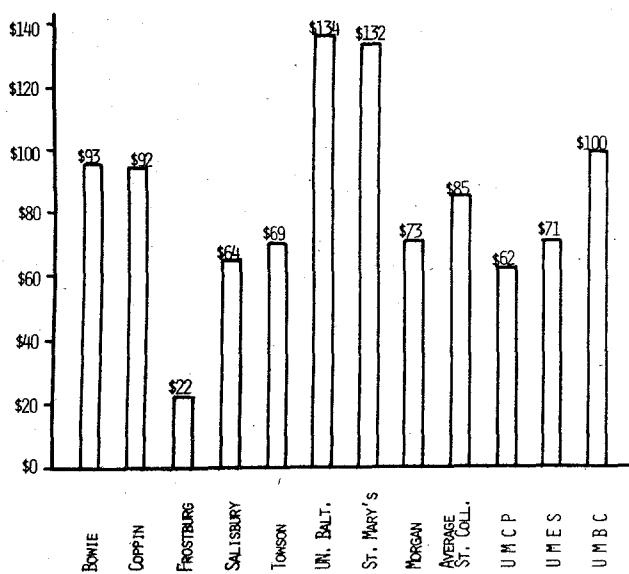


* FIGURES INCLUDE ALL POSITIONS (PROFESSIONAL AND CLASSIFIED) IN INSTRUCTION, ADMINISTRATION AND STUDENT SERVICES.

LIBRARY OBJECT II EQUIPMENT - ADDITIONAL PER FTE STUDENT (BOOKS & FILMS) FY '79



NON-SALARY LIBRARY EXPENSES (OBJECTS 2-II) PER FTE STUDENT FY '79



Conroy Tuition Deduction Bill

In an attempt to relieve the financial burdens on families whose children are enrolled in post high school education, Senator Edward T. Conroy is sponsoring an "Income Tax Credits-Educational Expenses" bill in the Maryland State Senate.

The bill enables a taxpayer to subtract from taxes he owes the State an amount equal to 50 percent of payments for educational expenses up to \$500 per student, to colleges, universities and vocational schools.

Educational expenses include tuition, fees, books and supplies needed for courses of instruction, but do not include room and board and the other living expenses.

The bill is scheduled for a hearing before the Senate Finance Committee.

Letters

cont. from page 2

Contrary to the opinion of a recent Baltimore Sun editorial (22 Jan. 78), the colleges are not simply asking for more and more money. With next year's budget figure now actually below that for this year, Frostburg is far from keeping up with inflation. The faculty's desire, as taxpayers and teachers, is for both efficiency and effectiveness in education, and we can point to many accomplishments toward meeting both these ends. Also, we emphasize that we are not complaining here about salaries or physical facilities. We are questioning the sense of paying professors and building buildings but not providing the additional and comparatively modest sums that are necessary for the most effective use of both and that can mean the difference between a very good and a third-rate system of public higher education. We are also questioning the sense of state fiscal controls that seem to impede rather than facilitate responsible management of institutional resources.

If effectiveness is not properly regarded, efficiency and accountability are worse than meaningless. The alternatives to needed state support are obvious: further increases in costs to students (meaning that many persons would no longer be able to afford a higher education) or a decline in the quality of education provided. Either alternative will serve the future.

Sincerely yours,
The faculty of Frostburg State College

Dear Acting Governor Blair Lee, III:

We, the undersigned students, are writing as representatives of the Frostburg State College Chapter of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology. We are writing to express our concern about the lack of financial support for higher education throughout the state and at Frostburg State College in particular.

Some of the immediate problems we are experiencing here at Frostburg include lack of funds for college correspondence, duplication of relevant materials for instructional purposes, and maintenance, repair and purchase of equipment. Without these important aids, the opportunity for a student to receive and benefit from a high quality college education is so minimized that not only does the individual suffer, but also the reputation of the college and state itself.

Within the Psychology Department there are twelve areas of specialization. With approximately 200 scholarly journals in the field of Psychology, we were allotted only 40 in fiscal year 1977; however, in fiscal year 1979 this allocation has been devastatingly reduced to a mere five. This creates a situation that threatens the integrity of both graduate and undergraduate programs. That is, with a dozen major areas of specialization within our department, to expect five journals to offer even partial coverage is totally unrealistic. When the reality of underfunding threatens the actual existence and continuance of a college, then immediate measures are needed.

The previous information is only an indication of the Psychology Department's situation; however, the problem is greatly magnified when one considers that similar problems are being faced by all departments.

We urge you to examine the inequity of the distribution of funds within the state. If the present trend of inadequate funding is sustained we strongly feel that the quality of education at Frostburg and other state colleges will continue to suffer drastically.

We feel the seriousness of our situation warrants an appointment with you to further discuss and clarify our position and yours. Please consider the month of March as a convenient date for us to meet.

We would deeply appreciate your cooperation and early reply.

Sincerely,
Penny Sprecher, President

Fact Book

continued

creased by 35%.

9. Enrollment at the six state universities and colleges increased by 61% overall and 71% in full-time students over the past seven years.

10. The State Board for Higher Education has recommended that the state support 70% of instructional costs at public four-year institutions; this year the state is providing an average of 59% of instructional costs -- down from 91.8% ten years ago.

11. Maryland ranks third among the states in family income and fifth to tenth in state and local taxes paid but fortieth in appropriations for higher education per \$1,000 of personal income. It ranks last in such appropriations among states in the Southern region.

12. Of the "A" students graduated from Maryland high schools, about half leave the state to pursue a higher education elsewhere.

13. Maryland high schools graduate about sixty Nat-

ional Merit Scholars annually, but in 1976-77 only eight Merit Scholars were enrolled in Maryland's public colleges -- as compared to 166 at the University of Virginia.

II. Particular effects of the funding crisis at Frostburg

a. The library, vital to the academic quality of the institution, is being especially affected, as the following comparison demonstrates:

Over the past five years appropriations for books and related materials have dropped from \$100,000 to \$25,000. In two years money available for periodicals has dropped from \$36,000 to \$6,000. In the earlier 1970's, when the college had about 20% fewer students than now, library allocations averaged around \$142,000 a year, enabling the library to meet American Library Association standards by 1976. These standards, however, call for a 5% yearly increase in holdings. Next year's budget will allow for a book appropriation that averages \$8.00 per student, whereas the average cost of a new book is \$16.00. B. The funding crisis at the college is also seriously affecting student services:

Until the last few years all student fees collected for board, room, and activities went into areas covering student life. Students paid their own way, and until recently excess student funds gave the college a surplus of dollars to draw from.

In fiscal year 1977-78, \$175,000 was turned over from the student funds to help with the projected deficit. \$100,000 is now needed to cover immediate needs that give rise to the following student complaints.

Specific Student Complaints

A. THE LANE COLLEGE STUDENT CENTER was built and is maintained entirely by student fees. Our students pay the highest student union fee in the United States.

1. Currently hours are cut back on weekends because funds to pay student help are non-existent.

2. Pool tables need recovering. They should be recovered every semester. Last year they were recovered once. Next year they will not be recovered.

3. No fire wood to burn--and none is forthcoming.

4. Music/listening room is shut down.

5. Maintenance is surely needed. Doors are broken, ceiling tiles are falling.

6. By mid-April the building probably will be closing at 4:30 p.m.

7. Equipment is wearing out, and it cannot be repaired or replaced.

B. DORMS

1. Minor repairs are not

being done. Students pay a damage fee of \$50--but that money is diverted into other areas.

2. There is an immediate need to replace carpet, dry wall, and door locks. Rooms need to be painted, and roofs need to be repaired. \$500,000 is needed now to put dorms into top shape.

C. FOOD SERVICE

1. Can't buy or replace equipment.

D. PLACEMENT

Inadequate funds for the proper duplication and mailing of placement files. The distribution of these files is vital for job placement, especially for those in teacher education.

E. FINANCIAL AID

1. The state is negligent in putting up its 20% to match the 80% federal funding of student work-study jobs.

2. For next year there is a possibility of no 20% to match the 80% federal money granted for work study.

3. For next year there is a strong possibility of no 10% to match the 90% federal money for National Defense Student Loans.

F. HEALTH SERVICE

1. As of February 2, 1978, the medication budget was gone. Money was taken from other sources to cover the recent flu epidemic on campus.

2. There is no money to pay a substitute nurse.

C. Notes on physical plant operations and other matters:

1. This year's allocation of \$756,000 for utilities will be short of projected costs by around \$150,000 or more, depending on the weather.

2. Over \$100,000 subtracted from the college budget in anticipation of personnel turnover takes insufficient account of a locality in which such turnover is minimal, owing to employee loyalty and high unemployment.

3. Funds allocated for overtime take insufficient account of Frostburg's severe winter weather, which necessitates snow removal that cannot be accomplished during regular working hours.

4. Design and construction of new facilities seems to be accomplished without due regard for Frostburg's climate or for the advice of college administrators. The consequence is lack of economy--e.g., the use of single-pane glass in buildings, resulting in unnecessarily high heating and air conditioning bills. (Moreover, the air conditioning built into new buildings would seldom be needed if adequate ventilation were otherwise provided.)

5. Savings in various areas are difficult to effect when state budget analysts substitute their own priorities for those of the college--

e.g., providing the college with six new cars when the college preferred to keep the old ones.

Where To Write

Here are the home and Annapolis addresses and telephone numbers of local legislators serving during the 1978 General Assembly session:

Sen. Edward J. Mason (R - Allegany - Garrett), Room 406, James Senate Office Building, Annapolis, 269-3039. Local office number -- 777-2168. Home address -- 1904 Bedford Street, 722-4229.

Sen. Victor Cushwa (D-Washington - Allegany), Room 300, James Senate Office Building, Annapolis, 269-2503. Local Office Number -- 791-2900 (Hagerstown). Home address -- Still House, Williamsport, 223-7129.

Del. William B. Byrnes (D-Allegany), Room 428, House Office Building, Annapolis, 269-3171. Home address -- Eckhart Mines, 689-5151.

Del. Thomas B. Cumiskey Jr. (D-Allegany), Room 427, House Office Building, Annapolis, 269-3171. Home -- 219 Schley Street, 724-2909.

Del. Casper R. Taylor Jr. (D-Allegany-Washington), Room 429, House Office Building, Annapolis, 269-3289. Local office number -- 724-9211. Home address -- 316 Prince George Street, 722-7874.

Del. DeCorsey E. Bolden (R - Garrett - Allegany), Room 430, House Office Building, Annapolis, 269-3364. Home address -- 313 South Home Street, Oakland, 334-2461.

Collect calls can be made to the Annapolis office of the legislators. The Annapolis zip code is 21401.

Toll-free calling is provided by the Legislative Information Service in the State House. Status of legislation and committee action may be obtained if you have the bill number. Messages to have legislators return calls if they are in session can also be handled by the Legislative Information Service. The toll-free number is 1-800-492-7122.