

Advocate

<http://web.gc.cuny.edu/advocate>

18% Tuition Hike Slams CUNY Graduate Students

JAMES HOFF

As if New York City was not already expensive enough, Graduate Center students are arriving on campus only to find that their tuition has miraculously increased over the summer by more than 18%. On June 27th the CUNY Board of Trustees, in a near-unanimous decision, voted to approve a revised schedule of tuition and fees for all new and returning senior college graduate and Graduate Center students. Of the 16 board members with voting privileges (10 gubernatorial appointees, 5 mayoral appointees and one student-appointed representative) only the student representative, undergraduate Lauren Fasano, opposed the new tuition schedule. She held that the increases would unduly strain already overburdened graduate students, and that the university should seek more state funding rather than simply increasing tuition.

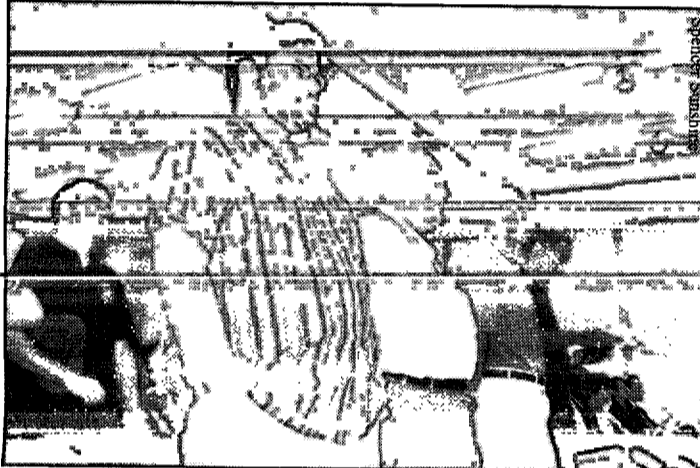
The new fee schedule, which went into effect for the Fall semester, significantly increases Masters and PhD tuition at all of the university's main campuses including Hunter, City College, Lehman, Baruch, and the Graduate Center, where in-state tuition for Level I PhD students has now increased from \$4,825 to \$5,720 per year.

Increases at other levels were comparable, while some senior college departments faced even larger increases in specialized programs.

In a statement provided to the university community on the day of the vote, the Board of Trustees cited budget deficiencies for senior colleges totaling \$36.3 million as the main reason for the increases. The Board claimed that these shortfalls were the result of "a \$22.2 million reduction in state operating aid, and \$14 million in increased obligations and needs" which included faculty commitments, facility

needs, environmental health and safety compliance, new building costs at Medgar Evers College and a small portion, reportedly \$300,000, for investments in graduate fellowships.

The Board of Trustees also argued in its statement that the budget shortfalls would



GC students stand in protest of the Board of Trustees tuition vote.

be met, by, among other things, "increased revenue from enrollment growth for new freshmen and increased retention of all classes of students at all of the senior colleges." The Graduate tuition increases were supported by the City College Department of Engineering and the former Graduate Center President Frances Degen

Horowitz, among others.

However, Hunter Professor of Public Health Nicholas Freudenberg disagreed. In a statement to the Board on June 20th (before the final vote on the 27th) he argued that the new tuition schedule, rather than increasing retention and school

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income, will in fact decrease the total number of graduate students in some programs, and thus the total amount of university revenue. According to Freudenberg, the Hunter College Program in Urban Public Health surveyed its grad-

see *Tuition Increase*, page 3

GC Welcomes Bill Kelly as President

This summer, after 14 years under the watch of Frances Degen Horowitz, Provost Bill Kelly was chosen to be president of the Graduate Center.

Originally a scholar of American literature, Kelly came to the GC in 1986 and later was Executive Officer of the English Department before rising to provost.

According to a recent interview with *365 Fifth*, the GC newsletter, Kelly is aware of the struggles ahead, but remains optimistic about the current trajectory of the GC.

According to Kelly, recent successes include substantial hirings of some of the "most distinguished scholars in the world" and an extremely (if only relatively) successful fundraising initiative spearheaded by President Horowitz. He has expressed an interest in rethinking the perception the community has of the GC, including its public programs and



President Bill Kelly

academic offerings. To this end, he hopes to build the GC's MA and MS programs and to focus on developing new and more creative interdisciplinary approaches.

Kelly has also expressed an interest in tapping into the wider CUNY system more effectively to bring new professors at the colleges to CUNY's graduate students. Among his main goals he cites increasing tuition assistance for CUNY adjuncts and building better recruitment packages. The combination of these two initiatives are intended to allow students to focus on their studies and for the GC to be more competitive against the deeper pockets of elite institutions.

As provost, Kelly was always known as a strong advocate for GC students, and developed a reputation for his focus on the scholarly and educational foundations of the GC. *The Advocate* is encouraged by President Kelly's stated goals and welcomes him to his new position.

DSC Welcomes Students Back

DSC Welcomes New Students

The Doctoral Students' Council (DSC) extends a hearty welcome to students new to the CUNY Graduate Center. To those who were away for the summer we say, Welcome back! The DSC is a council of student representatives from all academic programs. Each program elects representatives to the DSC, the number of which is determined on a proportional basis according to the number of students enrolled in the program. There are also at-large representatives elected by the student body as a whole. This council exists to serve student needs and represent student interests before the GC administration. Please visit our recently revamped web page: <http://dsc.gc.cuny.edu>. You can also get there by going to www.gc.cuny.edu and clicking on "Current Students," and then click on "Doctoral Students' Council." On our page you will find more in-depth information regarding some of what appears below.

Save the Wellness Center!

One of the most important student resources at the Graduate Center is the Wellness Center. Today's graduate students rely on the free medical and counseling services provided by the Nurse Practitioner and her trained staff. Unfortunately, due to a lack of continued funding, the Wellness Center will close at the end of the fall semester unless we act now. The administration is willing to cover roughly 50% of the operating costs of the Wellness Center if the Student Activity Fee is increased by \$12 per student per semester, starting in the spring. In order to increase the Student Activity Fee, students must act together by voting "yes" in the referendum. (Of course, even if you oppose the increase we still encourage you to vote. Democracy is more important than the Wellness Center.) The referendum will occur by mail and in person during late September and early October. Have you voted yet?

see *DSC Welcomes Student Back*, page 11

Academic Repression

It's a new academic year, and a new incarnation of *The Advocate*.

Readers who have in the past thought that there were too many snarky photo captions can rest at ease: there will, in all likelihood, be less snarky photo captions in the upcoming year of *The Advocate*. However (and unfortunately for the complainers regarding said captions) there will undoubtedly be an increase in snarky headlines. This is because writing photo captions is the province of the Layout Editor, and after two years in that position, I am now the new Editor-in-Chief. (I should warn readers that as we are still looking to hire a Layout Editor, a snarky photo caption or two may sneak in this issue).

I wish to bid a fond *adieu* to former Editor James Trimarco, whose shoes I am filling. James worked on *The Advocate* for three years and had also migrated from the Layout position. The Editor's job is a time-intensive task (one of the most lethal kinds for a grad student) and the hard work that he committed to the project, in particular in encouraging new writers, was underappreciated by many. I hope that he is able to stay around as a contributor and technical assistant.

Dan Skinner, Managing Editor, is around for another year, his fourth. Due to a sudden calamity, however, the Layout Editor position remains unfilled. If you have some experience in design and would like to apply, please do so ASAP. This is a paid position, and not only do we offer flexible hours, but our computer's I-tunes features many rare ambient, punk and jazz CDs that we have uploaded. *The Advocate* appears three times a semester (usually September-October-November, and February-March-April) and the pay is \$700/ issue. Resumes can be sent to our new email address: gcadvocate@gmail.com.

This brings to me our first issue: IR. Not just *The Advocate*, but also the Doctoral Students Council has apparently decided that the GC's Information Resources is an outfit that is too unreliable to count on for communication, and have migrated to Gmail. Enough said.

My position as Editor-in-Chief of my grad school's newspaper is something of just desserts for me, since I was asked to leave high school at 17 in Georgia because of my participation in an underground newspaper, which featured encouragements to oppose the (first) Iraq war and burn the US flag. We were branded troublemakers (quite accurately) and the school bureaucracy focused its resources on removing us. They were successful, and so I went to college a year early, finishing with a BA in Journalism. Later I worked in a variety of broadcast and print media, from corporate (an ABC-affiliate TV station) to radical (such as early incarnation of the NYC Independent Media Center's *Independent* newspaper). I came to the GC four years ago to do in-depth study of social and political theory, and am ostensibly enrolled in the Sociology department here.

I would like to shift *The Advocate's* focus in some new directions. First, I want to increase the focus on the everyday lives of students at the GC (yes! that means *you*). What are the real day-to-day issues that concern you? What is it like to adjunct, to be pressured into adjuncting, or to refuse to adjunct? What is being a grad student parent like, or not having the time (or money) to have children, or not wanting to have children even while all your old friends are raising families? For that matter, does anyone ever get laid at the GC? Where's the best place to fuck here? Ever had sex with a professor, or had problems with professors who have had sex with other students (we get some interesting letters at the paper sometimes...), or have interesting sex work stories? Food, transportation, money, family, stress... all is game. Anonymity can be guaranteed.

I also want to remain focused on the rising censorship and neo-McCarthyism in the academy (and CUNY in particular) directed at silencing radical and progressive voices, be they Communist students at City College, anarchist professors at Yale, or indigenous radicals at Colorado University. There's so much of this going on that we may institute a regular column.

And I want to have a larger "cultural" emphasis, including enhanced coverage of theatre, music, film and art. I want students to feel free to use *The Advocate* to get free passes to concerts and museums, and share their thoughts with the rest of us. And I also want to promote coverage of the cultural production of those who attend the GC itself.

Lastly, please consider contributing to *The Advocate*. Our next deadline is the beginning of October, and hopefully we'll be on the stands in mid-month.

- Spencer Sunshine

In an effort to keep *Advocate* readers abreast of some of the more egregious cases of attempts to squelch academic freedom, we offer the following updates:

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) has announced that it will conduct an inquiry into academic freedom at CUNY. According to the *Clarion*, the newspaper of the CUNY Professional Staff Congress, the AAUP is planning to look into at least four cases of apparent "political interference in academic affairs." The two following cases, both at Brooklyn College, were initiated as reactions to articles in *The New York Sun*, which has established itself as a reliable bullhorn for ultranationalist right-wing New Yorkers:

Timothy Shortell, Associate Professor, Sociology Department, Brooklyn College
After Shortell wrote an essay on his blog asking "Could there be any doubt that humanity would be better off without religion" and called religious fanatics "moral retards...doing real harm to others," an article in *The Sun* called on BC President Kimmich to step in to reject his consideration as department chair. Apparently eager to cow to the *Sun*, Kimmich wrote to the *Sun* to condemn Shortell's comments and promising an investigation and swift action. Citing a lack of support from the BC administration, but appreciative of union support, Shortell withdrew himself from consideration for the chair in June.

Priya Parmar, Assistant Professor, Education, Brooklyn College
On May 31, *The Sun* struck again, this time claiming that the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education was "screening students for their political views," and pointing out Professor Parmar to serve as the poster child for biased professors, in toe with the Council. Charges students made against Parmar include her questioning the notion of "grammatically correct" English and arguing for the legitimacy of Ebonics. Parmar was also charged with crass political indoctrination in showing Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11* in class. In their letter to Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, the AAUP said that, "the *Sun's* screed about Professor Parmar, who is a woman of color, leaned heavily on a mischaracterization of her teaching on Standard English and Ebonics, and treated with contempt the idea that reducing social inequities is relevant to education." AAUP called on Chancellor Goldstein to protect Professor Parmar and other professors from the *Sun's* attacks.

Update on the University of Colorado's Ward Churchill
Since the Colorado Board of Regents failed at its politically-motivated effort to remove tenured Ethnic Studies Professor Ward Churchill from the University of Colorado for controversial statements (you've probably heard about the "little Eichmanns") he made regarding September 11th, they turned toward undermining his tenure on a number of fronts. At issue is an accusation that Churchill lied on his application to benefit from affirmative action, misrepresenting himself as a Native American. In addition, the investigation looked into charges of "plagiarism" and "fabrication of authority" over an article that Churchill never claimed authorship of in the first place, making accusations of plagiarism highly dubious. Though, the investigation is ongoing, Churchill was cleared of the charges of misrepresentation and it is likely that the plagiarism charge will be dismissed as well. As Churchill's colleague Natsu Taylor Saito has noted, "In other words, out of dozens of accusations against Ward, ranging from treason to advocacy of violence to personal threats to misrepresenting his identity to plagiarism, all that remain are a handful of questions regarding historical interpretation and the conventions of citation or attribution." Regardless, Churchill is still being denied an award for excellence in teaching, despite the fact that none of the charges that have been made deal with his teaching.

THE ADVOCATE

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The Advocate is published three times a semester, in September, October and November, and February, March and April. Submissions should be in by the beginning of the month, and print copies will be on the stacks around the 15th.

Come to The Advocate's
new year open house

Wednesday, Sept 20th

7-9 pm

Room 5396

Free food & wine

Learn how to get involved,
meet the editors,
dance to DJ I-mac!