

Affairs of State

Dorm rates hiked, tuition boosted, too

It's a "small consolation" that MSU residence hall rates are the third lowest in the state, lamented Trustee John Bruff as the board voted for the seventh dorm rate hike in as many years. Starting in the fall, dormitory rates will go up \$30 per term, costing \$1,560 per student for a year. Bruff expressed concern that MSU is moving "away from the land-grant philosophy of offering education to lower-class families."

The Trustees also raised tuition by \$1 a credit hour for in-state freshmen and sophomores, \$1.50 for juniors and seniors, and \$1.50 for graduate students, increasing per-credit cost to \$21.50, \$22.50 and \$29.50, respectively. Out-of-state student tuition was raised by \$4, \$4.50 and \$5, respectively, for the three divisions, putting the cost per credit hour at \$52, \$54, and \$57.

Only Trustee Aubrey Radcliff voted against the tuition hike, saying, "Students today hardly have the capacity to afford higher education."

But the increases in dorm rates and tuition were necessary to cover skyrocketing university operating costs. President Harden said he was reluctant to recommend the tuition increases in view of the "turn-around" appropriation (\$132.6 million) from the Legislature, but added the funds are still insufficient for the university's needs. MSU tuition scarcely lags behind U-M where the price tag per year for freshmen and sophomores is \$1,100 compared with \$1,096 at MSU.

In the residence halls, personnel costs are expected to rise six per cent next year, food eight per cent and utilities approximately 20 per cent. The actual costs of operating the residence halls next year is expected to be \$25 million. That reflects an increase of \$1.7 million — or \$97 per student — over last year.

While on-campus housing costs are going up, off-campus students will also be digging deeper into their pockets. Due to property tax increases in East Lansing, house renters will be facing a \$10 to \$15 a month increase in the fall. A *State News* comparison of MSU residence halls rates with rates for off-campus housing in the area shows that for room, board, utilities and transportation to campus, the residence halls are, on the average, the most expensive housing option, with a monthly cost of \$174. Fraternity and sorority



Residence halls: Moving away from the land-grant philosophy?

houses, houses in Lansing and East Lansing and religious living units run a close second, at approximately \$170.

Apartment living in an East Lansing complex costs approximately \$159 per person. Co-ops are the least expensive with a monthly cost of \$120.

In addition to dorm and tuition rate

hikes, the university has instituted an \$18 fee for the use of Olin Health Center to be paid by students taking more than seven hours per term. Harden said the move was in keeping with a legislative recommendation that student health service be self-supporting through student and user fees.

Faculty says 'no' to bargaining

For the second time in six years, MSU faculty members overwhelmingly voted against unionization for collective bargaining. In the balloting held on campus May 24 and 25, 1,097 — or nearly 60 per cent — of the 2,006 votes were cast for "no agent," rejecting union bids by the MSU Faculty Associates and the American Association of University Professors. Faculty Associates, an affiliate of the National Education Association which represents the largest number of organized faculty in the country due to its strength in two-year colleges, received 26 per cent of the votes cast. The AAUP, took 15.5 per cent of the faculty ballots.

"Academic excellence has won out over mediocrity," declared Economics Professor John Henderson, leader of the Faculty Volunteers against Collective Bargaining. Financed by donations from faculty members, the Volunteers campaigned against the faculty unions, maintaining that collective bargaining would stifle creative expression and individual incentive. As one faculty member put it, a union would "treat everyone as a sheep in a flock."

The decisive anti-bargaining vote surprised many union proponents who felt that the sour economic picture during the

last five years would give the edge to the unions. In only one year of the last six did salary increases at MSU step ahead of the inflation rate. According to the AAUP, Michigan State faculty salaries and benefits ranked tenth in the Big Ten in 1976-77. In Michigan, MSU salaries ranked below U-M, Wayne State and Oakland University. The fringe benefit subcommittee of the University Committee on Faculty Affairs reported just prior to the election that fringe benefits at MSU are below the average benefits offered by Big Ten universities.

Physics Professor Frank Blatt, spokesman for the MSU chapter of the AAUP, expressed disappointment at the low turnout of voters (only 72 per cent of 2,800 eligible faculty members voted, compared to 84 per cent in 1972), but said, "I am pleased with the results — they clearly show the AAUP did better this time than last."

Faculty Associates President Bill Ewens, an associate professor of sociology, was pleased that the result showed that the FA continued to gather more than two-thirds of the pro-collective bargaining vote.

Of the state's 13 four-year schools, only MSU, Grand Valley State, Michigan Tech and U-M are not unionized. Nationally, however, only about one-quarter of the country's more than 600,000 faculty are represented by collective bargaining agents.

Lifel Fash

When classes and classmates children spring, enough earned what splan."

Twen as Willi howev and th 18 to 1977, MSU v The C attract 528 m Colleg

MS in

Or the n tion g stud ence this MSU tions M num the MS Uni 59. T stip lea in bic an en