

UMass tuition to go from \$300 to \$525

By Nina McCain
Globe Staff

AMHERST — The University of Massachusetts trustees voted at a raucous meeting yesterday to increase tuition for 30,000 students on all three UMass campuses.

Tuition for 25,000 undergraduates will go from \$300 to \$525 in four steps over a three-year period, beginning next September. That is a 75 percent increase.

Over the same period, tuition for resident graduate students will go from \$450 to \$670; for medical school students from \$600 to \$900; and for out-of-state graduate students from \$900 to \$1550.

The decision came on a 16-5 vote after an emotional, noisy, often angry 3½-hour meeting at which the trustees listened to 17 student and faculty speakers, all opposed to the increase.

UMass President Robert Wood, Education Secretary Paul Parks and Trustee Chairman Joseph Healey all warned that if the trustees did not adopt a tuition increase the Legislature would do it for them and might force through a much larger increase than the one proposed.

Wood pointed out that the Legislature has already put through a tuition increase for out-of-state undergraduate students, based on 95 percent of the cost of instruction, which the university has figured at \$1598. That means that out-of-state tuition for undergraduates, which had been \$1100, will be \$1550 beginning in January.

"There is a great danger that the Legislature will come back next year and say that in-state tuition also will be based on the cost of instruction," Wood said.

Pointing out that the state colleges already have voted to increase tuition to \$500 in two steps, Parks said that if the university does not increase tuition, "we will see such tremendous budget cuts that we won't be able to provide any education at all."

"If there were a referendum today on a tuition increase, it would win overwhelmingly," Parks said. "If you think you have that kind of political power, go into the political halls and see if you can change that."

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Parks read a statement from Gov. Michael S. Dukakis saying that he would not support the increase unless it contained a bonding provision of financial aid for needy students. At the insistence of Parks, acting for the governor, the tuition motion was strengthened to read that no tuition increase will take effect "unless and until" a financial aid package including tuition waivers had been worked out.

The increase for undergraduates is to occur in steps, with the half-year fee jumping from the present \$150 to \$161 next fall, \$184 in the spring of 1977, \$218 in the fall of 1977 and \$262.50 in the spring of 1978.

The three UMass campuses affected by the trustees' vote are the main campus at Amherst, the Boston branch at Columbus Point and the medical school at Worcester.

The speakers, opposed to the tuition increase, warned that it would keep thousands of low- and middle-income students from getting an education. They charged that the increase was part of an elitist scheme to save the high-tuition private university. They also warned that they would not pay the increase and they will form a student union to bargain with the trustees.

Student trustee Ellen Gavin finished her speech by saying: "I am a token. I know I am a token. But we'll be back at this table at some time in the future and we'll be negotiating from a position of power."

Students on the Amherst campus have been trying to form a student union for several months.

Gavin and several other speakers, elated the trustees for not fighting the tuition increase with the same spirit that they showed in opposing cuts in funds for Wood's downtown Boston office.

Other student speakers called the meeting a farce and said that trustees had already made up their minds about an increase at an executive committee meeting last Wednesday. A UMass official said that the total amount of the increase had been decided at that meeting but that the size of the step increases was worked out later.

Barbara Stack, president of the graduate student assembly, called the meeting "a ritual." She said: "We are gathered here to consecrate a decision already made. We are gathered here in holy collusion."

Two hundred and fifty students packed the room on the 10th floor of the new campus center, where the meeting was held. They lined the wall and sat on the floor around the trustee's table. Students who could not get into the room frequently drowned out the proceedings inside by banging on metal doors and pipes, stomping on the floor above and singing and clapping. At the close of the meeting, the students filed out singing a labor union song "Solidarity Forever."

Earlier, the students had held a "town meeting" in the Student Union Building to hear speakers opposed to the tuition increase. Student leaders said 1400 persons attended the meeting; other observers put the figures between 500 and 700.

Student complained that the tuition increase is misleading because it does not take into account other costs, such as fees and room and board. The student paper ran a chart showing that the total cost on the Amherst campus, including fees and room and board, for this year is \$2684. With the increases in fees, room and board and tuition that figure next year will be \$2955.

Alvin Winder, a spokesman for a faculty group which opposed the tuition increase, said that UMass has the 13th highest charges among state universities in the nation when tuition and fee are both counted. University officials had said that UMass is almost exactly in the middle of 80 major land grant universities -- fees and tuition are higher at 40 of them and lower at 37.

Student speakers were skeptical about the promises of financial aid and waivers of part or all of the tuition to assure needy students they'll be able to attend UMass.

Gavin quoted a "major university president" as saying: "The experience in other places is that the aid never materializes or if it does it never catches up with the need created by the higher tuition — let alone the need that existed

already." Gavin then revealed that the quote came from a speech made by Wood in 1971.

Trustee Alan Shaler, who voted against the increase, said that he could not support it "because 95 percent of the public thinks the money from tuition goes to the colleges. It does not. It goes into the general fund." Shaler said the word "tax" instead of tuition should be used.

In other action at the meeting, the trustees approved a request for the fiscal 1977 year of \$105.1 million for the university and \$11.2 million for the university hospital in Worcester, a total request of \$116.3 million. This year the university received a total of \$101.1 million for all operating expenses.

Average state-college costs in US

State	Tuition & fees (state residents/out-of-state)	Room & Board
Massachusetts		
State colleges	\$355/705*	\$1060
UMass/Amherst	\$91/1391**	1441
UMass/Boston	358/1158	
Connecticut		
State colleges	562/1462	1100
UConn	764/1814	1250
New Hampshire		
State colleges	728/1911	1200
UNH	974/2694	1300
Rhode Island		
RI College	605/1427	1360
URI	710/1750	1534
Maine		
State universities (8 campuses)	450/1500	1395
Vermont		
State colleges	735/2040	1280
UVM	1245/3075	1600
New York	650/1075	1450
New Jersey		
State colleges	535/1070	1400
University	585/1170	1272
Ohio	630/1200	1410
Texas	270/1134	959
California		
State colleges	190/1300	1375
Universities	650/1500	1500-2000

*Tuition at Massachusetts state colleges will increase by \$100 for in-state and \$300 for out-of-state students in January 1976.

**Basic tuition (excluding fees) for in-state students would be increased by \$225 over three years, beginning September 1976, under a plan approved yesterday by UMass trustees. Tuition for out-of-state students will increase by \$450 in January 1976.

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