Students from Virginia are bracing for even more reductions to the Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant (VTAG), having already faced a $755 million reduction for the fall semester.

Preliminary figures show undergraduates may lose another $408 for the spring semester, and lose $150 for the 2003-2004 school year. VTAG cuts affect graduate students as well. To date, graduate students receive about $1,700 down about $300 for the year, with a loss of about $200 more forecasted for the 2003-2004 school year.

According to a letter by the executive director of the State Council for Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), Governor Warner asked all state agencies in August to prepare budget plans for potential reductions in fiscal years 2003 and 2004.

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like,” Miller said.

Jeremy Auker takes care of business in the Business Office while receptionist Renee Suydam looks on.

Students Scrambling

Cuts Send Virginia Students Scrambling

By Jon Trotter Staff Writer

"The best thing students can do in this situation is increase summer earnings.""I saw the reduction for the fall semester when I received my award letter [in the summer], so I worked more during the summer so I wouldn’t have to take out more loans," said Junior Ben Basye, V A, said that work is the only option for covering the shortfall despite taking an 18-credit course load. "I pay out of my own pocket whatever is left after federal aid or university funds. That means more time I have to work at my job to cover the shortfall.”

Just before the board meeting on December 2, Miller believes this questionnaire is less subjective than the creative project and puts individual student interest.

Jeremy Auker takes care of business in the Business Office while receptionist Renee Suydam looks on.

Tuition Goes Up as Aid Goes Down

By Rashad Stewart Contributing Writer

While EMU, like other universities, will not stand still on tuition, the five to seven percent increase recommended by the Board of Trustees follows the normal pattern of the past six years.

From 1996 to 2002, tuition has increased an average of $1,000 per year, according to university enrollment statistics. What is really impacting students is that financial aid is not keeping pace with tuition increases.

“Our financial aid seems to be going down each year rather than increasing,” said Ron Piper, vice president for finance.

“It’s a shame it is almost harder for an in-state student to attend here than those from out of state,” said Director of Financial Aid Michelle Hensley.

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