Softball Senior Honored

By M.J. Sharp
Sports Editor

“Looking at the stats, it’s discouraging...”

Most of the season, injuries plagued the already slim 11-ODAC games. By Carey Yeager
Contributing Writer

EMU students will have to dig a little deeper for next year’s tuition – the Board of Trustees has raised it again.

Following the session of the Strategic Planning Council, the Board of Trustees met in November, when they approved a 5.7 percent range for increased tuition for the school year of 2003-2004. On Feb. 24 of this year, the President’s Cabinet set the increase at 6 percent, which means next year students will be paying $17,350 as compared to this year’s $16,370-5980 more.

Why the need for these extra finances? Vice-President for Finance Ronald Piper said, “The major factor driving the increase was the need to improve student financial aid.”

Yes, students are paying more to pay less. The school’s budget for 2003-2004 consists of $4.6 million in undergraduate financial aid, as opposed to $3.4 million of this year.

Students were a bit miffed at this explanation. Freshmen Joel Shradley bluntly stated, “They would lower tuition, they would not have to give so much financial aid. That’s not rocket science.”

The general feeling was that EMU was expensive enough in the first place. When Emily Chamelin assisted with the admissions Phone-A-Thon for prospective students, there were many negative reactions to the original cost of tuition. She said, “The fact that [EMU] is a very expensive school weighed heavily on their minds. Their financial situation was a big concern.”

Other students are unable to return to EMU next semester for the same reason. Ardi Shihini is planning to work all of next year at Christian Broadcasting Network and Regent University in order to pay for the rest of his schooling. When he heard news of the increase, he simply said, “That’s a horrible idea.”

First-year student Mitch Rowland also agreed and exclaimed, “Thank God I’m going to Arizona next year!”

But the need for more aid is not the only reason for this new tuition rate. Piper explained, “Another factor is the cost of wages and benefits for employees. Approximately $50,000 of the increase is needed for an increase in wages of $4,750 for each employee (an average percentage increase of 2 percent) and increased cost of the University’s share of medical costs for employees.”

Excluding the school years of 1987-88 and 1988-89, the tuition rate has risen every year against having to pay even more for their higher education, EMU’s increase is not as high as the average private 4-year institution’s, which is 7.8 percent.

Tuition Increased, Again

By Carey Yeager
Contributing Writer

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