

MONTGAZETTE

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Tuition Hike for Full-time Students



(Photo by Anna Fazen)
Phi Theta Kappa Co-president Brenda Landt answers phones from contributors during the Phone-a-thon. (Story on page 11).

By Marcye Davis

The tuition rate of \$50.00 per credit will remain in force for the second year in a row, according to college president Edward M. Sweitzer, but approximately 20% of the campus population will still have to deal with a tuition increase. MCCC joins six other area community colleges in a pay per credit tuition system.

The students that will be affected by the policy are those taking more than 12 credits per semester. In the past a flat fee was charged for 12 or more credits, but beginning next semester each credit will cost \$50.00, an increase for some stu-

dents of \$50 to \$150.

According to Board Finance Committee chairman Charles Kahn, Jr., the college is taking this step in the interest of fairness. "This is an equitable means of assessing educational costs that ensure all students at MCCC will be paying the same credit hour rate regardless of their course load."

The student activities fee that is assessed along with tuition each semester will also change. The current part-time rate of \$13. and full time rate of \$27. revert to \$2. per credit for part-time students and \$3. per credit for full-time students.

Brian Bendlinger, the Director of Student Activities feels that he will be able to meet the

needs of both full-time and part-time students as well as the needs of the school's non-traditional students.

Brendlinger feels that the change will in no way decrease the services that SA provides and that in some ways the services will increase.

The last tuition change at MCCC was in 1988 when rates were raised from \$45. to \$50. per credit hour.

Other area colleges have made the switch to pay per credit recently, also. Jim Loughery, who works in the Finance Department of Bucks County Community College (BCCC) said that they made the switch last year. Although per credit rates at BCCC are only \$45.00 per credit, he feels that it will only be a short time before they are at \$50. per credit, also.

Tuition rates at other area colleges are: Philadelphia Community College, \$55. per credit; Delaware County Community College, \$44. per credit; and Reading Community College \$44. per credit.

Delaware County College has a much different system than MCCC. Only students from sponsoring school districts (those that pay part of their annual budget to the college) can attend the school at the \$44. per credit rate. Even if a student lives in the county and their home is right next door to the college, if their school district does not support the college, the student would have to pay the outside rate of \$95.00 per credit.

Lougherty feels that compared to colleges such as L. Salle where one course easily outprices an entire semester here, community colleges are a bargain, even with the increase.

Dr. Sweitzer agrees. "We wish to hold to our plan of controlling tuition and keeping it as low as possible," he said and added the fact that MCCC tuitions continue to be one-half to two-thirds less than any other college in the region.

Lougherty also pointed to Williamsport Community College that was recently forced to close due to insolvency. "Unless the school has a Daddy Warbucks who will support the college, tuition increases are the only way to keep up with the rising costs that colleges face," he said.

Stop All Smoking Is Proposed Here

By Mike Dean

Smokers Beware! The Student Life Committee has made a proposal that would eliminate smoking in all the college buildings. The proposal is now being evaluated by Dr. Sweitzer, president of MCCC.

The new policy suggests prohibiting smoking in the college's buildings. It would also forbid sales of any type of tobacco on the campus. Violators of the proposal would be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Students and faculty will be affected if Dr. Sweitzer and the appropriate committees agree to the proposal. Now smoking is prohibited to special areas in each building.

The SLC planned this proposal using national reports on the harmful effects of smoking on non-smokers. The SLC believes the students have a right to a smoke-free environment.

Another point made by the SLC is that the present smoking regulations are not effective. Space limitations and cost factors were majors points that help to lead to the suggested ban.



College representatives discuss career options with students (from left) John Astorino, Jennifer Donovan and Cari Taylor.

Spring Enrollment 10% Over Last Year

By Steve Derr

Spring enrollment at Montco has gone up 10% since last year. The total enrollment is now 7,485 as of February 9. According to Dennis Murphy, Director of Admissions, there are 2,290 full-time students and 5,195 part-time students.

Why are there so many part-time students? Murphy says that the part-time students come to Montco because of the quality faculty, flexible schedule, affordable tuition and the staff support here is excellent.

The full-time students seem to be most interested in Business Administration transfer. Other large majors are Nursing, Elementary Education, Communications, Biological Science and General Studies. The busiest time at Montco is

definitely in the morning between 9 and 12 in the morning. There are also many students here in the evening.

"Our enrollment has gone up consistently over the past few years. It is the biggest enrollment we have had since the early eighties. Last year, it was up 7% and the year before 2%."

What is one of the causes that Murphy accounts the great leap in admission to? "We are celebrating our 25th Anniversary and that has brought a lot of positive attention to the college. This is one of the reasons for the jump in our enrollment."

What's in store for next year? "We will be growing. We'll be growing off-campus. We have 60 students at the Naval Base up from 17 last semester and our enrollment has increased at our other off-campus sites."