

SC board raises fall student tuition

Student tuition will go up \$1.50 a credit hour at Schoolcraft College next fall.

The board of trustees gave 8-0 to a flat increase after expressing unhappiness with the state funding process.

President C. Nelson Grote said a tuition increase is practically mandated by the State Appropriations Act, which assigns tuitions a "fair share" of overall funding. The "fair share" is deducted from the state appropriation, whether or not the college charges the full amount.

For the semester that begins in late August, residents of the Schoolcraft district will pay \$17 per credit hour; non-residents, \$27.50; and out-of-state residents, \$40.50.

The last tuition increase occurred in 1976.

THE TUITION hike was made across-the-board, but trustees and administrators offered other ideas for future consideration.

Richard Hayward suggested a "sliding scale" — charging more per credit hour to a person who takes only a few hours and less per hour to one who takes a full 15-hour load. The purpose would be to encourage more full-time registrations.

Mark McQuesten noted it's cheaper to educate liberal arts students than vocational-technical students and suggested tuition scales to reflect that.

Grote said one solution would be to charge tuition by the "contact" hour rather than the credit hour. A student taking a four-hour English course has four contact hours, but a student taking a four-hour chemistry course has seven contact hours — four lecture and three laboratory.

Board Chairman Paul Y. Kadish had no qualms about raising tuition though he has long favored keeping it low. Although the college has nearly 10,000 students and the district 140,000 voters, only 3,000 yes votes were recorded in the recent tax hike election. "Our student body has spoken loud and clear," said Kadish.

For about five years, local property taxes have made up about 30 percent of Schoolcraft's revenue, tuition and fees 30 percent and state appropriations 40 percent.

IN ADDITION, a number of fees will be hiked in fall by administrative action.

A new "drop-add" fee, to be paid by persons dropping or adding a course during the late registration period, will be \$2.

Commencement fee will be raised \$5 to \$15. Private music lessons will be hiked \$32 per semester to \$96. Grote said this \$4 a lesson charge hasn't been changed for about eight years. The increase is the first of two, he said, to bring the price closer to actual cost.

Hourly rate at the child care center will be raised 20 cents to \$1 an hour, but registration fees will remain unchanged.

Physical education uniform rentals will be increased 50 cents to \$1.25 per semester.

McQuesten criticized the entire fee structure as "nickel and diming the students to death. These fees are coming out to \$3 or \$4 a credit hour. Why don't you come out front and tell them?" he said, suggesting the fees be built into the tuition charge.



Stormy Sunday

While last weekend's icestorm may have put many people in the dark, it had a bright side, too, forming lavish ice sculptures on

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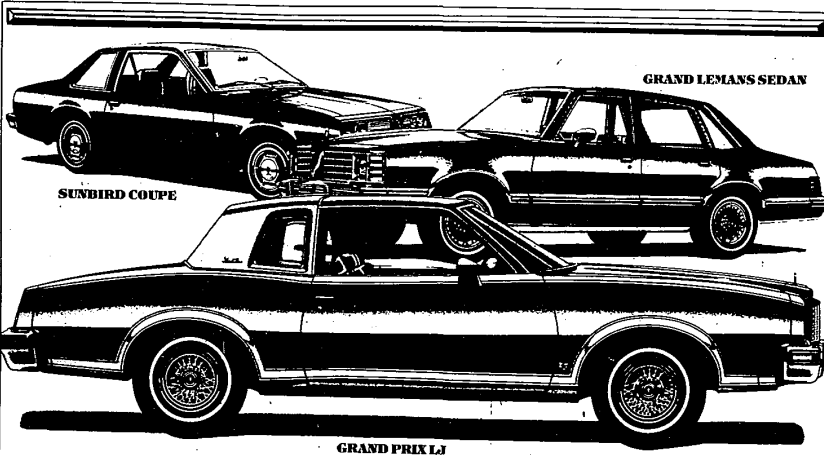
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