COMM

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

THE COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

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GROWING CONCERN OVER RAISE IN TUITION

by Paul Wilkie

Crowd builds outside Kendall Hall as students and community members express frustration.

Frustrated students and community members organized on the steps of Kendall Hall Dec. 1 to protest the ongoing rise in tuition and to organize an Occupy Chico State movement.

Student frustration has been fueled by a $650 million decrease in California State University funding announced July 2011. An additional $100 million will be cut from the CSU system because state revenue goals for 2011 have not been met, according to a CSU Public Affairs announcement.

The new in-state cost of tuition at Chico State, coupled with rising fees, makes the average cost around $6,442 a year, according to a Los Angeles Times article. The CSU Board of Trustees approved another 9 percent fee hike for the 2012–2013 academic year, according to a recent article from The Orion.

John King, a 2010 organizational communications graduate, said he was at the movement because he understands paying for school will become nearly impossible.

"I'm broke just like everyone else," King said. "What students are fighting for is a very pertinent issue, the increases hurt us all."

Tuition hikes are causing communication design student Garrett Perrigo's parents to pay more money for less education, older equipment and an overall disadvantage in the post-college job market, Perrigo said. He slept outside Kendall Hall with fellow supporters the night of Dec. 1.

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