

A-State's administrative staff to propose \$975 flat tuition rate

By Charlene Oldham
The Herald staff

Arkansas State University is going back to its roots, at least where billing tuition is concerned, according to Molly Mayer, Student Government Association president.

Mayer, at Wednesday's SGA meeting, announced plans by ASU's senior administrative staff to recommend to the Board of Trustees at their Dec. 17 meeting that a flat tuition fee of \$975 be adopted for all students taking 12 or more hours. If instituted, the change back to a flat fee would begin in the summer of 1995.

The recommendation, while going back to the university's former practice of billing by flat fee rather than by tuition hour, is a \$175 increase over the last flat fee, which was changed to a per-credit-hour rate following the second 1993 summer term.

Under the current per-credit-hour billing system, an in-state undergraduate student taking 15 hours would pay \$900 in tuition. Under the proposed change, that same student will be paying \$975.

The change, however, does not indicate an actual tuition increase since the infrastructure fee, formerly a separate item on the bill, would be

included in the tuition figure, Mayer said.

"The infrastructure fee will still be there. But, it'll all be one number," Mayer said. "That also means that people with tuition scholarships will have their infrastructure fee paid as well."

This fee change, while including the \$4-per-credit-hour infrastructure fee, will represent an increase for any student taking 15 hours or less, but will be a decrease for students taking more than 15 hours.

Mayer said the change was a result of the administration's feeling that a per-credit-hour fee caused many students to take less hours, thereby costing the university state funds.

"The less hours a person takes, the less (money) the school gets from the state," Mayer said. "ASU can actually lose money on a student that way."

Also Wednesday, the SGA passed a resolution recommending a lounge in the library be named as a memorial to Dr. Robert Hoskins, former interim president and vice president for academic affairs. The lounge is to be dedicated during the Convocation of Scholars Week in April of 1995.

As a possible compromise on a long-standing SGA agenda item, the university post office's new hours

was also announced at the Wednesday night meeting. According to Mayer, talks were underway to extend the hours to 2 a.m. This is slightly different from the SGA's original aim for 24-hour access. But, Mayer says she thinks the change will be adequate for most students' schedules.

"Hopefully, most people will manage to get in before 2 a.m. or after 8 a.m.," Mayer said.

Mayer also announced that organizational mailboxes should be installed in the SGA office over Christmas break. The boxes will be used by organizations, and the people who want to get in touch with them, to mass-mail information between them.

An attempt to increase communication was also behind another announcement concerning on-campus phone lines. The SGA is currently searching for locations to install free on-campus phones from which students can make local and campus calls. Some suggested locations for the proposed phone lines have been the Carl R. Reng Center and the Dean B. Ellis Library.

Wednesday's meeting was the SGA's last of the semester. By SGA tradition, the "Christmas meeting" is always a casual dinner. This year's meeting was held at Bonanza Family Restaurant in Jonesboro.

