

Letter: Universities have a spending problem

9:56 a.m. EDT May 6, 2016

John Boyle's story, "Is a college education really worth the costs?" in the May 1 edition of the Citizen-Times was right on target. He accurately portrayed the problem faced by most families across the nation — paying for a college education.

Over the past 35 years, public college tuition skyrocketed 12 times, doubling the rate of medical cost increases and quadrupling the rate of inflation. There were no legislative hearings on controlling costs, no action taken by state boards to reduce spending, and no changes in the way universities were managed.

The results were catastrophic — a \$1.3 trillion student-loan debt — college access limited for millions, their daily spending ability curtailed, and their capability to make major purchases delayed. The suggestion by Lou Bisette, chairman of UNC Board of Governors, for the state to raise the limit on the percentage of out-of-state students won't solve the problem.

Universities don't need more money; they have a spending problem. The Board of Governors needs to face reality and force universities to spend less — change the way they do business, reduce administrative costs, eliminate deadwood faculty, and cut frivolous courses — without affecting the quality of education. Students can no longer afford business as usual.

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