

Uniting against rising tuition

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University Democrats and College Republicans overlooked their political differences to join forces Wednesday evening to draw attention to skyrocketing college tuition costs. State Democratic Sen. Juan Hinojosa and state Republican Sen. Dan Patrick appeared together at the Tuition Relief Now! event in Garrison Hall.

“There’s one issue that transcends politics: Nobody wants their tuition to go higher,” said College Republicans President Michael Garcia.

Since fall 2003, the cost of attending UT has risen nearly 57 percent, placing more financial stress on students and their families. “Action Wednesday,” the name of the Tuition Relief Now! event, aimed to find a resolution for the problem.

“Our goal is to clearly communicate to our Student Government representatives that our students and their families need tuition relief now,” said University Democrats President Jimmy Talarico. The SG representatives will vote on resolutions about the cost of attendance next Tuesday.

“I understand that they want us to be a competitive leader as a university in the U.S. and the world, but there are better ways to spend our money,” Garcia said.

During the meeting, students e-mailed representatives their opinions about the cost of tuition on laptops provided at the auditorium. One of the evening’s objectives was to fill the inbox of every representative to demonstrate student involvement.

On Feb. 26, the Democrats and Republicans plan to take this issue to the Capitol grounds to lobby on behalf of all university students across Texas before the legislative process gets underway in March.

“We want to organize students to make sure their voices are heard clearly at the Capitol,” Talarico said.



Lara Haase; The Daily Texan

