University requests tuition freeze from state legislature

Pastides asks subcommittee for more state funding

Hannah Jeffrey
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USC President Harris Pastides asked for $10.1 million from the state government Wednesday, so the university can what if the university calls a “tuition timeout.”

The $10.1 million request is equivalent to a 3-percent tuition raise, which would cover retirement, health insurance and salary costs, this gap has been bridged by tuition cost hikes in years past. The money would be spread across all eight campuses in the USC system.

If the request is approved, Pastides promised to give state legislators credit in tuition dollars to students.

While addressing a state House Ways and Means subcommittee, Pastides said the university could not find the last time tuition had stayed the same from one year to the next, even though staff members reviewed tuition costs from the past 25 years.

Although last year’s tuition increase of a little more than 3 percent was the lowest increase in recent history, Pastides said it was not enough.

Instead of bringing several requests to the committee, as Pastides said he was advised to do, he opted to ask only for state funding for the tuition freeze, straying from requests made in past years.

“Today is a historic moment for our flagship university and for South Carolina’s government,” he said, “I hope we can agree it’s not time for business as usual.

According to the U.S. News & World Report, USC ranks among the most efficient universities in the country, but it’s far lower on the list when it comes to its financial resources per student.

“Tuition is the largest revenue generator for public universities in the United States, but it’s not the primary source of income for USC,” Pastides said.

Pastides promised to give the House budget committee a detailed overview of the state’s contribution to USC tuition.

“Today is a historic moment for our flagship university and for South Carolina’s government,” he said, “I hope we can agree it’s not time for business as usual.

Pattie Pit
toppit@dailygamecock.com

Corey Green, the new executive chef of Russell House’s Grand Market Place, left London for Columbia in a heartbeat.

“I’m originally from South Carolina, so I’m a Gamecock fan,” Green said. “I saw this post at Sodexo, and I jumped at the chance. It’s definitely a great opportunity.

Green is a classically trained chef in French cuisine and an alumnus of the Art Institute of Atlanta, he worked in Atlanta for two years before taking his first job as a chef.

Green’s resume also includes the Waynesville Inn Golf Resort & Spa in the mountains of North Carolina, where he worked as the executive chef for two years, running his own restaurant in Camden and working for two-and-a-half years in London.

The quantity of food prepared at USC is very different than what Green dealt with during his time dining experience, he said.

Classically trained chef comes to cook at USC

Haley focuses on jobs, schools

Word Frequency in Gov. Haley’s State of the State

15 K-12 education

7 jobs

7 ethics

welfare

4 Obamacare

2 American Idol

0 higher education

Compiled by Thad Moore

The second supports an effort to oppose the Anti-LEED Standards Bill, which would eliminate the state’s use of the LEED efficiency standards. The guidelines were used in the construction of the Horseshoe Residence Hall, Patonson Hall and West Quad.

A bill that would let the senate finance committee divvy up funds for student organizations was also introduced. The bill would allow Student Government to change how it distributes money, moving away from one big bill to cover all student organizations each semester to a rolling funding model. The change would let organizations ask for money throughout the year.

In order to solidify the number of staffers and their roles for executive positions, the resolution supports new roles for executive officers’ staffs while requiring them to submit a bill that would review and restructure the 100 positions, three per tiering to the three executive officers.

However, this legislation was carried over to next week’s meeting to allow time for the committee that will be made this week.

Senate also tabled a new version of the new executive elections, which will take place on the Service Carolina instead of the VIP system.

New year sees new legislation in senate

Lobbying resolutions, finance bill introduced in weekly meeting

Hannah Jeffrey
senior@dailygamecock.com

Four pieces of legislation were introduced at the student senate’s Wednesday meeting, including two resolutions to support efforts to lobby the state General Assembly.

One resolution supports a collaboration between USC and the legislature to keep tuition costs down after years of tuition increases.

The second supports an effort to oppose the Anti-LEED Standards Bill, which would eliminate the state’s use of the LEED efficiency standards. The guidelines were used in the construction of the Horseshoe Residence Hall, Patonson Hall and West Quad.

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Columbia airport faces snow delays, cancellations

The Columbia Metropolitan Airport faced flight delays and cancellations Wednesday after snow fell across the Northeast, according to The State. Incoming flights from New York and Washington were canceled, and flights leaving Columbia to New York and Philadelphia saw delays of up to four-and-a-half hours. Connecting flights out of Charlotte and Atlanta saw delays as well, though flights to those airports were mostly on time.

While airport officials stranded passengers and dealt with the snow from the storm over the next few days, more delays are expected. Passengers are encouraged to check the status of incoming and outgoing flights with airlines and at http://columbiaairport.com.

State Rep. B.R. Skelton, R-Pickens, who made similar tuition suggestions to university presidents in the past, thanked the Pastides for his efforts and said, “I know the drastic discrepancies. The governor dedicated a significant portion of her speech to the disparities in K-12 education and classroom resources across South Carolina. She juxtaposed her daughter’s high school — Lexington’s newly built River Bluff High School, which is equipped with 72-inch televisions in every classroom — and her former high school in Bamberg, which did not have video equipment during a recent visit by Haley, as examples of the drastic discrepancies.

Some South Carolina schools do not even have Internet. Haley said she would be remanded with new wiring accompanied by up-to-date technological tools. She also pledged support for increased literacy, calling for a reading coach in every elementary school to ensure “no child leaves the third grade unable to read.”

The third grade is a critical point for child literacy, Haley said, because children “cannot read and understand what they are reading.” South Carolinians are about to “make headway,” Haley said. “You might ask the question, ‘How do we pay for it?’ And my answer will be, ‘by hiking taxes.’”

Haley also called for the elimination of the cap on an individual income tax bracket, citing a recent income tax reduction in North Carolina as resulting in some taxpayers $297 per year. The governor dedicated a significant portion of her speech to the disparities in K-12 education and classroom resources across South Carolina. She juxtaposed her daughter’s high school — Lexington’s newly built River Bluff High School, which is equipped with 72-inch televisions in every classroom — and her former high school in Bamberg, which did not have video equipment during a recent visit by Haley, as examples of the drastic discrepancies.

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SHE SNORES MORE THAN I DO, BUT I STILL LOVE MY HUMAN.
— BANDIT
adopted 11-26-09

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11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Russell House Ballroom
Join us to learn how you can study, intern, research or volunteer abroad, and see the world for yourself.

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CHEF • Continued from 1

“Usually with fine dining, you don’t do over 100 people,” he said. “So here it’s more student-focused, more volume-focused.”

Though he is now busy preparing meals for a lot more people, Green has had a smooth transition into his new position at the Russell House.

“I’ve been around the business for a long time,” he said. “A kitchen, whether with 100 people or 10,000, it’s pretty much the same thing and the same mechanics.”

Green’s favorite part about his new job is the energy of the students and the energy of the staff. He enjoys working with the Russell House staff, some of whom have been working at USC for as long as 15 years.

“This campus is like tons of excitement,” he said. “I’m glad to be here as a representative of the University of South Carolina. It’s a special time for this campus, I believe.”

A chef traditionally trained in French cuisine, Green’s favorite meal to prepare is leg of lamb with steak fries and Bearnaise sauce.

And despite only recently taking over as executive chef, he already enjoys working at USC.

“Overall, I’ve been here for a month,” he said, “and I think it’s going to be a really great fit for myself.”

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Thurs. Jan. 23
6 p.m., RH 203

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7 p.m., RH 203

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7 p.m., RH 203

The University of South Carolina is an equal opportunity institution.
**Parents should not decide for children**

The act of circumcision, whether performed in infancy or adulthood, is a deeply personal decision. As such, it is up to the individual to decide whether or not to undergo the procedure. In the case of infant circumcision, the decision often falls to the parents, but it is important to remember that these are not the child’s choices. The child has no understanding of the implications of the decision and cannot provide informed consent.

Circumcision is a medical procedure that involves the removal of the foreskin, which is the fold of skin that covers the glans of the penis. While some believe that circumcision offers health benefits, such as reducing the risk of infections and certain types of cancer, others argue that it is a violation of bodily autonomy.

It is crucial for parents to educate themselves about the procedure and its potential risks and benefits. They should also consult with a healthcare provider who can provide guidance and answer any questions they may have. Ultimately, the decision to circumcise should be made with the child’s best interests in mind, and it should be a decision that respects the child’s autonomy and well-being.
In “Her,” writer/director Spike Jonze (“Being John Malkovich,” “Where the Wild Things Are”) has struck the perfect note: It’s a beautiful, funny, moving and legitimately romantic science fiction film.

“Her” is set in the foreseeable future, with a setting that makes it one of the most quietly realistic futuristic films ever made.

Theodore Twombly (Joaquin Phoenix), whose name sounds like a Roald Dahl character, is a quiet man shuffling through life in Los Angeles. He writes letters for people by dictating to a computer that writes his words on handwritten paper.

“For many college students, the 21st birthday is all about marking (legal) firsts — making a trip to Five Points, buying a drive, taking a shot, being carded.”

Hitting those milestones isn’t a race, but it doesn’t always take long. Take this recent three-hour Five Points outing:

**Midnight**

Arrive at Pinch with a group of about 10 people. Notice every bar in Five Points suddenly has a line.

**12:20 a.m.**

Still waiting in line at Pinch. We decide we are too committed to waiting at this point, so we continue to wait.

**12:30 a.m.**

Manage to get parents, a friend and myself into Pinch.

**12:35 a.m.**

Parents buy me my first legal shot; it’s Fireball.

**12:40 a.m.**

Parents leave; I take shots with my girlfriends.

**12:50 a.m.**

Closed Bar None, went back to a friend’s house, took as many more shots as I could. Allegedly.

**1:13 a.m.**

Challenge a friend to a chugging contest; he chugs beer, and I chug vodka and some juice.

**1:14 a.m.**

I win in chugging. (Okay, we tied.)

**1:20 a.m.**

Go to Bar None and ask the bouncer to quiz me on my ID.

**1:21 a.m.**

Bouncer asks me for the cube root of 125. I tell him I’m horrible at math.

**1:25 a.m.**

Proceed to take tequila shots with friends.

**1:26 a.m. to 3:30 a.m.**

Closed Bar None, went back to a friend’s house, took as many more shots as I could. Allegedly.

**3:30 a.m.**

Put to bed.

‘Her’ a beautiful, affecting sci-fi romance

Phoenix delivers great performance in love story with futuristic twist

Jonathan Winchell

Director: Spike Jonze

Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Scarlett Johansson, Amy Adams, Rooney Mara, Chris Pratt

Rating: R for language, sexual content and brief graphic nudity

In “Her,” writer/director Spike Jonze (“Being John Malkovich,” “Where the Wild Things Are”) has struck the perfect note. It’s a beautiful, funny, moving and legitimately romantic science fiction film.

“Her” is set in the foreseeable future, with a setting that makes it one of the most quietly realistic futuristic films ever made. Theodore Twombly (Joaquin Phoenix), whose name sounds like a Roald Dahl character, is a quiet man shuffling through life in Los Angeles. He writes letters for people by dictating to a computer that writes his words on handwritten paper.

**Joanna Phoenix turns in another great, subtle performance in “Her.”**
While walking home, he sees an advertisement for a new operating system, which is accessed through a small device like an iPhone that is the newest technology in artificial intelligence. The system is designed to service every need of its user and to function as a multi-purpose tool. Theodore buys one, thus it up and begins talking to Samantha (voiced by Scarlett Johansson), his new operating system.

Bashful but intrigued, he begins questioning Samantha and strikes up a warm rapport with her. Before long, Samantha starts growing in awareness and becomes a fully formed person, just one without a body, and the two fall in love with each other.

The premise is one that could have gone wrong in so many places, but Jonze never lets it slip away. He’s not showing a future with flying cars or jet packs but rather one focused on characters and their intimate relationships, human and digital. It is rather remarkable how believable the advancements in technology are and how humans use them in their daily lives.

For some, the basic premise may sound like a crude SNL sketch in which a man ends up humping his computer monitor, but the film could not be farther from that. The connection Theodore and Samantha form is more honest, resonant and legitimately sexy than most romantic films these days.

In a world where phones and gadgets have become a huge distraction in people’s lives — to the point where they are not really living them — the idea of forming a bond between a human and a form of artificial intelligence is not absurd; it’s prescient. Forget gay marriage, the next debate will be about marriage between human and operating system.

Joaquin Phoenix continues to show that he is one of the best actors working today, going from a gnarled, alcoholic soldier in Paul Thomas Anderson’s “The Master” in 2012 to a nebbish writer with a glasses and a little mustache in “Her.”

Perhaps the best performance of all is Scarlet Johansson’s, even though there is nothing visually to behold. Her purely vocal performance is as good as any on-screen performance last year. It is an especially playful detail to cast one of the screen’s greatest beauties and not ever show her. Her voice, added greatly by Jonze’s intelligent writing, gives her a presence lacking in many of the bimbos in most romantic comedies.

Joi, the role was taken over by Johansson in post-production. Knowing she was working against previously recorded footage makes her performance especially wondrous.

The set design has an earthy, warm hue to it that feels paradoxically retro. The characters do not wear monochromatic jumpsuits or clownish, Hunger Games-like getups, but rather lots of woolen clothes. There are plenty of slick, mechanical contraptions surrounding the characters, but the future does not seem like the nightmarish hellscape it usually does in sci-fi film.

“Her” works on so many levels: as a visionary glimpse into the future, a perceptive character study and a thought-provoking look into the power of love and empathy, even in the most unusual of circumstances.

No matter what is invented or what the future brings, in “Her,” love is what sustains us.
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Men's tennis seniors set for ITA Kick-off Weekend

South Carolina to face pair of top-25 programs in Starkville, Miss.

College Taylor

Two matches against top-25 opponents are all that stands between the South Carolina men's tennis team and national recognition. This weekend the Gamecocks travel to Starkville, Miss., to face the Ole Miss Rebels and Mississippi State Bulldogs at the ITA Kick-off Weekend.

"This is a qualification for the top 16 teams in the country, which is where we want to put ourselves for the rest of the year," coach Josh戈f said. "This is the biggest event that we've been able to make it to in four years, and we're excited to be able to go up against such strong competition. We've worked extremely hard for this opportunity, and we're ready to make the most of it.

"The seniors have been a driving force behind our success this season, and we're excited to be able to celebrate them with a win this weekend. They've put in the hard work and dedication required to be successful, and we're grateful for their contributions to the team."