

Petition to lower tuition makes rounds on LewisU app

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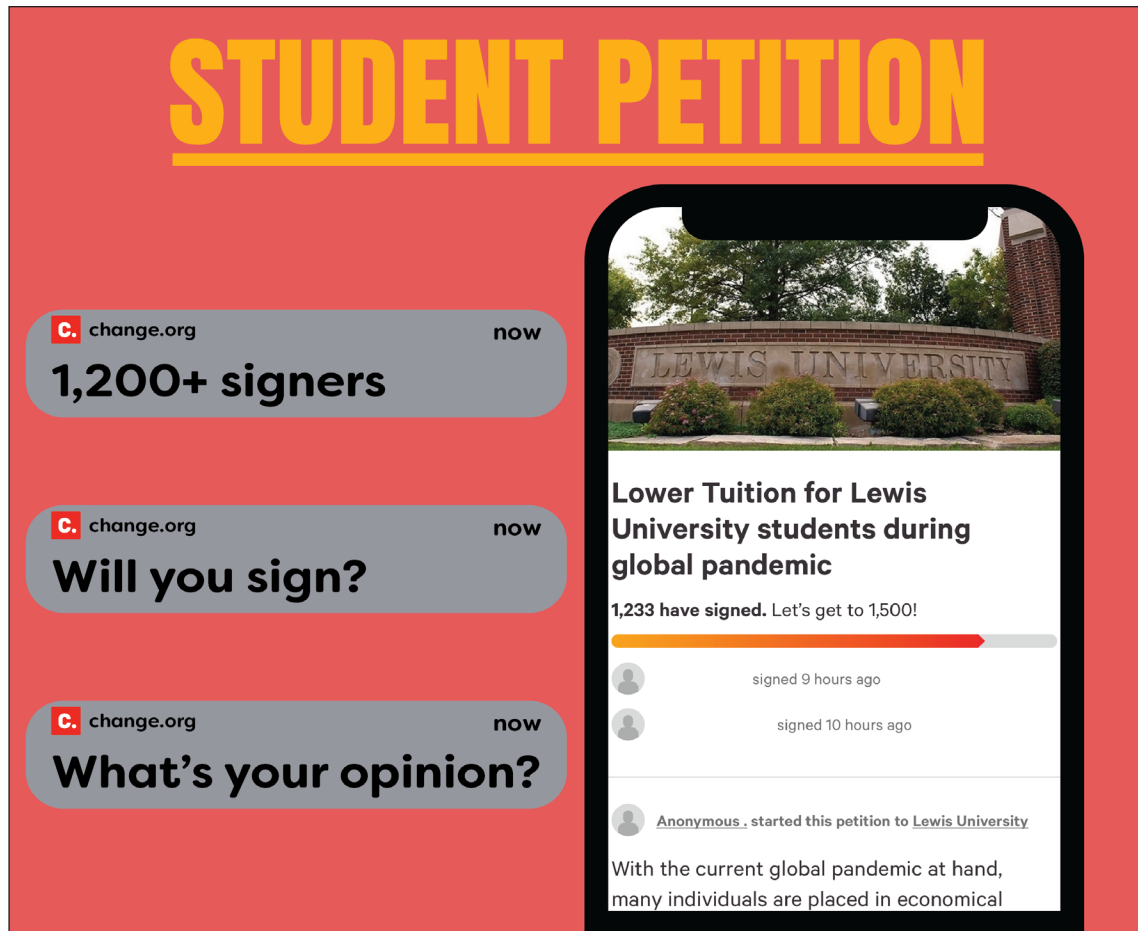
DEREK SWANSON
MANAGING EDITOR

A petition created by an anonymous Lewis student on Sept. 25 has earned over 1,200 signatures from supporters calling for the university to lower tuition. The petition has been making rounds across social media and the LewisU app and now stands at an updated goal of 1,500 signatures.

The petition states, "With the uncertainty of the current situation, Lewis University should lower tuition costs to help relieve the current stress placed on students as they try to continue their education during the global pandemic."

Students who left feedback on the petition shared similar responses including, "I am teaching myself" or "My tuition is too high." There were even some family members involved with similar statements including, "My son attends Lewis" or "My niece goes here and tuition is expensive."

In response to the global pandemic creating hardships for people emotionally, physically and financially, some college students believe tuition should be lowered substantially due to classes either being entirely online, or adapted into the hybrid format.



STUDENT PETITION

change.org now
1,200+ signers

change.org now
Will you sign?

change.org now
What's your opinion?

Lower Tuition for Lewis University students during global pandemic
1,233 have signed. Let's get to 1,500!

signed 9 hours ago
signed 10 hours ago

Anonymous . started this petition to Lewis University

With the current global pandemic at hand, many individuals are placed in economical

ANTHONY BEIMAL / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

James Taylor, a sophomore aviation flight management major, is one of the 1,200 students who signed the petition. Taylor saw the petition being shared on Snapchat and after reading it, decided to sign it.

"I've been through so many struggles this summer, especially financially, so I instantly related," said Taylor. "Although I worked this summer, I wasn't being paid as much,

so as my income decreased, all my expenses, like school for instance, remained stagnant. I believe tuition should be decreased."

Taylor understands that if tuition were to decrease, cuts have to be made. "It's a tough topic because I don't want professors cut or underpaid, nor do I want sport teams to be removed, but I do want tuition to be lowered. Sacrifices

have to be made."

Taylor himself has made sacrifices this year. He was a former resident student who has now switched to commuting to minimize the cost of attendance.

Financial stress was the main reason James Sparks, senior data science major, signed the petition and promoted it on the LewisU app. Sparks, who had previously

been relying on financial aid to pay for his schooling, discovered a few weeks before the start of the semester that his scholarship was no longer active for this school year.

Sparks was told that the Office of Financial Aid required certain documents, including his parent's tax returns, to be

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Lewis mourns loss of student athlete, Dominique Wood

STEPHANIE LINGENFELTER
NEWS EDITOR

On July 22, the Lewis community lost one of their own; Sophomore Dominique Wood was involved in a car accident in Homewood, IL, and ultimately succumbed to his injuries. He was 19 years old.

Wood was a sprinter on the track and field team and according to his coach, Dana Schwarting, "Dominique was a very positive person. He loved track and field and brought a positive attitude to practice each day, which was infectious."

Wood was originally from Merrillville, IN where he attended high school and ran on the school's track team.

He was only able to participate in one season of track and field at Lewis, in which he competed in two meets. His first meet was at the University of Iowa's Jimmy Grant Invite where he competed in the 60 and 300-meter dash, getting times of 7.23 and 35.76 seconds, respectively. At the

Grand Valley State University Holiday Open, he competed in the 400-meter run and earned a time of 51.11 seconds. At the same meet, he earned fifth place for the 4x400 relay with a time of 3:22:19.

Even though his time at Lewis was short, Wood made a lasting impact on his teammates.

"He fit in well with the rest of the sprinters and pushed people in practice each day. In his only year on the team he touched so many people on both the men's and women's team, and his presence will be missed, but continue to inspire those he touched," said Schwarting.

On Sept. 24, Lewis held a memorial service for Wood that was live streamed on their YouTube channel. The service was conducted by Father Dennis, the university's chaplain.

The beautiful service included music, Bible passages read by students and tear-jerking speeches. His mom, Nichole Wood, spoke first.

She expressed her gratitude to Lewis for having the memorial for her son and thanked God for providing her and her family with a wonderful boy. She also promised to be in the stands for all the future track and field matches to show support to Wood's teammates that meant so much to him.

Some of his teammates also spoke. They described him as someone who was always looking to meet new people, a devoted athlete and a supportive friend that always knew how to put a smile on anyone's face.

Schwarting spoke next, describing Wood as a role model who worked hard for his sport and his academics. He was a natural leader and natural athlete. He also announced that the athletic department will be starting a scholarship in Wood's name for a Lewis athlete and renaming the outdoor track meet held yearly at Lewis, The Dominique Wood Invitational.

Dr. David Livingston spoke last. He talked about the hard-



LUIS CHAVEZ

Friends and family gather at the campus memorial for Dominique Wood.

ship of losing someone so unexpectedly and urged the Lewis community to support each other and look towards hope.

Wood will be deeply missed

by the entire Lewis community. Counseling services are available for any student who may need help through this difficult time.

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