

Tuition Policy Advisory Council
Meeting Notes
April 1, 2004

The Tuition Policy Advisory Council met on Thursday, April 1, 2004 in 504 Rudder Tower. The meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m.

The Office of the Vice President for Finance has developed a tuition forecasting model, which will calculate revenue-based various tuition and fee options. Currently, the model will calculate scenarios based on differential tuition by program and to some degree for tuition as an incentive/disincentive. At this time, the model is not set up to calculate tuition based on classification, fixed tuition, flat-rate tuition, nor shifting fees to tuition.

The model makes the following assumptions:

- Includes State Mandated Tuition, University Authorized Tuition, Graduate Tuition Differential, Teaching Supplement for Tenured Faculty in lower division courses
- The rate for formula funding is the same as the current rate (\$51.25)
- Enrollment is the same as for spring, summer, and fall 2003 (03A, B, C)
- Designated tuition rates changed in midyear to \$55—estimated tuition comparison assumes tuition was \$44 for whole year
- Estimated change is net of set-asides from designated tuition; TPEG has not been taken out
- State Mandated Tuition is computed based on how a student pays
- TAMU maintains the same size “piece of the pie” (formula funding) as FY2004

The issue was raised as to whether or not the current system, SIMS, would be capable of implementing the recommendations of the Council. The new system should be in place in about two years and that the budget has already been set for next year, so this may only be an issue for the following year.

Students and parents want affordability and predictability when planning for college. One way to meet these needs would be to perhaps freeze tuition for three semesters at a time, in order to provide time to plan financially. Another alternative would be to incrementally increase tuition over a set period of time, with an upper cap set on tuition so that individuals would know that it would not increase more than a certain amount over the course of a preset period of time.

Another issue of consideration for students is class availability. It was suggested that student government send information to the deans regarding this issue in an effort to enhance course availability.

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 8. Subsequent to the April 8 meeting, the Council will meet on Thursday, April 29, to wrap up issues before the students leave for the summer. For the meeting on April 29, the committee was asked to pick their

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preferred forms of tuition to research and bring that information forward to the committee for discussion. A sub-committee of TPAC will research fixed (capped incremental increase) tuition and flat rate tuition (between 12-14 hours) and will bring information to put into the model for calculation. Another sub-committee will explore the advantages of three long semesters and what would be beneficial for graduate students.

The student leaders will need to brief their successors or tell the Council what would be the most important items to review with the new members of the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.