

Tuition Policy Advisory Council
Meeting Notes
November 11, 2004

The Tuition Policy Advisory Council met on Thursday, November 11, 2004 in 701 Rudder Tower. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Objectives of implementing flat tuition would be to provide incentives for students to take more semester credit hours each semester, which would in turn, create incentives for students to reduce time to graduation, and if flat tuition is adopted, analysis would have to be done to ensure that this venture would not lose revenue for the University, while at the same time, minimizing tuition increases. Course fees are not included in any of these models.

For modeling purposes, semester credit hour loads were grouped together in the following manner where a flat rate for designated tuition would be charged when undergraduate and graduate students take 15 or more hours and 12 or more hours per semester, respectively:

Undergraduate:

- 1-11
- 12-14
- ≥ 15

Graduate:

- 1-8
- 9-11
- ≥ 12

Model #1 would charge no premiums and designated tuition would be charged at an hourly rate (e.g. somewhere between \$55-\$75) for less than 15 SCH or 12 SCH for graduate students, but a flat rate would apply for 15 or more SCH/12 or more for graduate students. The charge for designated tuition currently is \$74.50 per SCH for undergraduates. The breakeven point would be 14/11 SCH.

Model #2 would charge a \$300 premium for all class loads less than 15/12 hours, along with the \$55-\$75/SCH charge for designated tuition. A flat rate would apply for 15/12 or more SCH.

Model #3 would charge no premium for part-time students. A \$400 premium would be charged for all full-time students taking less than 15/12 SCH, along with the \$55-\$75/SCH charge for designated tuition. A flat rate would apply for 15/12 or more SCH.

Model #4 would charge no premium for part-time students, while charging a \$200 premium for all full-time students taking less than 15/12 SCH. \$55-\$75/SCH charge

would apply for designated tuition. A flat rate would apply for 15/12 or more SCH. The \$200 premium may not be enough of a penalty for students taking less than 15/12 hours.

Model #5 would charge a \$400 premium for undergraduate students taking 1-11 hours and graduate students taking 1-8 hours. A premium of \$200 would be charged for undergraduate students taking 12-14 and graduate students taking 9-11 hours. The additional hourly charge of \$55-\$75 for designated tuition would apply. However, a flat rate for designated tuition would apply for hours at or above 15/12.

Model #6 would charge a \$200 premium for part-time students taking 1-11/1-8 hours and a \$100 premium for full-time students taking 12-14/9-11 hours, with an hourly designated tuition charge of \$44-\$75. A flat rate would apply at or above 15/12 hours. Premiums at this level would more likely cause lost revenue.

It was determined that Model #3 would save students the most money and would be the most likely to change behavior, while not penalizing part-time students. It is estimated that the additional SCH generated per student would be between 0 and 2.5.

Issues to be resolved include:

- Classroom/faculty capacity to provide more instruction
- Financial Aid Awards/Packaging
- Application to Graduate Students
- Resident/Non-Resident Tuition Rates
- Behavior Changes
- Refined Model

Pushing graduate students to take 12 hours per semester would create the need to graduate in three years and that would not be possible with some programs. The revenue effects of not including graduate student in these models would be approximately a 12% reduction in revenue.

An undesired behavior change could be that more students might take more courses from Blinn while co-enrolled at Texas A&M University. These students would still be eligible for financial aid.

No students would be grandfathered from these proposed tuition changes.

At the Tuition Policy Advisory Council meeting tomorrow, fixed rate tuition will be discussed. A hybrid of flat/fixed tuition may be developed. When fixing tuition for four years at a time, problems arise because two legislative sessions fall within this timeframe. Therefore, tuition may need to be set every two years to better coordinate with legislative action.

It was stated that four things are being considered regarding differential tuition:

- Popular vs. Unpopular Class Times
- Summer School
- Colleges/Programs
- Fees Rolled Into Tuition

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.