

Tuition Policy Advisory Council  
MEETING NOTES  
January 27, 2006

The Tuition Policy Advisory Council met on Friday, January 27, 2006 in 707 Rudder Tower.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

The Council discussed a draft memo outlining the Tuition Policy Advisory Council recommendations to President Gates. Questions were raised whether differential tuition should be limited only to professional programs. It was suggested that the Council listen to individual colleges and be open to what the college would do with the increased revenue.

It was suggested that wording be added to clarify whether differential tuition would be charged by the course or by the semester credit hour during the summer sessions. The Council determined that it would be best, at this time, to remove the statement regarding summer school tuition. The Board of Regents sets tuition rates only at the March meeting, so it was also suggested that the recommendations should state only a tuition range rather than a specific amount.

President Gates visited with the Student Senate about differential tuition. He needs to be convinced of the need to charge differential tuition. The Engineering Student Council has also begun to look at the possibility of differential tuition within the College of Engineering. The College of Architecture is in the preliminary discussion stage for that college.

The Council moved on to discuss the student fees. A Council member stated that the utility fee may need to become tuition in the future rather than a fee, if this charge becomes long-term, so that some of the revenue may be set aside for financial aid. The necessity of a utility fee should be revisited for FY2008. It was determined that the memo should clarify that the utility fee charge will be for FY2007. December utility costs were down slightly and that the costs for February and March are still being finalized.

It was stated that the range of the revised Instructional Enhancement/Equipment Fee needs to be raised because of the engineering programs and the cost involved.

It was reported that this Spring the University has realized approximately a 4.0%-4.5% increase in semester credit hours generated for undergraduates, which equates to about a .6 SCH increase per student, compared to last Spring. This Spring, undergraduate students enrolled in approximately 420,000 semester credit hours. At the next meeting, data will be presented regarding grade comparison to see if there is indication that the increased course load is having an adverse effect on students' grades.

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Next week, the Tuition Policy Advisory Council will submit a memo to Dr. Gates summarizing the Council's tuition policy recommendations. February 20 is the tuition hearing and President Gates wants student participation, e.g. outlining the Council's recommendations and announcing the energy fee.

The TPAC web site is being reworked and the plan is to have the site up and running by the February 20 tuition hearing.

The student Council members should begin bringing their successors to the meetings as soon as they are named, but current students need to stay on the Council until all current business is concluded.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.