

Tuition Policy Advisory Council
MEETING NOTES
September 29, 2006

The Tuition Policy Advisory Council met on Friday, September 29, 2006 in the Provost's Conference Room, 9th floor, Rudder Tower.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m.

It was reported that 2,526 students had received automatic flat-rate tuition scholarships and an additional 2,486 graduating seniors had qualified for flat-rate tuition scholarships. The University paid out approximately \$1.8 million last year for the tuition rebate plan. The Texas A&M University Student Fiscal Appeal Panel granted 78 flat rate tuition appeals and 12 non-flat rate tuition appeals. Denied appeals were comprised of 20 dealing with flat rate tuition and 39 regarding non-flat rate tuition.

Twentieth class day data was shared with the Council. The Office of Institutional Studies and Planning is currently verifying the information for official use. The University's total enrollment has increased by approximately 1.8%. Enrollment statistics for students new to Texas A&M University were reported as follows: Blinn Team enrollment decreased by 13%, first time in college enrollment increased by 9.8%, transfer enrollment increased by 6.8%, and graduate student enrollment increased by 6.4%.

This year's average undergraduate class load is comparable to last year's average. However, the average class load has increased from two years ago. Two years ago, the average load for full-time undergraduate students was 13.6 semester credit hours. When part-time undergraduate student loads were included, the figure fell to 13.0 semester credit hours. Currently, the average load for all undergraduate students is at 13.6 semester credit hours.

The Council was reminded that it was this time last year that the area was dealing with the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which created an unprecedented increase in utility rates. For FY2006, the University purchased power at \$52.4 million vs. \$37.3 million in FY2005. Purchased utility costs have increased more than \$19 million since FY2005 and consumption savings have amounted to approximately \$3.6 million, resulting in a year-to-date net increase in purchased utility costs of about \$15.4 million. A \$99 per semester utility fee was implemented to help alleviate some of this additional unforeseen cost. Utility costs are being monitored in an effort to ensure that the amount of the utility fee remains appropriate in relationship to the total amount of revenue required.

President Gates has mandated that no college may implement differential tuition before FY2008. Mr. Parker announced to the Council that Dr. Gates usually attends the first TPAC meeting of the semester, but he was unable to attend today.

Upon reviewing the schedules of the Council members, it was determined that the Tuition Policy Advisory Council will meet on Friday, October 20 at 7:00 a.m., Friday, November 17 at 7:00 a.m., and on one of the semester's two reading days—Wednesday, December 6 or Thursday, December 7. It will be determined later in the semester which of those two days would work better for a meeting, as well as the time of day. Other meetings may need to be called in between these established meeting times if issues warrant.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 a.m.