

Tuition Policy Advisory Council
MEETING NOTES
February 16, 2007

The Tuition Policy Advisory Council met on Friday, February 16, 2007 in the Provost's Conference Room, 9th floor, Rudder Tower.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 a.m.

The Council was reminded that the Designated Tuition Hearing will be Wednesday, February 21 at 3:30 p.m. in room 292 of the Memorial Student Center.

Interim President, Dr. Eddie J. Davis is willing to approve the TPAC policy regarding the non-resident undergraduate tuition increase. However, Dr. Davis asked the Council to reconsider the two-step implementation. It would be preferable to apply the increase all at once in fall 2008. The current student information system would find the staged implementation problematic and the new student information system will be online in 2009 or 2010 but special programming would be required to accommodate the current proposal.

The Council deliberated assessing the non-resident undergraduate tuition increase to all students after a four-to-five year period so that all students would be paying the same rate rather than having a constant myriad of varying rates for different groups of students. This would also encourage timely graduation. The current average time to graduation is 4.5-5.0 years.

It was moved that the following policy be adopted: Beginning fall 2008, all entering non-resident undergraduate students will be charged designated tuition at a rate of \$200 more than the designated tuition rate for resident students, and beginning fall 2013, all non-resident undergraduate students (new and existing) will pay the non-resident undergraduate designated tuition rate that is in effect at the time.

The motion was seconded and the Tuition Policy Advisory Council voted unanimously to approve the policy.

The Council was encouraged to attend the designated tuition hearing on February 21. The hearing will be conducted in two parts. The opening portion of the hearing will be presented by the Student Body President, in which he will discuss the Tuition Policy Advisory Council and the tuition policy and fees that the Council is recommending to the President. Dr. Davis will then announce the University's tuition deliberations.

A draft of the hearing presentation was distributed. As mentioned, the audience will be briefed on the TPAC membership and history, as well as considerations made by the Council. It will be important to note the positive effect flat rate tuition has made on increasing student class loads. Before 2005, the average full-time class load was less than what the current load is for all students. The discussion at the hearing will then progress to non-resident designated tuition and that TPAC reviewed a study conducted by the University of Virginia. The study showed a large

disparity between what Texas A&M University is charging for undergraduate non-resident designated tuition and other comparable institutions in the country. The TPAC recommendations and the student fees recommendations will be presented. Dr. Davis will discuss the Student Energy fee. It was noted that representatives from various units will be present at the hearing to field any questions that may arise. Dr. Davis will announce a tuition increase range rather than a specified amount at the hearing because the University will not set tuition until legislative appropriations have been determined. Texas A&M University would need about \$100 million over the biennium from the legislature in order not to raise tuition. \$19.50 per semester credit hour is the largest tuition increase that the University has imposed to date. The University is already losing faculty that were hired through the faculty reinvestment and that it is important that TAMU have the ability to retain faculty by offering competitive salaries. Additional information may need to be provided at the hearing as to how non-resident tuition is not included in formula funding calculations and that raising the tuition for non-residents actually helps keep the cost down for resident students.

Senate Bill 100, relating to a fixed rate tuition, is still in committee. There is a campus committee that analyzes the bills that are being proposed and the impact that those bills would have on Texas A&M University. It was announced that Congress has authorized a \$260 increase in the amount of each Pell Grant awarded.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 a.m.