

Tuition Policy Advisory Council  
MEETING NOTES  
April 13, 2007

The Tuition Policy Advisory Council met on Friday, April 13, 2007 in the Provost's Conference Room, 9<sup>th</sup> floor, Rudder Tower.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m.

The handling of differential tuition by the Tuition Policy Advisory Council has been discussed with the President. It was decided that differential tuition would be brought back to the Council as new business in the fall because the colleges that had previously submitted proposals were currently revising their submissions and would likely not be ready until fall. It is also planned that TPAC's recommendations regarding those proposals would be discussed at the designated tuition hearing in February of next year.

The Council was reminded that the Mays Business School's plan for differential tuition was approved by Dr. Gates. The Council had also reviewed proposals by the colleges of Liberal Arts, Architecture, and Education and Human Development. These submissions varied greatly in how differential tuition would be charged in each college. Liberal Arts suggested that all students be charged because all students within the University must take liberal arts courses. Architecture proposed swapping the course fees that are currently charged for differential tuition because more flexibility in funds usage would be available. The College of Education and Human Development would charge a mixture of differential tuition and course fees. The Deans of all of the colleges have since worked to find common ground for all differential tuition proposals. During that time, the Tuition Policy Advisory Council postponed deliberations of the subject.

The Board of Regents approved the Council's recommendations that were submitted at the March meeting.

Copies of the Mays Business School's approved differential tuition proposal were distributed, along with a report submitted to Dr. Gates addressing questions the President had regarding the initial proposal. Differential tuition will be charged to all students who take business major courses within Mays Business School. The proposal and report detail how differential tuition would be charged, projections of semester credit hours and revenue generated, how those funds would be used to benefit the school and its students, and how faculty reinvestment would be affected. Differential tuition funds generated will be kept in the college and will be used to hire additional faculty to teach juniors and seniors. The proposal also compares Mays Business School to peer and aspirant Vision 2020 institutions. Pennsylvania State University has the largest freshman class, but also increased tuition. It appears that there may be a correlation between raising tuition and increased student applications, stemming from the sense that you get what you pay for. This comparison indicates that Mays is currently underpriced.

It was reiterated that the Tuition Policy Advisory Council is advisory to the President; the President makes the final decisions. To date, the President has approved 100% of TPAC's recommendations.

Early indications from the Legislature appear to be positive regarding allocations to the University. This is due, in large part, to the current tuition policy which has resulted in increased semester credit hours and weighted semester credit hours. TPAC has been a great benefit in the tuition process. Tuition will not be set for next year until the appropriations are final. This Legislative session appears to be the best ever for Texas A&M University, primarily because of flat tuition—students are taking an increased number of semester credit hours.

It is the responsibility of the Tuition Policy Advisory Council to ensure proper use of deregulated tuition. The Council must consider the long-term impact of differential tuition and its effect on other funds from the University. The Mays Business School will be used as beta testing to begin looking at differential tuition for other colleges. Differential tuition and course fees need to be carefully considered.

Responses the President has received regarding increased non-resident designated tuition have been primarily from concerned parents.

It was noted that utility costs are being closely monitored because of volatile, high costs. The utility fee was initiated in fall 2006 at \$99 per student per semester. Conservation efforts and the use of a procurement consultant have resulted in the reduction of the fee to \$65 per student per semester for fall 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.