

Tuition Policy Advisory Council  
MEETING NOTES  
November 28, 2007

The Tuition Policy Advisory Council met on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 in the Provost's Conference Room, 9<sup>th</sup> floor, Rudder Tower.

Present: Dan Parker (Chair), Michelle Berry, Bruce Edwards, Jonathon Glueck, Ricky Griffin, Shari Hilding-Kronforst, Tyler Koch, Joe Pettibon (ex-officio), Conner Prochaska, Lynn Ruoff, Frank Sellers, Kathy Steffen, Van Taylor for Bill Flores, and Deborah Wright (ex-officio).

Absent: Nick Guillemette, and Marty Gunn.

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

Dan Parker announced that Frank Sellers will now be the Greek Councils representative on TPAC.

Dan Parker stated that the motion regarding course fees that was approved at the last meeting would be detrimental to the College of Education and Human Development because the basis of the proposal is to remain revenue neutral by exchanging course fees for the flexibility of differential tuition. Bruce Edwards moved to rescind the previous motion from the November 14 meeting regarding course fees. Ricky Griffin seconded the motion and all present voting members were in favor. Jonathon Glueck moved that TPAC remain neutral on course fees. Tyler Koch seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Joe Pettibon asked for clarification regarding U5 students being charged differential tuition. U5 students include post-baccalaureate students pursuing a second bachelor's degree or teaching certificate and those students are not considered graduate students. Professional programs in business and landscape architecture move from U3 to G7 and therefore would not be charged differential tuition once the G7 status was attained.

Mr. Glueck asked if all colleges considering differential tuition would have college-level TPAC. Mr. Parker mentioned that the College of Liberal Arts states in their proposal that such a committee would be formed. The other colleges remain silent. Mr. Glueck indicated that it would be an important element for each college to have. It was also suggested that welcome packets be prepared and distributed in the future to new TPAC members.

The Council began deliberating on the merits of the individual differential tuition proposals that have been brought forward.

#### Dwight Look College of Engineering

After the college made its initial presentation in October, TPAC asked the college for new calculations if differential tuition were charged beginning at the U3 level. Differential tuition would almost double as a result. The College of Engineering has planned enrollment, but enrollment is set to grow over the next few years. Engineering students seem concerned with the amount proposed to

be used for scholarships but they understand that 20% is required for scholarship set-asides and the majority of students appear to be in favor of differential tuition in general and the benefits they would see from the additional revenue.

It was reiterated that the Council strongly recommends that a college-level TPAC be formed. It was suggested that perhaps a rebate could be created for students who must remain at the U3 and higher level for a prolonged period of time. It was noted that the Student Information Management System (SIMS) would not be able to handle this because of the individual differences that would need to be considered. Better graduation rates need to be encouraged and it was determined that the additional cost would be incentive to graduate in a timely manner.

Mr. Koch moved that TPAC recommend approval that differential tuition of \$460 per student per semester be charged to engineering majors beginning at the U3 level with the stipulation that an advisory college-level committee with a +1 student format be created to review revenue usage. Summer school will be excluded from differential tuition. Conner Prochaska seconded the motion. Nine members voted in favor and one abstained.

#### College of Architecture

The College of Architecture stated that it would prefer not to charge more than an additional \$200 per student per semester regardless of whether differential tuition were charged to all majors or only to upper division majors. If differential tuition is charged only to their upper division students, the college indicated that some students e.g. lower division, would be excluded from some benefits. The Council expressed concern about this methodology and that the need for the additional revenue has not been clearly stated or how the funds would be distributed, even when the college was provided the opportunity to clarify.

The Council decided to table the proposal until the revenue usage is clarified. Additionally, some expressed the perceived absence of clear communication between the college and the students regarding the proposal and its potential benefits. To some, the \$200 charge seems arbitrary and market driven. The presentation stated that the \$200 charge would be slightly lower than the peers. A college-level TPAC also needs to be formed.

#### The College of Education and Human Development

The differential tuition proposal from the College of Education and Human Development is essentially revenue neutral as they would be exchanging course fees of the upper division courses for differential tuition in order to gain flexibility to use the revenue for needed scholarships. Mr. Prochaska indicated that the student representatives in the college are interested in the increased scholarship funds that would be available as a result of differential tuition. However, it is difficult to determine the long-term benefit to students as typical salaries in education fields are relatively low. Joe Pettibon stated that the students in the College of Education have the second largest amount of indebtedness at the University, so students could truly use the additional scholarships. About 50% of students in the college have debt. It is estimated from the proposal that about \$450,000 would be generated in differential tuition revenue for scholarships. Course fees would

only be charged in the lower division courses, and differential tuition would be charged beginning at the U3 level, so the relative cost per student would not increase significantly and differential tuition would allow flexibility of revenue usage to benefit need-based students. The cost per student would actually be reduced in some cases because of scholarships.

The information supplied by the college regarding the differential tuition cost per student is confusing but appears to be \$100 per student per semester beginning at the U3 level. Since course fees would not be charged, the actual increase is estimated to only be about \$20 per student per semester, which would generate approximately \$450,000 in revenue to be used for scholarships.

The Council tabled the proposal until the college clarifies what the actual cost would be to each student. A college-level TPAC will also need to be established.

#### College of Liberal Arts

Mr. Prochaska indicated that four of the six student senators from the college are in favor of the proposal submitted. Mr. Glueck added that the students do not seem to be in favor of funds being used for study abroad programs. The Liberal Arts Student Council, comprised of about 60 students, will be voting again tonight on the proposal. The proposal does call for a college-level TPAC.

Michelle Berry and other student members of TPAC remarked that many upper division liberal arts classes are already small, so the revenue would not add significant benefit in this area. It is difficult to determine a clear need for the additional revenue. Mr. Pettibon stated that the debt load for students in liberal arts are at the University average.

The Council tabled the proposal to await the student vote.

#### Mays Business School

The differential tuition proposal submitted by the Mays Business School in the fall of 2005 was approved by the President. However, the proposal was based on a per semester credit hour charge for upper division courses taken by majors rather than a per semester charge. A revised proposal of \$610 per student per semester was submitted to the Council for consideration. Dean Griffin announced that he would also create a college-level TPAC.

Mr. Prochaska made a motion to recommend approval of differential tuition of \$610 per student per semester be charged to business majors beginning at the U3 level. Kathy Steffen seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

The meeting next week will potentially run long, so dinner will be ordered.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.