

Tuition Policy Advisory Council  
MEETING NOTES  
December 5, 2007

The Tuition Policy Advisory Council met on Wednesday, December 5, 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, Nick Guillemette, Marty Gunn, 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).

Guests: Doug Palmer, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development, and Jim Kracht, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Education & Human Development.

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

Dan Parker stated that the goals of today's meeting are to try to finish with the differential tuition proposals and the discussion on fees. Dean Palmer is available if the Council would like to ask additional questions about the college's proposal. Dean Johnson of the College of Liberal Arts and Dean Regan of the College of Architecture will be available via conference call, as well. Mr. Parker added that all the deans who submitted differential tuition proposals are willing to establish a college-level TPAC within their respective colleges. Dean Bennett from the Dwight Look College of Engineering clarified that once Zachry has been renovated, it is likely that those differential tuition revenue funds will be redirected to student programs rather than toward faculty salaries.

It will be necessary to have one additional meeting in January to outline the tuition hearing. It is anticipated that the hearing will be conducted in two phases: 1) a hearing at the University level, and 2) individual college-level hearings to address questions and discussions unique to each college.

Conner Prochaska and Tyler Koch announced that the Liberal Arts Student Council did vote in favor of the differential tuition proposal submitted by their college. All six Liberal Arts student senators are also in favor.

At its November 28 meeting, TPAC voted to recommend approval of the differential tuition proposal submitted by the Dwight Look College of Engineering. The Council then began discussing the differential tuition proposals that had been tabled from the previous meeting.

College of Education and Human Development

Dean Palmer remarked that the rationale for the initial \$35 per semester credit hour differential tuition request for upper division students in the college was based on the elimination of course fees at that level, at an average of about \$75, and the 20% required for set-asides for student financial aid. The Dean does not want departments to be detrimentally affected by the exchange of course fees, but rather to remain revenue neutral at the department level. The revenue differential would be maintained at the college level so that the incremental revenue could be used where needed throughout the college. The college has revised its request to align with the recommendations of TPAC that differential tuition be charged to majors beginning at the U3 level and that course fees would remain at the discretion of the college. Under the new proposal, the average course fee for upper division courses would be reduced from \$60 to \$45 and would apply to all students taking the course. Additionally, education majors would pay differential tuition of \$190 per student per semester. However, course fees would be reduced so that the actual increase in cost for majors in the college would be about \$115 per student per semester. Dean Palmer went on to say that approximately 90% of the revenue from differential tuition would go back to the department generating the tuition and the remaining 10% would be held at the college level. It is anticipated that the majority of that 10% would be used to hire additional instructors and advisors. The college now has about 5,000 more students than it did five years ago.

Dr. Palmer thanked the Council for the time to present the revised proposal from his college. Members of TPAC indicated that students in the college appeared to be very supportive of the original proposal and the revisions seem to maintain the principle of the original proposal. However, it was noted that under the new proposal, additional funds for scholarships would be cut by about half. Concern was raised that the new plan would result in a large increase in cost to the students and it does not seem clear how many additional course sections the college would be able to offer. Joe Pettibon added that the proposal would still be beneficial to the students because scholarship dollars would be increased, albeit at a minimum level. Dr. Palmer was present only during the discussion of his proposal.

Lynn Ruoff moved that TPAC recommend approval that differential tuition of \$190 per student per semester be charged to education and human development majors beginning at the U3 level and that the average course fee for all upper division courses be reduced to \$45. Shari Hilding-Kronforst seconded the motion. Nine members voted in favor and three members opposed.

College of Liberal Arts

The college has calculated that it will need to charge \$400 per semester to each student majoring in liberal arts, which would generate approximately \$2.9 million in revenue and about \$500,000 for additional scholarships. It was noted that some majors within the college are able to attend small classes, but other majors, such as psychology and communication, have large classes. Many of those classes are likely lower division so the proposal would not directly alleviate that problem. It was also noted that the proposal has gotten very mixed reviews from the students in the college. Members of the Council commented that enhancing study abroad opportunities as

expressed in the proposal would not likely benefit the majority of students. Additionally, colleges of liberal arts at peer institutions do not currently charge differential tuition.

Tyler Koch moved that TPAC recommend approval that differential tuition of \$400 per student per semester be charged to majors within the College of Liberal Arts. Frank Sellers seconded the motion. None of the voting members present were in favor; 11 were opposed and one abstained.

### College of Architecture

In the College of Architecture, summer school has been a time for students changing majors to “catch up” on their degree plan. Historically, a large number of students switch majors to construction science. Mr. Koch remarked that at the beginning of the semester, the college’s two student senators were both in favor of the differential tuition proposal submitted by the college, but now the vote is split with one in favor and the other is opposed. Members of TPAC indicated that the amount of the differential tuition being proposed still seems arbitrary rather than need-based. Study abroad is required of all majors so enhancing the program would be a benefit to the students. Questions were raised whether conventions and competitions are required of students and if not, how many students participate. Ricky Griffin stated that students appear to work hard to raise money to attend the conventions and job offers seem to result from the networking that students do doing these meetings. However, members noted that increasing tuition could potentially create hardship to students if they are already having to hold bake sales, etc. to earn funds to attend conventions.

Mr. Parker stated that Dean Regan was available to speak with TPAC via conference call if they would like. The Council agreed that would be beneficial and the Dean was connected to the meeting. During the discussion, Dean Regan announced that each department within the college will have a Tuition Policy Advisory Council.

Ms. Hilding-Kronforst moved that TPAC recommend approval that differential tuition of \$200 per student per semester be charged to majors within the College of Architecture. Mr. Sellers seconded the motion. Eleven members voted in favor of the motion and one abstained.

At this point, the Council began to deliberate proposed fee increases. Deborah Wright, Chair of the University Fee Committee, stated that the Committee began meeting in September and had received more fee requests than usual. She noted that the Committee had asked for additional information on some of the requests and some requested fee increases were submitted to the student body for a vote. Ms. Wright briefed the Council on the fees that had been submitted and the recommendations that the Committee was planning to submit to the President.

### Advising Services

The Fee Committee voted to wait one year before recommending an increase in this fee so that student trends may be analyzed as an outcome of the University Studies degree. TPAC agreed.

#### Computer Access/Instructional Technology

The majority of the Committee is in favor but would like student input regarding usage of the revenue and the Fee Committee would like for a student committee to be formed to provide input as to the placement of new wireless access points. TPAC agreed.

#### Library Use

The \$2.25 increase in the library use fee was requested to assist with the funding of the mandated minimum wage increase for students and staff, purchasing and maintaining electronic resources, and the establishment of a joint storage facility with the University of Texas at Austin. Last year, it was determined that the library use fee increase would be spread over two years, so \$1.50 of the request is the remainder of the increase from last year; \$.50 would be used to supply electronic resources, and the remaining \$.25 of the increase would be for the joint facility. The Fee Committee's recommendation is to approve all but the \$.25 earmarked for the joint facility. TPAC recommended approval of a \$1.75 increase: \$1.50 to fund the increase committed from last year and the remaining \$.25 to be used towards the wage increase for one year rather than the proposed two years.

#### Student Services

Any proposed increase in the Student Services fee is first vetted through the Student Services Advising Board before it is submitted to the University Fee Committee. The Fee Committee recommends approval and TPAC agreed.

#### Group Hospital and Medical Services

Previously, the Emergency Medical Technicians worked on a voluntary basis, but the fee increase would allow for two paid EMT's to be on call 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. Additionally, the increase would help offset the inflation of medical supply costs. The Fee Committee recommends approval but notes that this is the third year in a row that this fee has been increased. TPAC is in agreement with the committee's recommendation.

#### Student Center Complex

A student referendum was held regarding the increase in this fee and the referendum passed. Therefore, the Fee Committee recommends approval and TPAC agreed.

#### Recreational Sports

The fee increase was proposed to offset operating costs and the minimum wage increase. The Fee Committee recommends approval, but TPAC questioned the large fund balances that the unit maintains. Bruce Edwards pointed out that they are required to maintain a balance that would fund three months of operating expenses. It was noted that if the increase was not approved, recreational sports would incur a deficit of approximately \$100,000, which could be covered by

reserves. It was determined that more information was needed from the unit. TPAC recommended not approving the increase at this time because other needs appear more pressing.

#### Transportation

The proposal for an increase in the transportation fee calls for the funds to be used to purchase 25 new buses and provide additional routes. The Fee Committee recommends approval and TPAC concurred.

#### Parking Permit

The University Fee Committee noted that auxiliaries such as parking, are required to maintain a three-month operating reserve as well as 115% of their succeeding year's annual debt service payment. Currently, the fund balance is well below these requirements. The Transportation Services Advisory Committee is planning to submit information to the campus community regarding the proposed increases and the revenue usage. The Fee Committee recommends approval and TPAC concurred.

#### Career Center Use

The proposed increase in the Career Center Use fee would do away with the usage fee and become a fee paid by all students. The proposal appears to have been well communicated to the students. However, the Fee Committee noted two main concerns associated with the increase: the Career Center may have difficulty keeping up with demand if more students utilize the service and with all of the other fee requests coming forward, the need for this particular fee increase may be a low concern next year. The Fee Committee was split on the recommendation. TPAC realized that a per student per semester charge would create more consistent revenue than the current user fee and that lower division students would have the opportunity to use the center to begin career preparation. It was suggested that decentralizing the Career Center to the college and/or departmental level could enhance marketing because they would better understand the associated fields. However, corporations would likely prefer to conduct business with only contact office rather than a multitude. TPAC recommended that the user fee be increased rather than moving to a fee paid by all students and that a student referendum be held next year if the Career Center chooses to bring the proposal forward again.

#### Student Learning Center

Currently, students are not charged for supplemental instruction or on-campus tutoring. The proposal submitted by the Student Learning Center would create a semester fee to be paid by all students. The Fee Committee received feedback that the students do not want to bear the burden of a cost that they may not need/want to take advantage of and students suggested that it be a user fee. The Fee Committee does not recommend approval and that if the Student Learning Center submits a proposal next year, a student referendum should be held. TPAC agreed.

The University Fee Committee recommends approval of all of the following non-mandatory fee proposals:

- Process Fee for Dissertations, Records of Study & Thesis
- New Student Conference Change
- Mays MBA Program
- Mays Masters Program
- Master of Real Estate Program
- Masters Program in Public Service & Administration & Masters of International Affairs

TPAC concurred with the recommendations.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.