PROPOSAL: Tuition and Fees

Background

The University continues to allocate its financial resources in alignment with the goals and priorities set by the University’s 2020 Gold Standard Strategic Plan and identified transformational initiatives. Tuition is the major revenue source for the general fund and is approximately 71% of the total budgeted revenue. It comprises approximately 52% of all university revenue.

At this time, the State has not adopted its budget for 2019-20. The Governor, the Senate, and the House have all issued their proposed budgets. There are significant differences among the three proposals for state appropriations, tuition restraint, and performance metrics. Currently, an increase on tuition and required fees that exceeds the restraint causes a school to risk forfeiting performance funding and exclusion from receiving capital outlay authorizations for three fiscal years. The State also specifies the formula for calculating a school’s tuition change. Until the State passes its budget, uncertainty will remain regarding tuition restraint, appropriation changes, and performance metrics.

We are recommending an increase of 4.3% on tuition and required fees for resident undergraduate students. If this tuition and required fees increase exceeds tuition restraint language contained in the adopted 2019-20 State budget, the university will take action to comply with adopted language.

The proposed tuition and required fees for the 2019-20 fiscal year (Schedule of Tuition and Required Fees attached) are as follows:

Undergraduate:
- Undergraduate rates as used and defined in the current State formula have been increased 4.3%. A newly admitted full-time Michigan resident freshman will pay $13,017 in tuition and required fees to attend WMU for the 2019-20 academic year.
- For resident undergraduates and non-resident undergraduates admitted and enrolled with the Summer I 2017 session or later taking credit hours that fall below or above the tuition corridor, the tuition rate increase is 8.71%. This increase aligns the undergraduate per credit hour rates to the equivalent of taking 12 credit hours in the flat rate corridor.
- Differential tuition rates have been increased 4.3%.
- The undergraduate online tuition rate will be aligned with the resident lower level per credit hour rate. Undergraduate students enrolled in a combination of courses on main campus and on-line who fall in the flat rate credit hour range may have their undergraduate tuition due adjusted to reflect the flat rate corridor.
• It is recommended that the Board rescind the $60/credit hour support fee charged to all undergraduate students taking on-line credits and implement a $20/course technology fee for on-line courses.

Graduate:
• Graduate resident per credit hour tuition rates will increase from $651.57 to $681.67.
• Graduate nonresident tuition per credit hour rates will increase from $1,232.05 to $1,268.00.
• Tuition rates for EUP regional sites and on-line courses will continue to align with the graduate resident tuition rate while maintaining the $20/course technology fee.

Recommended Action

It is recommended that effective with the Fall 2019 semester, the Board of Trustees approves the Schedule of Tuition and Required Fee Rates for on-campus courses as attached.