

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES**A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

in Joint Session with

B. Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee**Proposal for a New Course Fee in the School of Music****RECOMMENDED ACTION**

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and the Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee that the Regents approve a new course fee of up to \$900 per course for students enrolled in individual lessons in musical performance in the School of Music, College of Arts and Sciences, the proposed fee to be paid only by students receiving course credit for individual lessons taught by School of Music faculty members and instructors. The proposed fee will be phased in beginning in September 2012.

BACKGROUND

With the support of the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Music (SoM) seeks permission from the Board of Regents to introduce a course fee for students enrolled in individual lessons in musical performance. To close the gap between the actual cost to the School of offering one-on-one lessons and the resources the School has with which to support these costs, we propose to introduce a course fee of up to \$900 per course, which would be paid only by students receiving course credit for individual lessons taught by School of Music faculty members and instructors.

This new fee would be phased in gradually over several years, starting in September, 2012. This phased approach would allow us to mitigate the impact of the new fee on currently enrolled performance students. The College of Arts and Sciences will contribute \$300,000 in temporary money to the School of Music for 2012-13, and \$200,000 each year between 2013 and 2017, in order to permit this phased approach. Endowments in the School of Music also generate several hundred thousand dollars in student scholarship money annually. These scholarship funds will further lessen the financial impact of these course fees on students, as will University-level financial aid. We do not believe that any student who qualifies for admission to SoM in musical performance will be unable to attend the School because of these new fees.

This phased approach will also allow us to take account of general tuition increases that might be imposed over the next several years in response to state

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Proposal for a New Course Fee in the School of Music (continued p. 2)

budget cuts, as well as the possibility that the University might authorize differential tuition rates for certain schools and programs. Should increased tuition revenues become available to the School of Music in future years, either from general or differential tuition increases, we would reduce this course fee commensurately with these increases. At present, however, none of us can predict what the future will hold with respect to tuition policy. Yet we must plan now for the next five years. Hence our request for permission to impose course fees up to \$900/course on a gradual basis.

The current financial situation of the School is unsustainable, and requires immediate action. At present, the cost of teaching performance students in SoM is \$2,700/year/student higher than it is to teach SoM students enrolled in non-performance areas of the School. To keep its performance program afloat, SoM has significantly reduced the number of performance students it accepts, and transferred a disproportionate share of the School's resources from non-performance into performance areas. The result has been to weaken the entire School. Performance studios are too small to be viable, while students in non-performance areas feel justifiably short-changed. We cannot go on in this way. Our students deserve better.

The School of Music faculty, its students, and the School's Advisory Committee have all been involved in the discussions that have led up to this proposal. All Music students, and indeed the entire campus and community, benefit from having a strong performance program. But we cannot continue to support a performance program in Music unless we receive permission from the Board of Regents to institute this proposed new course fee.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL

This recommendation has been reviewed and approved by the School of Music faculty and students, the School of Music's Advisory Committee, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Interim Provost and Executive Vice President.