

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Establishment of a Quarterly Service Fee for International Students Seattle CampusRECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents approve a \$45 quarterly fee, to be paid by all University of Washington, Seattle international students, effective Autumn 2013.

BACKGROUND

The rapid increase in international students at the UW (up 113.9% since autumn 2007) has taxed current services for these students and necessitated expansion or creation of other programs that provide a necessary foundation for students' success.

In late spring 2012, an ad hoc task force proposed a \$150 per quarter fee, but there was insufficient time for substantive discussion. Student groups questioned the fee's size and argued that spending proposals seemed vague. In autumn 2012, we began our consultation process, and met with a variety of student leaders, faculty, and staff who provide services to international students at UW-Seattle.

This proposal has been endorsed by:

- FIUTS (Foundation for International Understanding Through Students) Student Board, 9-1
- ASUW Student Senate, 80-3

GPSS voted 31-15 against the proposal, with 10 abstentions, although the resolution noted that “GPSS recognizes and applauds the tremendous work the University Administration has done to identify the needs of our international student population and to develop a plan to address those needs through strategic increases in resources...”

A sampling of universities indicates that we would not be alone in assessing a fee to international students in order to cover costs for services they receive. Below are just a few examples:

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- Purdue: \$2,000/year beginning with 2012 cohort; provides support for international student office; some money also goes into the university's general fund.
- Pennsylvania State University: \$300/semester.
- Mississippi State University: \$100/semester; used to fund salaries in International Student Office, orientations, advising.
- University of Texas-Austin: \$100/semester; supports staffing in International Student and Scholar Services (orientation, advising).
- Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI): \$82/semester to support staff in Office of International Affairs.
- University of Georgia: \$50/semester; supports staffing with required federal reporting and advising regarding immigration.
- University of Iowa: \$140/semester plus one time \$120 orientation fee.
- Indiana University: \$82/semester.
- SUNY Buffalo: \$100/semester.
- Texas A&M: \$45/semester plus one-time \$35 fee; supports International Student Services Office (e.g., document processing, advising).

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED ACTION

What are the problems this fee would address?

1. International Student Services

- Staffing (4 FTE) remains constant despite 113.9% increase in international students since autumn 2007.
- 1 FTE counselor (of the 4 FTE) is on temporary funds.
- Staff faces great challenges in meeting federal reporting rules, resulting in reduced service hours for students and delays in processing requests (e.g., Curricular Practical Training; SSN Verification; Address Verification needed for Washington state driver's license).
- Rising federal reporting costs (only one software vendor; 10% increase annually).
- Sharp reduction in outreach to UW campus units.
- Delays will increase if no additional funding is provided.

The fee will provide \$190,000, which will support 2 FTE counselors (a net gain of one, given temporary funding) and increase Homeland Security reporting.

2. Career Center

- 65% increase in contacts by international students during 2008-2012.
- 20% decline in Career Center FTE (from 15 to 12 in same period).

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- Autumn 2012: 21% of Career Center contacts were international students.
- Need for new programs tailored to international students (including international professional development, career development).

The fee will provide \$38,000 for a .5 FTE career counselor with experience working with international students.

3. Student Life (Community Standards and Student Conduct; Disability Resource Services)

- Increase in student misconduct cases involving international students.
- Conduct: Of 200 cases July 2011-December 2012, 91 involved international students.
- Need for specialized educational programs (values, norms) to help our international students understand U.S. norms/academic culture.
- Disability Resource Services: Increase in requests for accommodations; need for translation services (foreign language medical documentation).

The fee will provide \$28,000 for a .25 staff person (with international student experience); translation services.

4. FIUTS (Foundation for International Understanding Through Students)

- Rising orientation costs (and need for more expensive venues, transportation).
- Early Fall Start Orientation funded from temporary funds.
- Ongoing counseling, professional development for international students.
- ~50% increase in students dropping in at FIUTS office since 2011.
- Need for programming/staff to respond to student requests for leadership, mentorship, cultural support.

The fee will provide \$250,000. The funds will support FIUTS orientation, ongoing community support, and add vitally needed staff (1 FTE) to the office. (FIUTS currently receives approximately \$160,000 per year through the one-time orientation fee that would end if this new proposal is adopted.)

5. Graduate School

- The Graduate School plays a critical role in processing I-20 visas for all international graduate students.
- Other services include advising for students via email/Skype, file storage costs.

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- I-20 services are currently paid for from temporary funds, which will be depleted at the end of June 2013.

The fee would provide \$75,000 for the 1 FTE staff currently on temporary funds, thus guaranteeing continued quality service.

6. Center for Teaching and Learning

- Students report that international TAs can be very good, but they need additional training and support.
- 13% increase in international TAs since 2008, from 327 to 370.
- Need to support U.S. faculty and TAs to bridge cultural differences, engage international students.

The fee would provide \$78,000 for a 1 FTE professional staff member to create and coordinate international TA support/mentorship programs and to work with faculty in creating support for faculty and TAs in teaching international students.