

## VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

## A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

UW Bothell: International Student Services and Program Fee ProposalRECOMMENDED 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 Bothell international students starting Autumn 2013.

BACKGROUND

Since Autumn 2010, UW Bothell has seen a 224.4% increase in the number of international students served. This rapid increase has put a great deal of stress on current services for these students and necessitated expansion or creation of other programs that provide a necessary foundation for students' academic and personal success.

During 2012-13 academic year, UW Bothell engaged in broad consultation regarding the fee, including discussions with student leaders, faculty and staff who provide services to international students. Twenty-two focused individual interviews were also held with current international students and the Associated Students of University of Washington Bothell (ASUWB). Findings from these consultations indicated most international students did not feel that a quarterly fee of \$45 would be a major burden and most students consulted agreed that the fee should be used to directly serve and support international students. Feedback also indicated that communication would be needed to ensure that students understand that the fee would be charged to and used for international students, not the general student population.

UW Seattle recently reviewed a sampling of universities, finding that the UW Seattle and Bothell 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 from UW Seattle's research:

- 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.

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- 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).

Overall, we anticipate the fee will provide \$40,500 in the 2013-14 academic year, which will be used for international student services. Examples of the ways funds can be expended are included below.

### JUSTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED ACTION

What are the problems this fee would address?

#### **1. International Student Services (ISS)**

- Staffing (2 FTE) will remain constant, despite the 224.4% increase in the number of international students.
- Staff face 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; Health Insurance Verification, and Address Verification needed for Washington state driver's license).
- Federal reporting costs have risen as well.
- Delays will increase if no additional funding is provided.

The fee is anticipated to provide \$12,000, which can be used to fund two student employees to assist with ISS and International Admissions. Funding will also enhance program and activity offerings, such as the workshops and activities listed below.

#### **2. Student Affairs** (Counseling and CARE Team; Academic Conduct and Community Standards)

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- International students demonstrate a higher need for support and guidance related to culture shock, adjustment, depression and anxiety, requiring increased services through Counseling Services and the CARE Team.
- There is an increased need for specialized educational programs to help our international students understand U.S. norms and academic culture. There is also an increased need for students to understand the expectations and academic rigor expected at the University of Washington.

The fee is anticipated to provide \$3,000 to support preventative counseling services, outreach, and educational sessions.

### 3. Career Services

- With increased complexities around international students work eligibility, there is a need for increased awareness and education about OPT and CPT.
- International students are only eligible to work on campus; we need more on-campus positions where these students are eligible.
- International students demonstrate a higher need for support and guidance related to US workplace etiquette, job search techniques, and resume writing.

The fee is anticipated to provide \$6,000, which can be used for one or more part-time positions for international students to assist with the above tasks.

### 4. Teaching & Learning Center (TLC) [Writing and Communication Center (WaCC); the Quantitative Skills Center (QSC), and Faculty Development]

- Demand has increased among international students for face-to-face and online tutoring in writing and quantitative skills, provided by the WaCC and the QSC.
- International students present a greater need for support with reading and writing strategies and report that they need additional tutoring time.
- International students report reluctance to seek out academic support, due to concerns about their spoken English; additional outreach to these students is needed.
- Additional support is needed for faculty and academic support staff in bridging cultural differences, engaging international students, and tailoring teaching for international students.

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- Peer consultants (tutors) require additional support in working with international students in areas including written and spoken English, as well as cultural competence.

The fee is anticipated to provide \$11,000, which can fund two tutors focused on international students' needs, as well as \$6,000 for an international student to assist in expanding TLC support and outreach activities.

#### **5. International Student Facilitators (ISF)**

- This student-initiated group is creating a community for international students and provides connections to resources on and off campus; ISF currently has 50 members, only four of the student positions are paid.
- ISF is creating a one-stop shop for students to connect with others through activities, learn about resources, access tutoring, and find resources related to food and transportation. Funding is needed to support this effort.

The fee is anticipated to provide \$500 in support for international student events and activities.

#### **6. Residential Life**

- International students demonstrate a higher need for support and guidance related to U.S. living accommodations, norms and standards, including food preparation, appliance instruction, and safety and evacuation protocols.
- International students need greater access to health services and assistance in translating the student health insurance plan

The fee is anticipated to provide \$2,000, which can be used to support peer mentors in these areas.