STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance and Asset Management Committee

New Student Enrollment and Orientation Fee Increases for UW Bothell and UW Seattle

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration that the Board of Regents, pursuant to its authority under RCW 28B.20.130, the Bylaws of the Board of Regents, and the Board of Regents Governance Standing Order No. 1, approve this slate of student fee changes for the current academic year. In this action item, the Board of Regents, in its sole and independent discretion approves changes selected fees in Fiscal Year 2016 for new students accepting admission on the UW Seattle and Bothell campuses this year and in future years.

BACKGROUND

Under Administrative Policy Statement 33.1, User Fee Approval Policy, the Board of Regents has authority to assess fees at its discretion and delegated certain fee approvals to the President who, in turn, delegated approval authority to the Provost.

Under current delegations, the President maintains authority to approve University-wide charges, including student application and registration fees. In turn, the Provost has authority to approve fees for courses and instructional related fees.

Despite these delegations, there are fees for which the President and Provost seek consultation and approval from the Board of Regents.

This action item contains an explanation of and request for approval to increase the New Student Enrollment and Orientation Fee (NSEOF) charged to new students at UW Seattle and UW Bothell to varying amounts. Though the fee varies by campus, each campus seeks to increase this fee to cover critical expenses and in many cases, these fees have not increased since their inception.

Attachment
Proposed Changes to the New Student Enrollment and Orientation Fee (NSEOF)
Proposed Changes to the New Student Enrollment and Orientation Fee (NSEOF)

Background

UW Seattle

UW Seattle’s Undergraduate Academic Affairs (UAA) unit recommends a fee increase of $10, changing the NSEOF from $300 to $310, or 3.3%, to the President and Interim Provost. This request is justified by an increase in expense associated with changes to the minimum wage for student employees and including required credit card merchant fees.

Initially, the requested change was 16% over the current fee, but Interim Provost Baldasty removed the institutional overhead rate charged to this fee, which will save the program over $360,000 next year. Exemption from institutional overhead will allow NSEOF revenues to be repurposed to programs and services for students. In addition, it allows UAA to sustain programming and campus partnerships for the next three years, including their commitment to rich learning experiences for volunteer and employed student leaders, including Dawg Daze and Orientation Leaders, Freshmen Interest Group (FIG) peer educators, Peer Advisers, Tutors, and Mentors.

A 3.3% increase would increase the NSEOF fee from $300 to $310. Beginning with this admission cycle, new students would pay $10 additional NSEOF, generating net new revenue of $84,500.

The $84,500 increased revenue would be distributed the following way:

1. Credit card surcharge ($78,585) and
2. Minimum wage changes for student employees ($5,915)

The revenue that would have been directed to institutional overhead payments will now be repurposed for enhancing First Year Programs, resulting in the following:

- Sustained funding of holistic academic advising and staffing during advising and orientation programming, ($48k);
- Expansion of offerings (support courses, workshops, etc.) for international and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) students, ($37k);
- Continuation of subject specific tutoring for undergraduates students visiting the Center for Learning and Undergraduate Enrichment (CLUE), ($27K);
- Creation of comprehensive and streamlined communications to increase access and engagement for all incoming students, ($22k);
Utilization of the energy and expertise of current UW students to welcome new students and create small, supportive communities through programmatic efforts, ($140k), including:
  o Increased support of incoming students through expansion of GEN St 199 offerings and options for transitional support;
  o Enhanced peer educator and peer leader trainings with increased opportunities for pedagogical application and peer resource sharing that contributes to high levels of student engagement with learning and high levels of achievement;
  o Elevated student learning about the University through intentional content delivery, flipped classroom workshop models, and experiential learning with Advising and Orientation and Dawg Daze;
  o Increased access for underrepresented populations to receive one-on-one advising with academic counselors and connect with peers through small group community building during Advising and Orientation;
  o Expanded academic events and workshops offered at Dawg Daze through enhanced partnerships with campus departments and programs;
  o Longitudinal, multi-year leadership development for students within the office; and,
  o Creation of intentional transfer programming throughout the first year that is both transitional and career and major specific.

Continuation of efficiencies and smooth program logistics for students and families ($50k).

UW Bothell

UW Bothell’s Division of Student Affairs recommends an adjustment to UW Bothell’s NSEOF beginning spring quarter 2016. If approved, UW Bothell’s fee would increase from $250 to $300, or 20% increase. This fee has not increased since 2007. UW Bothell’s request is justified by a combination of innovative and critical initiatives for diverse students and enhancements to the orientation experience of both first-year and transfer students.

Beginning this spring, new students would pay a $300 fee, generating $68,250 of incremental revenue during FY17; this revenue would be distributed to the following areas:
  • Minimum wage changes for student employees, ($32K);
  • Professional-Classified staff salary merit increases/benefits for four employees, ($14K);
  • Increased costs in supplies, materials and catering, ($15K);
  • On-line orientation and new student device application development, ($7K); and
  • Faculty honoraria for expanded Husky Adventure Program, ($1K).