

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Handbook Revision, Tuition and Fees

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Pursuant to Board policy (Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 1), every odd-numbered year, the Chancellor must convene a committee composed of institutional Presidents, student representatives and system administration staff

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

Revising the policy governing the method for establishing registration fees at Nevada State College will allow the Tuition and Fees Committee flexibility in making recommendations to the Board.

If the Board approves the Committee's recommended tuition and fee changes for the next four academic years, strengthening the Board's policy requiring predictable pricing is important to ensure that students and institutions can confidently plan for future years without concern that these rates will change absent emergency situations or extreme economic circumstances.

Allowing institutions to propose fee incentives or tuition or fee discounts will help the institutions better serve their students and local markets demands while still safeguarding quality and an appropriate fiscal review by requiring that these proposals be considered and approved by Board prior to implementation.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

Expanding institutional authority to propose tuition or fee incentives or discounts may create different institutional rates for similar programs at student populations and be difficult to track.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

Retain existing Board policy. If the Board does not approve the recommendation to change the method of calculating registration fees at Nevada State College, the Committee will need to revisit tuition and fee recommendations for Nevada State College and revise its proposal for tuition and fees at Nevada State College for Board consideration at its meeting in June 2014.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 1 and Section 13
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact Yes _____ No _____
Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 17, SECTION 1
Assessment of Fees Predictable Pricing

Additions appear in boldface italics; deletions are ~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 17, SECTION 1
State College Registration Fees

Additions appear in boldface italics, deletions are ~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 1. Assessment of Fees

1. The Board of Regents shall establish tuition rates for students who are not residents of Nevada, and registration and other fees to be assessed ~~to students~~. The following principles shall guide the process for establishing tuition and fee rates across the System:
 - a. Shared Responsibility. Tuition and fee levels shall reflect the shared responsibility, benefits, and needs of the students, the state, and the institution.
 - b. Access and Affordability. Maintaining affordability by ensuring that all students can enroll at a NSHE institution by virtue of the cost of attendance and an appropriate financial aid package.
 - c. Predictable Pricing. Increases in tuition and fees shall be predictable and managed so that the quality of education is not compromised to the extent this is feasible.
2. Every oddnumbered year, the chancellor will appoint and chair a System Committee composed of elected student government representatives, campus presidents, and System Administration staff to gather and review data and to make recommendations to the chancellor and the Board on an appropriate level of tuition and fees. The Committee will present its recommendations to the Board of Regents for its consideration and action. Whenever practicable: (1.) broad input will be sought from NSHE students by the chancellor prior to any final or binding decisions by the Board; and (2.) the final decision on tuition and fees for the biennium will be determined by June 30 of every evennumbered year.
3. In its deliberations, the Committee will consider the following: 1) charges at peer institutions in the western region of the United States, 2) higher education inflation as measured by the Higher Education Price Index or a similarly appropriate index, 3) anticipated state funding, 4) institutional needs and mission, and 5) other indices and information as appropriate.
 - a. Registration fee will be set so that the increase is equivalent to at least the most recent Higher Education Price Index available for each year of the biennium. The Committee may recommend a higher percentage increase as appropriately justified, but no percent increase shall be less than the inflation index for higher education. ~~The undergraduate~~

- c. Nonresident students enrolled exclusively in distance education courses will, in addition to registration fees, pay a tuition charge equaling the registration fees times 50 percent. The tuition charge will be assessed only to nonresident students who are residing outside of Nevada during the semester in which enrollment in the distance education course(s) occurs.
4. In order to improve the access of all students and to encourage participation in higher education, an amount equal to at least 10 percent of the total registration fee at the community colleges (lower division only) and at least 15 percent of the total registration fee for all other institutions including upperdivision at the community colleges, net the amounts distributed to other fee categories, will be dedicated to student financial assistance. These percentages are target amounts that must be achieved by academic year 2022.
5. If desired, NSHE institutions may implement tuition or fee incentives in order to further the goals of the NSHE Master Plan and institutional strategic plans. Among the purposes of such incentives, if implemented, would be to increase student access, improve efficiencies in

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POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 17, new SECTION 13
Tuition or Registration Fee Discounts

Additions appear in