

**Submitted by: M. Roy Wilson, President**

## **FY 2016 Tuition and Fee Rates for the School of Medicine MD Program**

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors adopt a base tuition rate increase of 2.0% for the School of Medicine MD program for FY 2016 for incoming students only.

It is further recommended that the Student Medical School Support fee (annual fee) increase from \$823 to \$839.50 and the Student Service Fee (per credit hour) increase from \$22.50 to \$24.00. In addition, the Recreation and Fitness Center (RFC) Maintenance Fee, previously charged to all students, is recommended to be eliminated and will now be part of the Student Service Fee.

These new rates would be applicable to only Year 1 students enrolled in the MD program. All other MD students (Years 2 through 4) would continue to pay the FY 2015 tuition and fee rates. MD students (Years 2 through 4) will also have the Recreation and Fitness Center Fee eliminated as now it will be part of the Student Services Fee. The overall tuition and fee impact to the students will be 0% change.

As part of this resolution, the Board of Governors authorizes the President or his designee to make adjustments to the rates for special programs or where otherwise appropriate.

### **Background Information**

#### **Proposed FY 2016 Tuition and Fee Rates**

Over the last several years, the Board of Governors has taken action on the School of Medicine MD program tuition and fee rates prior to approving rates for other University programs. This course of action allows the School of Medicine to better coordinate enrollment and financial aid activities in line with the MD program's academic year, which starts on July 1st. For FY 2016, the MD tuition and fee rates are proposed to increase by 2.0%. This increase will apply to incoming Year 1 MD program students only. As outlined in the May 2, 2014 MD program tuition and fee resolution, the University is initiating a pilot fixed price tuition model for MD program students only. The intent of this model is to ensure that all MD students will not experience increases in their tuition and fee rates while pursuing their MD degree at Wayne State. All future Year 1 MD students will be subject to rate increases as approved by the Board of Governors for the year in which they enter medical school.

To summarize, tuition and fee rates in relation to the student's 2015-16 class status are charged as follows:

- Year 1 students: Tuition and fees at the proposed FY 2016 rate.
- Year 2, 3 and 4 students: Tuition and fees at the previously approved FY 2015 rate, adjusted for the incorporation of the RFC Maintenance Fee into the Student Services Fee.

If a student surpasses 200 credit hours in pursuit of their MD degree, any additional credit hours will be charged at the rate of the incoming class of that year, regardless of their year class status.

MD students, like other Wayne State students, pay a University-wide Student Services Fee (formerly named as the Omnibus Fee) for student technology and other services. This proposal includes a Student Services Fee of \$24.00 per credit hour, which includes a 2% increase plus incorporating Recreation Center Fee. For Year 2, 3 and 4 students, the Student Services Fee would change to \$23.00 per credit hour, which along with the elimination of the \$25 RFC Maintenance Fee, represents no net increase from the FY 2015 fee rates for a full time student.

In addition, the School of Medicine also recommends that the Student Support Fee increase 2.0% to \$839.50, which is an increase of \$16.50. This annual fee is used to fund microscope rentals, photocopy expenses, teaching materials, National Board examination fees and other course-related expenses. Again, this proposed new rate would be applicable to new Year 1 students only; Year 2 through 4 students would pay the previously approved FY 2015 rates.

The following schedule of credit hour and fee rates reflects these recommendations.

**CREDIT HOUR ANALYSIS OF RECOMMENDED SOM MD TUITION RATES**

Category	FY 2015	FY 2016	\$ Change
<b>Resident</b>			
--Tuition (per credit) Year 1 only	\$609.05	\$621.25	\$12.20
--Tuition (per credit) Year 2, 3, 4 only	\$609.05	\$609.05	\$0.00
--Student Services Fee (per credit) Year 1 only	\$22.50	\$24.00	\$1.50
--Student Services Fee (per credit) Year 2, 3, 4 only	\$22.50	\$23.00	\$0.50
--Student Medical School Support Fee (annual) Year 1 only	\$823.00	\$839.50	\$16.50
--Student Medical School Support Fee (annual) Year 2, 3, 4 only	\$823.00	\$823.00	\$0.00
--Recreation Center Fee (annual)	\$25.00	\$0.00	-\$25.00
<b>Non-Resident</b>			
--Tuition (per credit) Year 1 only	\$1,267.45	\$1,292.80	\$25.35
--Tuition (per credit) Year 2, 3, 4 only	\$1,267.45	\$1,267.45	\$0.00

Category	FY 2015	FY 2016	\$ Change
<b>Non-Resident (continued)</b>			
--Student Services Fee (per credit) Year 1 only	\$22.50	\$24.00	\$1.50
--Student Services Fee (per credit) Year 2, 3, 4 only	\$22.50	\$23.00	\$0.50
--Student Medical School Support Fee (annual) Year 1 only	\$823.00	\$839.50	\$16.50
--Student Medical School Support Fee (annual) Year 2, 3, 4 only	\$823.00	\$823.00	\$0.00
--Recreation Center Fee (annual)	\$25.00	\$0.00	-\$25.00

**ANALYSIS OF RECOMMENDED ANNUAL SOM MD TUITION AND FEES  
(FOR YEAR 1 STUDENT)**

Residency	FY 2015 Tuition & Fees	Recommended FY 2016 Tuition & Fees	\$\$ Change	% Change
<b>Resident</b>	\$32,425.50	\$33,102.00	\$676.50	2.1%
<b>Non-Resident</b>	\$65,345.50	\$66,679.50	\$1,334.00	2.0%

For a number of years Wayne State has limited tuition and fee increases for the MD Program in an effort to bring those rates more in line with other medical schools and also to address the very high level of student debt held by student completing our program, compared to students at peer institutions. The University believes that this pilot project holding the tuition and fee rates flat for future years addresses this issue and allows medical students and their families to plan with certainty regarding future academic costs.

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) has raised the issue of high levels of student indebtedness in a recent report. Specifically,

**MS-24: Medical schools should have mechanisms in place to minimize the impact of direct educational expenses on student indebtedness**

**Reviewer Summary:** The average debt for graduating students [at WSU School of Medicine] now is well above the national average for public medical schools as tuition has increased, at times significantly (there was a 20% increase in tuition for the 2005-2006 academic year). The amount of available scholarship and grant support has not kept pace, leading to the rising debt burden. Medical student express considerable concern and dissatisfaction that the University also may establish tuition increases after students have registered, so that the financial aid officer must re-work financial aid packages after the fact to meet the demonstrated student financial need.

In addition, many students in the medical also incur additional debt when failing a course and are required to repeat. A primary cause for this increased debt is the large number of credit hours associated with the medical school courses. Only 5 of the 32 courses in medical school are three credit hours. Two of the courses, Anatomy and Pathophysiology are 12 and 18 credits respectively, and unfortunately have the highest failure rate. To alleviate this additional debt, the University will continue the policy that students failing a course would be responsible for paying a one-time fee to repeat. This fee would not exceed \$2,500 for each repeated course in lieu of tuition and it is not dependent upon the number of credit hours associated with a course.

This recommendation applies only to students enrolled in the School of Medicine MD program and is not an indication of rates for the general student body or an obligation by the Board of Governors regarding the rates that will be set for the rest of the University's programs later this year.