



Board of Governors

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

May 2, 2014

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:43 a.m. by Governor Pollard in Rooms BC in the McGregor Memorial Conference Center. Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present. Professor Linda Beale attended to represent Professor Lou Romano, who was unable to attend.

Committee Members Present: Governors Massaron, Nicholson, and Pollard; Charles Parrish, Faculty Representative; Adham Aljahmi, Student Representative, and Erika Giroux, Student Alternate Representative

Committee Members Absent: Governors Dingell and Driker, and Lou Romano, Faculty Alternate Representative

Also Present: Governors Dunaskiss, O'Brien and Trent, and President Wilson; Provost Winters, Vice Presidents Johnson, Lessem, Lindsey, Nork, Staebler and Wright, and Secretary Miller; and Linda Beale, substitute faculty representative

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, March 21, 2014

ACTION – Upon motion by Governor Massaron and seconded by Mr. Aljahmi, the Minutes of the March 21, 2014 meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee were approved as submitted. The motion carried.

CONTINGENCY RESERVE

Mr. Kohrman reported there were no transfers requested from the Contingency Reserve, and the FY 2014 balance remains at \$75,000.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FY 2015 TUITION RATES

ACTION – Upon motion by Governor Massaron and seconded by Professor Parrish that the Budget and Finance Committee recommend that the Board of Governors adopt a base tuition rate increase of 2.0% for the School of Medicine M.D. program for FY 2015. Further, that the total student fees charged to M.D. students (the Student Services Fee and the Student Medical Support Fee) increase in total by 2.0 percent.

Further, the Committee recommended that the Board of Governors authorize the President or his designee to make adjustments to the rates for special programs or where otherwise appropriate.

Mr. Kohrman explained that there are two components to the above resolution. The first is a 2% increase for both the fees and the tuition rates for both resident and non-resident students. The second component is a pilot program consisting of a fixed price tuition model for M.D. students only. Specifically, the Year 1 students will have an increase of 2% for Fall 2014 and then will not see their tuition rate increase for Years 2, 3, and 4. Year 2 students will have a 2% increase but no tuition or fee increases for Years 3 and 4. Year 3 students will also see a 2% increase, but no increases for their last Year 4. The program will be implemented for the four classes currently at WSU in the Fall of 2014 for both resident and non-resident students.

Mr. Kohrman also clarified the fee increase for medical students. There is a slight decrease in the University-wide Student Services fee (formerly the Omnibus Fee) to be paid by medical students. However, the Student Medical Support Fee will be increased at a slightly higher rate. Nevertheless, the overall effect of the fee increase remains at 2%.

Professor Beale noted that the percentage increase is the same for both resident and non-resident medical students. In the past, the faculty expressed concern about the increasing gap in tuition between the two groups and had suggested the non-resident increase be based on a dollar amount rather than percentages to prevent the escalating disparity between residents and non-residents. Professor Beale also questioned whether part of the problem with the student debt in the Medical School could be attributed to students who have to retake courses and take longer to complete the program.

Mr. Kohrman explained that tuition increases are always addressed in percentages. He added that despite the tuition rates, there is a market for non-resident students, as evidenced by the fact that there were 3,300 applicants last fall, and 175 were admitted. Students who are in need are offered financial aid packages. In terms of those students who must retake classes, he said that changes were made last year so that both resident and non-resident students who must retake classes would not pay the full rate, but rather a substantially reduced rate. In response to Governor Massaron's question as to how many students retake classes, the Vice Dean for Medical Education, Maryjean Schenk, replied that on the average, about ten to 12 students actually repeat classes. Generally Year 1 students repeat Year 1 courses, and the same holds true for Year 2. There is very little repeating course work after Year 2.

Professor Beale commented that if tuition increases continue to be computed by percentages, the disparity between resident and non-resident tuition will continue to grow. Eventually, those high rates will have an effect on the market. She added that just because it has always been done this way is a poor rationale for continuing the process, and she hoped that the Board and the School of Medicine would take that long-term planning into account.

Governor Massaron reviewed the specifics of the pilot program as it applied to each year level of medical students. He asked about those students who take longer than the traditional four years. Mr. Kohrman replied that the tuition rate of those students who take longer will revert back to that of the incoming class. Governor Massaron stated that he supports the proposal because it creates a level of stability for students. They can plan and borrow, and the process will hopefully be more manageable. Mr. Aljahmi noted that both the University-wide Student Senate and the student senate of the Medical School are in support of the proposal.

ACTION — Upon motion by Governor Massaron and seconded by Professor Parrish, the Budget and Finance Committee recommended that the Board of Governors adopt a base tuition rate increase of 2.0% for the School of Medicine M.D. program for FY 2015. Further, that the total student fees charged to M.D. students (the Student Services Fee and the Student Medical Support Fee) increase in total by 2.0 percent.

Further, the Committee recommended that the Board of Governors authorize the President or his designee to make adjustments to the rates for special programs or where otherwise appropriate.

The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Secretary Miller noted that both Mr. Aljahmi and Ms. Giroux, the two student representatives, recently graduated and are completing their terms of service on the Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller
Secretary to the Board of Governors