

Board Meeting
January 20, 2011

APPROVE RESOLUTION REGARDING ACADEMIC YEAR
TUITION RATE RECOMMENDATIONS

Action: Approve Resolution Regarding Tuition Rate Recommendations

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Board of Trustees has discussed frequently and in great detail the University's resource needs with a focus on three major areas: (1) sustaining academic quality; (2) addressing crucial operational needs; and (3) meeting inflationary and other essential cost increases. The Board continues to express significant concern regarding tuition and affordability at the University, especially in light of diminished State support, competition, differential costs among academic disciplines, mandatory cost increases, and financial aid to students.

In recent years, resources from the State of Illinois have declined dramatically, both with regard to levels of appropriation and timeliness of payments. As such, cash flow has emerged as a constant and critical concern. Future State appropriations and funding for the University remain uncertain. Critical high priority expenditures include continuing cost increases, increasing financial aid to insure access for qualified students, and retaining our productive and highly valued faculty and staff. The University has instituted unprecedented measures to conserve resources, including

mid-year spending cuts, mandatory furlough days for faculty and staff, hiring restrictions, administrative reorganization, program elimination, and other actions.

In considering the tuition recommendation for each academic year in light of fiscal realities, the Board seeks to maintain and enhance this State's long-standing commitment to adequately fund the University and to retain its esteemed reputation while ensuring access to its renowned academic programs. In 1995, the Board confirmed certain tuition policies and guidelines to be considered by the administration when proposing tuition charges to students. It is the Board's desire to supplement existing tuition setting policies and guidelines at the University for the purpose of objective determination and predictability of tuition rates.

Therefore, the Board resolves that beginning with the 2011-2012 academic year and each succeeding academic year, any tuition rate increase recommendation from the president, in consultation with the senior administrative leadership, shall include a comparison to the most recent four-year average annual rate of inflation using an appropriate, nationally recognized price index. The impact of any increase or reduction in the State's general revenue fund appropriation from the prior fiscal year appropriation amount shall also be presented, compounded to the guaranteed rate. The University's ongoing costs reduction efforts shall be taken into account when determining any tuition rate recommendation. Once the tuition recommendation is determined, it shall be submitted to the Board for approval.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.