

Approved by the Board of Trustees,  
July 14, 2005

Board Meeting  
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RENEW CTA U-PASS CONTRACT AND  
INCREASE TRANSPORTATION FEE, CHICAGO

**Action:** Approve Renewal of CTA U-Pass Contract and Increase in Transportation Fee, Chicago

**Funding:** No Funding Required

The Chancellor at Chicago recommends the renewal of the U-Pass Contract with the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) beginning Fall Semester 2005. Participation in the U-Pass program requires the assessment of a transportation fee for all eligible students, which is utilized to contract with CTA to provide an unlimited pass for each eligible student to ride CTA buses and elevated trains, plus cover campus administrative costs. Students with disabilities who are unable to utilize existing CTA services may apply for a fee exemption, which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Office of Disability Services.

Full-time undergraduate students at the Chicago campus began participation in the U-Pass program Fall Semester 2001 when the University entered into a four-year contract with CTA that will end Summer Semester 2005. The contract was amended to include full-time graduate students from the Graduate College, College of Pharmacy, and School of Public Health beginning Fall Semester 2002 based on results of a student referendum. The program is administered by the Office of the Vice Chancellor

for Student Affairs/Campus Auxiliary Services. Consistently each semester, 92 percent of eligible students have utilized their passes.

CTA requires participating schools to enter into a five-year contract with an option for the University to cancel without penalty at the end of any semester by providing written notice to the CTA not less than 45 calendar days prior to the commencement of the next semester.

Payment to CTA is calculated on a per student, per day basis. The payment rate for Academic Year 2005-2006 will increase from the current 60 cents to 70 cents per student, per day resulting in the need to increase the transportation fee 14.46 percent from \$83 to \$95 per semester (and \$52 for Summer Session 2006). The U-Pass contract does not specify the payment rate for the subsequent four years but requires CTA to notify the University by March 1 of any rate increase for the following academic year beginning in Fall Semester.

Students at Chicago indicated overwhelming support of the U-Pass program in a referendum held in April 2005. The referendum provided students with pros and cons of the program and detailed the payment increase and transportation fee increase. Students were asked to vote either "Yes; I support the assessment of the \$95 Transportation Fee for Academic Year 2005-2006" or "No; I do not support the fee." Of the 4,941 votes cast, 4,236 students (85.73 percent) voted in favor of the U-Pass program and 705 students (14.26 percent) voted against the U-Pass program.

The Student Fee and Tuition Advisory Committee (SFTAC) formally recommended renewal of the CTA contract, as well as the addition of the College of Dentistry and M1 and M2 students from the College of Medicine to the program based on

student polls that were conducted subsequent to the referendum. The committee also recommended a stipulation that a mandatory student referendum be held each April to determine student interest after the transportation fee for the following academic year has been determined. The transportation fee will be determined based upon the payment rate to the CTA that will be disclosed to the university by March 1. Each referendum will provide the University with student input in sufficient time for the University to terminate the contract without penalty for the following Fall Semester if student interest in the program is no longer evident.

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.

The President of the University concurs.