Approved by the Board of Trustees

January 23, 2025

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Board Meeting

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# APPROVE TUITION RATES, ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

**Action**: Approve Tuition Rates, Academic Year 2025-2026

**Funding**: No New Funding Required

Universities make tuition adjustments to meet inflationary cost demands, to address critical operating needs, and, ultimately, to sustain the quality of their academic programs. An equally crucial consideration is to maintain affordability for students. It is for this reason that all three universities of the University of Illinois System froze the undergraduate base rate tuition for resident undergraduate students for seven of the past 10 years, even during periods of declining State appropriations and despite significant additional expenses incurred to deal with the pandemic. Tuition rates for non-resident and international undergraduate students and for graduate and professional students were only increased modestly. Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), has averaged 5.1 percent per year over the past four years and 2.7 percent in the past 12 months.

Following extensive discussions at each university, the chancellors/vice presidents have recommended a modest general tuition increase of 2.2 percent at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and Chicago (UIC) and an increase of 2.0 percent at Springfield (UIS) for Illinois resident undergraduate students admitted to the Fall 2025 class. UIUC is proposing increases between 4.4 percent and 4.7 percent for all of their non-resident and international undergraduate students as part of a multi-year effort to rebalance the difference between resident and non-resident rates. UIC is proposing modest increases between 2.2 percent and 3.0 percent for most of their non-resident and international undergraduate students. UIS proposes an increase of 3.0 percent for non-resident students and a 3.0 percent increase in undergraduate e-tuition. Overall, these recommendations acknowledge the financial needs of the colleges after a long period of tuition freeze and growing inflationary pressures while being mindful of the need to maintain access and affordability for resident students.

One new undergraduate differential is requested at UIUC for students in astrophysics. The $2,690 per semester differential tuition will cover the additional costs associated with highly specialized courses and laboratory facilities, increase student services support, and establish a formal undergraduate research program for astrophysics majors.

One new undergraduate differential is requested at UIS for four science programs within the College of Health, Science, and Technology. The $30 per credit hour differential tuition will be assessed to undergraduate students in biochemistry, biology, chemistry, and medical laboratory sciences programs. Funds will be used to offset the additional costs associated with these programs, such as procurement of lab equipment, specimens, computers and software for teaching labs, maintenance of instrumentation, and technical staff to maintain and run the labs.

These proposed undergraduate tuition rates for Academic Year 2025-2026 will apply to the cohort of undergraduate students who enter in May 2025 or after. In compliance with the tuition guarantee mandate found in Section 25 of the University of Illinois Act (110 ILCS 305/25), the proposed rates will hold steady for four years for these students. Because of this guarantee, all continuing undergraduate students will be subject to tuition charges appropriate for their cohort of matriculation.

As per the undergraduate financial aid policy and guidelines, each university is encouraged to maintain an appropriate level of funding for financial aid programs that serve Illinois resident undergraduates, within the constraints of available resources. More than 67 percent of all Illinois undergraduate students enrolled across the UI System receive some form of financial aid and over 51 percent pay less than $3,000 per semester.

Most graduate programs at UIUC and UIC will see increases at 3.0 percent or less. Only six graduate programs, one at UIUC and five at UIC, will increase more than 3.0 percent, while the tuition for several other programs will remain unchanged. UIC proposes a change to a per credit hour assessment for their in-person Master of Health Professions Education program to match their online program structure that will apply to incoming students only. UIS has proposed tuition increases of 2.0 percent for resident students enrolled in graduate programs and 3.0 percent for non-resident students enrolled in graduate programs, and proposes the reinstatement of the differential for their Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) program.

Most professional and online programs at UIUC, UIC, and UIS have proposed increases of 4.0 percent or less. Only three online programs exceed the 4.0 percent increase as reflected in the following tables. Additionally, UIC proposes a new full cost-recovery rate for one new professional program, the Doctor of Nursing Practice – Nurse Anesthetist. UIUC proposes three new online program rates and UIS proposes the reinstatement of the Master of Public Administration/Doctor of Public Administration online program differential. Graduate, professional, online, and full cost-recovery programs are responsive to competitive demand, market forces, and expenses associated with providing high-quality advanced degrees in particular fields.

All tuition recommendations are summarized in the attached tables.

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 executive vice president and vice president for academic affairs and the vice president/chief financial officer and comptroller concur with these recommendations.

The president of the University of Illinois System recommends approval.