

Board Meeting
May 11, 2017

APPROVE TUITION RATE FOR ONLINE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
ACCOUNTANCY, ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018, COLLEGE OF BUSINESS,
URBANA

Action: Approve Tuition Rate for Online Master of Science in Accountancy,
Academic Year 2017-2018

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Department of Accountancy, College of Business, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will launch an online version of its Master of Science in Accountancy (iMSA) in Fall 2017. An increase in the tuition rate for that program to \$850 per credit hour for the coming academic year is requested. This action supersedes any tuition action previously undertaken for academic year 2017-2018.

The iMSA program is a new delivery method for the existing Master of Science in Accountancy degree, and will be offered on the Coursera platform in a form similar to the online MBA (iMBA) and Master of Computer Science in Data Science (MSC-DS) degrees that launched in 2016, also on the Coursera platform. A tuition rate of \$475 per credit hour was originally requested for the iMSA, and was approved by the Board at its January 19, 2017, meeting. At the time of that request, the details of our contract with Coursera were still under negotiation, including Coursera's revenue share for these degrees. The contract with Coursera has since been completed and, in light of

the revenue sharing terms of that contract and the department's enrollment goals for the iMSA, a much different tuition rate is needed to make this program fiscally sustainable. The requested rate takes this new information into account, and still provides an attractive price (\$27,200 total tuition) for a degree from one of the top accountancy departments in the nation.

The university in Urbana-Champaign asks the Board to consider this off-cycle request as a one-time exception, given the rapidly evolving picture in online higher education, and the strategic advantages of launching the iMSA degree, properly priced, in August 2017. No students have yet been admitted to the iMSA program, and any students who are admitted to this program would know the new tuition rate before accepting their offers of admission.

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.

This change has been review and is recommended for approval by the Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois and by the Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The President of the University concurs.