

# BOARD OF REGENTS BRIEFING PAPER

## 1. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Distribution of Student Fees, Academic Years 2023-24 & 2024-25

MEETING DATE: July 21, 2023

## 2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Redistribution of the registration fee as proposed in this request requires approval of the Board of Regents because it is a modification to the distribution previously approved by the Board of Regents. After approval, the fee distributions are published in the Procedures & Guidelines Manual, Chapter 7, Section 17.

A portion of the student registration fee collected by each institution is used to support the State Supported Operating Budget for higher education. The remainder of the registration fee revenue is retained by the institution to provide for Student Access (need-based financial aid), as well as other institutional and student related needs, including General Improvement, Capital Improvement, Activities and Programs and Student Government. Every other year institutions have the opportunity to propose changes in how the registration fees are allocated.

The registration fee distribution for the 2023-2025 biennium was presented to and approved by the Board of Regents at the May 25, 2022 Special Meeting (Agenda Item BOR-2). In that presentation, the plan presented by UNLV included an increase to the amount allocated to the Capital Improvement Fee (CIF) from \$13 to \$18 for Academic Year 2023-24, and subsequently to \$20 for Academic Year 2024-25. The increased allocation of the additional dollars to CIF was intended to provide additional resources for capital investment in the campus through both direct investments and debt service. This was prior to having knowledge that the state would be allowing cost of living adjustment (COLA) of up to 12%.

During the June 30, 2023 Special Meeting, Agenda Item BOR-3, the Board of Regents approved a 12% COLA for NSHE faculty and professional employees. Since the funding provided for in the legislation will only partially cover the cost of the COLA, institutions were asked to document their plans to fund the shortfall; these plans were included as supporting materials for the agenda item. One of the components of UNLV's plan was to redistribute student registration fees.

This request is for board approval to modify the distribution of the student registration fee as presented in the plan approved in May 2022. The amount allocated to the State Supported Operating Budget (SSOB) to address the COLA funding gap will increase by \$5.00 per student credit hour, and the amount allocated to CIF will be reduced by \$5.00 per student credit hour. With this change, the amount in the SSOB will increase by approximately \$3,250,000, and the amount allocated to CIF will decrease by the same amount. It is important and relevant to note that there is no impact on the amount paid by students. If approved, this will only change how the registration fee will be allocated within the university's budget. There will be no change to the amount allocated for Student Access (financial aid).

To implement this solution, UNLV will need to defer several capital improvement and renovation projects planned for the next biennium, including enhancing campus entries and gathering spaces. While investing in the campus infrastructure is also important, UNLV has determined that funding the COLA is a higher priority and is willing to defer these projects until the next biennium.

If approved, Chapter 7, Section 17, of the Procedures & Guidelines Manual will be modified to reflect these changes for academic years 2023-24 & 2024-25. These modifications are reflected in Attachment A.

## 3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

President Whitfield requests Board approval to reallocate the distribution of the registration fee for academic years 2023-24 & 2024-25, as shown on the attached schedule.

## 4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

The change in allocation of the registration fee revenue for the upcoming biennium must be approved so that UNLV can allocate registration fee revenue appropriately as it finalizes the biennial budget.

## 5. CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:

Access (Increase participation in post-secondary education)

Success (Increase student success)

- Close the Achievement Gap (Close the achievement gap among underserved student populations) X
- Workforce (Collaboratively address the challenges of the workforce and industry education needs of Nevada)
- Research (Co-develop solutions to the critical issues facing 21<sup>st</sup> century Nevada and raise the overall research profile)
- Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

**INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL**

Registration fees and tuition are key elements in funding the operations of UNLV. This proposal is to realign the allocation of registration fee revenue to the state supported operating budget so that UNLV can fund the portion of the 12% COLA that will not be covered by the state.

**6. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

- There is no impact on the amount paid by students.
- The proposed redistribution was outlined in the plan that UNLV presented to the board at the June 30, 2023 board meeting.
- The proposed redistribution reflects UNLV’s budgetary priorities to invest in COLA increases for its employees in the upcoming biennium.

**7. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

None.

**8. ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:**

The Board can make alternative recommendations as to the registration fee distribution.

**9. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR’S OFFICE:**

System Administration staff recommend approval of the requested reallocation of registration fees.

**10. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #\_\_\_\_ Chapter #\_\_\_\_ Section #\_\_\_\_
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title #\_\_\_\_ Chapter #\_\_\_\_ Section #\_\_\_\_
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # 7 Section # 17
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- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Fiscal Impact: Yes X No .
- Explain: The revenue associated with the distribution of the registration fee will be reflected in the state Supported Operating budget and in the Capital Improvement Fee budget.

*NSHE Procedures and Guidelines Manual***CHAPTER 7, SECTION 17**

## Distribution of Registration Fees

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

**Section 17. Distribution of Registration Fees**

The following fee distributions have been approved by the Board of Regents:

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<b>REGISTRATION FEES</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>UNLV Undergraduate</b>				
State Operating Budget	168.65	173.60	<b><i>177.49</i></b> [ <del>172.49</del> ]	<b><i>178.74</i></b> [ <del>173.74</del> ]
Student Access	37.35	38.40	39.38	40.13
General Improvement	21.00	22.00	23.63	24.63
Capital Improvement	13.00	13.00	<b><i>13.00</i></b> [ <del>18.00</del> ]	<b><i>15.00</i></b> [ <del>20.00</del> ]
Activities and Programs	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Student Association	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>249.00</b>	<b>256.00</b>	<b>262.50</b>	<b>267.50</b>

**UNLV Graduate**

State Operating Budget	216.68	222.90	<b><i>227.40</i></b> [ <del>222.40</del> ]	<b><i>229.51</i></b> [ <del>224.51</del> ]
Student Access	45.82	47.10	48.26	49.16
General Improvement	21.00	22.00	24.09	25.08
Capital Improvement	13.00	13.00	<b><i>13.00</i></b> [ <del>18.00</del> ]	<b><i>15.00</i></b> [ <del>20.00</del> ]
Activities and Programs	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Student Association	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>305.50</b>	<b>314.00</b>	<b>321.75</b>	<b>327.75</b>

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