

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER

**1. Agenda Item Title: Handbook Change: Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 1.6 – Tuition and Fees
University of Nevada School of Medicine**

2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Board of Regents policy requires that on a biennial basis, in the Spring of every even numbered year, recommendations will be made to the Chancellor and Board of Regents on an appropriate level of tuition and fees to be assessed all students in the University of Nevada School of Medicine (UNSOM). Currently, UNSOM tuition and fees increases for instate (resident) students are capped at 9% per year, which has resulted in a total increase for resident students of 10% for the last biennium.

No rationale for this artificial 9% cap exists. The increase in UNSOM tuition and fees should be based on a review of 1) charges at peer institutions as defined in the annual Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) calculation of the median tuition and fees of member states; information pertaining to consumer prices in the WICHE region; (3) the increase in state funding over the biennium; 4) a needs assessment of the School of Medicine at the University of Nevada, Reno; and 5) other indices and information needed to determine if tuition and fees are appropriate. Since there is a deliberative process for determining increase there is no justification for setting an artificial cap. UNSOM tuition and fees only increased 10% over the biennium, while the tuition and fees for the rest of UNR student, both graduate and undergraduate increased approximately 28%.

3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

President Milton D. Glick requests approval of a change to Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 1.6, Tuition and Fees University of Nevada School of Medicine which removes the 9% cap on tuition and fee increases for resident (in-state) students.

4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

The tuition and fees for UNSOM students are being reviewed and a recommendation for the 2011-2013 is being made to the Board at the March 4- 5, 2010 meeting.

5. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- No reason why UNSOM tuition and fees have an artificial cap when no other students at UNR have a cap on increases in tuition and fees.
- UNR should have the ability to adjust tuition and fees of UNSOM students based on a predetermined set of factors and not be limited by a cap subject to Board approval.

6. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- It may cost more to attend UNSOM
- Students may incur more debt if UNSOM imposed larger increases in tuition and fees.

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

Leave the policy as it is.

8. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #____ Chapter #____ Section #____
X Amends Current Board Policy: Title #_4__ Chapter #_17__ Section #_1.6__
 Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #____ Section #____
 Other:_____
 Fiscal Impact: Yes____ No_X__
Explain:_____

POLICY PROPOSAL - HANDBOOK
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 17, SECTION 1.6

[Tuition and Fees University of Nevada School of Medicine]

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

Section 1. Assessment of Fees

6. On a biennial basis, in the Spring of every even numbered year, the President of the University of Nevada, Reno or his designee will chair a university committee composed of the Dean, School of Medicine, School of Medicine student government representatives, University of Nevada, Reno, administrative officers, and a representative from the Chancellor's Office. The committee will gather and review data and make recommendations to the Chancellor and the Board on an appropriate level of tuition and fees to be assessed all students in the **University of Nevada** School of Medicine [~~at the University of Nevada Reno~~]. The recommendation of this committee will be presented to the Board of Regents for its consideration and action. (B/R 5/93)

In establishing such rates and fees for the **University of Nevada** School of Medicine [~~at the University of Nevada, Reno~~], the university committee will use the following information in its deliberations: 1) charges at peer institutions as defined in the annual Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) calculation of the median tuition and fees of member states; 2) information pertaining to consumer prices in the WICHE region; 3) the increase in state funding over the biennium; 4) a needs assessment of the School of Medicine at the University of Nevada, Reno; and 5) other indices and information needed to determine if tuition rates and fees are appropriate. [~~Any fee increase may not exceed to nine (9) percent. Non-resident tuition may exceed this limit and~~] **Resident tuition and fee increases will be determined based on the above factors with no predetermined limit on the amount of the increase. Non-resident tuition may exceed the increase for residents** and will be determined by the Board. (B/R 5/93)