

BOARD OF REGENTS

BRIEFING PAPER

***Handbook* Revision, Assessment of Fees – Committee Timeline**

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Current policy requires the Board to establish tuition and fee rates across the System on a biennial basis (Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 1 of the *Handbook*). To facilitate the process, the Board’s policy requires the Chancellor to appoint and chair a System Committee every even-numbered year to gather and review data and make recommendations to the Chancellor and the Board on an appropriate level of tuition and fees. The policy includes guidelines governing this process.

Historically, the Tuition and Fees Committee has been convened in the summer of odd numbered years. This is done in order to provide the Committee ample time for the gathering of data necessary to make its recommendation, deliberations, and meeting with students to answer any questions regarding the proposed fee increases. As the policy indicates, tuition and fee increases must be finalized by June of even-numbered years, in sufficient time to build the revenue side of the budget.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Revise Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 1 of the *Handbook* to require that the Chancellor appoint the Tuition and Fees Committee in every odd-numbered year, instead of every even-numbered year. See the attached policy proposal.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

Based upon the biennial budgeting process and the complexities of evaluating tuition and fee rates, staff recommends revising the Board’s policy to allow the Tuition and Fees Committee to convene in the odd-numbered years following the regular legislative session to have the time necessary to gather and evaluate the data, formulate its recommendations, and ensure that these recommendations are available for the Board’s consideration in the following even-numbered year as part of the biennial budget preparation.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

Appointing the Committee in the odd-numbered years instead of the even-numbered years will:

- More accurately reflect current practice and the timeline required for the Committee to accomplish the responsibilities set forth in the Board’s policy; and
- Ensure the recommendations of the Committee are available in time for the Board’s consideration as part of NSHE’s biennial budget deliberation and preparation.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been brought forward at this time.

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

Maintain the existing policy.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #____ Chapter #____ Section #____
 Amends Current Board Policy: Title # 4 Chapter # 17 Section # 1
 Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #____ Section #____
 Other: _____
 Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No X _____
Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL

TITLE 4, CHAPTER 17, SECTION 1

Assessment of Fees – System Committee Timeline

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

Section 1. Assessment of Fees

1. The Board of Regents shall establish tuition rates for students who are not residents of Nevada, and registration and other fees to be assessed all students. The following principles shall guide the process for establishing tuition and fee rates across the System:
 - a. *Shared Responsibility.* Tuition and fee levels shall reflect the shared responsibility, benefits, and needs of the students, the state, and the institution.
 - b. *Access and Affordability.* Maintaining affordability by ensuring that all students can enroll at a NSHE institution by virtue of the cost of attendance and an appropriate financial aid package.
 - c. *Predictable Pricing.* Increases in tuition and fees shall be predictable and managed so that the quality of education is not compromised to the extent this is feasible.
2. Every *odd*~~even~~-numbered year, the Chancellor will appoint and chair a System Committee composed of elected student government representatives, campus Presidents, and System Administration staff to gather and review data and to make recommendations to the Chancellor and the Board on an appropriate level of tuition and fees. The Committee will present its recommendations to the Board of Regents for its consideration and action. Whenever practicable:
 - (1.) broad input will be sought from NSHE students by the Chancellor prior to any final or binding decisions by the Board; and
 - (2.) the final decision on tuition and fees for the biennium will be determined by June 30 of every even-numbered year.

....