

UW President Tom Buchanan Submits Tuition Increase Proposal

Nov. 13, 2009 -- University of Wyoming President Tom Buchanan today (Friday) submitted to UW's Board of Trustees a proposal for a tuition increase of \$5 per credit hour for the fiscal years 2011 and 2012 for resident undergraduate students and a proportional increase for nonresident undergraduate and all graduate students. Trustees will consider the proposal at their Nov. 19-20 meeting in Laramie.

"I have said and continue to say that we should raise tuition at UW only if a compelling reason exists for it," Buchanan says. "If we are to have increases, I strongly believe they should be consistent, occur over a period of years and be modest."

Specifically, Buchanan's recommendation is:

	\$ per credit hour FY10 (current)	FY11	FY12
Undergraduate			
Resident	\$94	\$99	\$104
Non-resident	\$358	\$376	\$394
Graduate			
Resident	\$183	\$192	\$201
Non-resident	\$523	\$549	\$575

Federal stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided to UW would be used to defray the cost of the tuition increase in FY 2011 (2010-2111 academic year.) That means while the tuition rate would change, no UW student would pay a higher tuition rate in that year.

The tuition increase is being proposed so UW can reach two significant goals, both of which have a direct impact on student learning. In budget cuts completed earlier this year, UW gave up funding for library collections that would allow it to apply for membership in the Greater Western Library Alliance, as well as funding gains for instructional excellence - resources and tools that students need for an optimal educational experience.

All revenue raised by the tuition increase will be applied equally only to library collections and excellence in education funds. UW fiscal estimates suggest the revenue generated could be:

	FY2011	FY2012
Libraries	\$925,000	\$1.85 million
Excellence in Education	\$925,000	\$1.85 million

"Our plans to pursue Greater Western Library Alliance membership and achieve our goals for excellence in education are essential to the quality of education that we provide our students,"

Buchanan says. This proposal supports both of those critical initiatives, which the Board of Trustees has endorsed.

But, Buchanan continues, given the economic uncertainty and changing fiscal environment in the state of Wyoming, establishing a tuition policy that mirrors the state's two-year budget cycle is preferable. State revenue projections for the coming biennium are much lower than those for the current biennium, but the outlook in later budget cycles is positive. While UW will use a four-year cycle in planning for tuition increases, the Board of Trustees is being asked to establish tuition for only the next two years.

Buchanan says he will evaluate UW's progress toward its goals before the Wyoming State Legislature's budget session in 2012 to ensure the university's tuition policy continues to be sound and the university is continuing to meet its budget objectives. At that time, he adds, the university can determine what tuition policy should be in place for 2013 and 2014.

"Even with these increases, UW tuition levels will continue to be among the lowest of public land-grant universities," he says.

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