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ABOR Sets Tuition for 2015-16 Academic Year

Tuition increases offset a portion of \$99 million in state budget cuts while universities identify internal efficiencies to make up for state budget shortfall

(Phoenix, Ariz.) – After considering cost-cutting measures at Arizona’s three public universities, the Arizona Board of Regents today approved [tuition and fee rates](#) for the universities that minimize increases for resident undergraduate students and offset some of the \$99 million in state funding cuts for fiscal year 2016.

When factoring in the additional 8,244 students expected in enrollment growth next year, the combination of the \$99 million cut in state aid and tuition and fee increases leaves overall operating dollars per student at \$640 less (minus 3.9 percent) than they were in fiscal year 2015. When adjusted for an expected 1.5 percent inflationary increase, that figure jumps to a decline of \$754 (minus 5.3 percent) per student. With the latest state budget cut, state funding represents approximately 26 percent of university operating budgets compared to 58 percent just a decade earlier.

“In considering today’s tuition proposals, the board asked our universities to implement internal spending cuts first and foremost,” said Mark Killian, Arizona Board of Regents chairman. “Even with today’s modest tuition increases and enrollment growth, our universities will be operating at a lower per student funding amount than they are presently. We have an obligation to protect our students, taxpayers and our institutions, and we must work to preserve and protect the value of the degrees our students receive from our universities. I feel we’ve accomplished that today.”

The board engaged students and the public in the tuition-setting process throughout this cycle. A public hearing on April 20 provided an opportunity for students and other interested parties to voice their thoughts on the tuition proposals to university presidents and to the board. In addition, the board conducted thorough financial and operational analyses of each university to align institutional performance and goals with tuition proposals.

Arizona State University resident undergraduate students will pay a temporary, one-time fee next year of \$320. Resident undergraduate students saw no increase in their tuition.

Continuing resident undergraduate students on Northern Arizona University’s Tuition Pledge Program will see no tuition increase, with incoming undergraduate students seeing an increase of 3.7 percent. New students not on the Pledge Program will see a 3.7 percent increase in tuition.

At the University of Arizona, current students in the Tuition Guarantee Program will see no increase in tuition and mandatory fees and continuing students can opt in to the plan at the lower rate. New resident undergraduate students on the University of Arizona’s Tuition Guarantee Program will see a 4.14 percent tuition increase, while new students enrolling in the UA and not participating in the Tuition Guarantee Program will see a 2.8 percent increase.

Resident graduate students at ASU will have a 2.8 percent increase in tuition; a 4.8 percent increase at NAU; and 2.8 percent at UA.

“This tuition cycle was especially challenging with state budget cuts that equaled almost \$1,000 per student,” said ABOR President Eileen Klein. “Our board worked closely with the university presidents to formulate tuition proposals that minimized impact on resident undergraduates but also allowed universities to stay on track with achieving critical goals for the state.”

In-state tuition among Arizona’s public universities remains competitive with peer institutions nationwide.

Arizona University System Base Tuition and Mandatory Fees, 2015-16:

	ASU		NAU Flagstaff		UA Main	
		Increase		Increase		Increase
Resident undergraduate	\$10,478	3.2% - one-year \$320 fee	\$10,358 - New Student Rate	3.7%	\$11,403 – New Student Rate	4.1%
Nonresident undergraduate	\$25,458	3.9 %	\$23,348 – New Student Rate	3.7%	\$32,630 – New Student Rate	10.9%
Resident graduate	\$11,604	2.8%	\$9,606	4.8%	\$12,048	2.8%
Nonresident graduate	\$27,760	3.9%	\$21,244	4.9%	\$30,370	5.8%

In setting tuition, the board considers numerous factors including funding adequacy to achieve goals in the board’s strategic plan; the overall cost of attendance and median family income; student financial aid, including financial aid supported from tuition and fee revenues; net price for low-income students; enrollment in high-access options; and high-access/low-cost degree options. Final fiscal year 2016 operating budgets for the universities will be approved at the June board meeting.

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