



News Release

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Regents Set Tuition and Mandatory Fees for 2010-11

PIERRE, S.D. – With a priority to maintain quality in the face of declining state support for public higher education, the South Dakota Board of Regents Thursday approved an average 4.6 percent increase in tuition and mandatory fees for the coming year. It is the smallest percentage increase in a decade, regents' officials said.

“This adjustment will cover less than half of the cuts made by the legislature last month,” said Regents Presidents Terry Baloun. “Our public universities will absorb the remainder of the system-wide cuts, about \$3.5 million worth, by reducing services or eliminating programs.

“As a public university system, we have done our part to get through these difficult times,” Baloun continued. “We know the economy has had an adverse impact on family finances, so we wanted to keep tuition and fees as low as possible in these recessionary times.”

In the closing days of the 2010 session, state lawmakers cut \$6.5 million from the Board of Regents' budget, through a combination of targeted reductions and general fund base cuts. “Unfortunately, the tuition increase approved today is larger than it would have been had those budget cuts not been made,” said Jack Warner, the regents' executive director and CEO. “However, the board also feels very strongly that our budget should not be balanced on the backs of students and their families. Therefore, the strategy is to cover far less than half of the state's budget cuts through tuition and fees and make up the rest through a focused reduction in administrative spending, services, or programs.”

Warner said his staff and officials at the public universities and special schools are still identifying those areas where spending can be cut in the coming year. More detail about those reductions will be available later, he said.

The weighted cost of tuition and mandatory fees paid by each South Dakota student is expected to increase by \$312 next year. The average in-state undergraduate student taking 32 credit hours will pay \$7,076.63 for tuition and the two mandatory fees paid by all students—the university support fee and the general activity fee. These new rates are effective for the 2010-11 academic year that begins this summer.