



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Thursday, March 31, 2011

## **Regents Set Tuition Costs for 2011-12 Academic Year**

BROOKINGS, S.D. – Facing its third successive year of state budget cuts, the South Dakota Board of Regents Thursday approved tuition and mandatory fees for the coming year. The cost increase to students across the public university system will average 6.9 percent.

“Our priority was to keep cost to students as low as possible,” said Regents President Terry Baloun. “At the same time, we must account for considerable enrollment growth, maintain service to students, and deliver the highest quality education possible,” he said.

State funding to support the six public universities was cut by 10 percent, about \$14.7 million, for the upcoming academic year. The 6.9 percent increase in tuition and mandatory fees:

- Covers \$9,053,696 of the budget cuts;
- Factors in a one percent inflation impact on operations; and
- Requires actual budget reductions on the campuses of \$5,621,596.

Baloun explained that another \$2.8 million of state budget cuts were targeted reductions to the regents’ central office and system centers, the Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Experiment Station, School for the Deaf, and School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Those cuts cannot be addressed through the tuition and fee adjustments.

“We have tried to carefully manage tuition and fee increases at a time when state government is reducing its support for public higher education across the board,” Baloun said. “Given that state universities’ funding has been cut \$24 million in three years, I believe this limited rate-setting action is reasonable and justified,” he said.

The weighted cost of tuition and mandatory fees paid by each South Dakota student is expected to increase by about \$490 next year. An average in-state undergraduate student taking 32 credit hours will pay \$7,566.27 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 2011-12 academic year that begins this summer.