



News Release

Contacts: Jack R. Warner, Executive Director and CEO
jack.warner@sdbor.edu

Janelle Toman, Director of Communications
Janelle.toman@sdbor.edu

Telephone: (605) 773-3455

Fax: (605) 773-5320

www.sdbor.edu

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Regents Approve Tuition & Fee Rates for 2015-16

VERMILLION, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents Thursday approved tuition and mandatory fees for the upcoming academic year. The impact to students in the public university system is an average cost increase of \$455.76 per year, or 5.8 percent.

“There are a number of fixed costs that impact tuition and fee rates. Those cost drivers necessitate these rate adjustments, especially when additional state revenue is not available to us,” said Regents President Dean Krogman. Krogman noted that the Board of Regents was able to freeze in-state, state-supported tuition rates last year, when nearly \$4 million in additional state general funds were appropriated by the Legislature.

“Unfortunately, state revenue estimates this year were tighter than expected. While we had requested a tuition freeze in our budget request last fall, additional revenue from the state was not available to make that happen for the coming year,” Krogman said.

One of the biggest drivers of tuition and fee rates is the salary policy set by the state for its workers, including Board of Regents’ employees. Salary policy for the coming year is 2 percent, plus a 2 percent movement to the market salary range for civil service employees. The state will cover about half of this salary package in the coming year, so tuition, fees, and student charges must be raised internally to cover the remainder of that obligation.

Inflation also impacts the costs charged to students, with a 1.55 percent inflationary increase based on the Consumer Price Index, applied to the operating expense base for the universities. The rates also account for a special 1 percent Salary Competitiveness Fee to help boost average salaries for public university faculty relative to surrounding states, and additional General Activity Fees as recommended by student leadership to support various facilities, services, and student activities. The salary competitiveness fee was endorsed by the South Dakota Student Federation.

On average, an in-state undergraduate student taking 30 credit hours next year will pay \$8,380.49 for tuition and the two fees paid by all students—the University Support Fee and the General Activity Fee. These new rates are effective for the 2015-16 academic year that begins this summer.