

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Budget and Finance

AGENDA ITEM: 7 – F

DATE: May 9-11, 2017

SUBJECT: USD Law School Discipline Fee

The general fund request to support Law School student success was not approved for FY18. USD has already taken steps through admissions standards to improve the quality and success of the students coming to the Law School this fall. USD continues to evaluate ways to support student success and has decided that incorporating preparation for the bar exam into the curriculum would best serve students. This change will require an increase to the discipline fee for law students. USD had requested additional time beyond the usual April fee approval in order to fully evaluate the benefits and the cost impact of incorporating bar preparation throughout the curriculum.

USD Law School Discipline Fee

	USD
FY17 Discipline Fee - Semester	\$1,154.25
FY18 Approved Discipline Fee	\$1,162.00
Requested Rate for FY18	\$1,562.00
Semester Increase	\$400.00
Percentage Increase	34.4%
Annual Revenue Increase	\$157,684.50

USD requests an increase of \$400.00 above inflation to the Law School Discipline Fee for FY18. USD School of Law is in the process of creating a formalized structure for providing academic and bar support for the students. One aspect of developing this program involves contracting with BARBRI – the leading market provider for bar preparation instruction – for the purchase of a price-discounted array of services and materials that would allow USD to develop the curriculum in this area.

Materials and services from BARBRI include: 1) “train the trainer” educational courses 2) access to a bevy of online materials that have been developed with an eye toward strengthening students’ analytical skills; 3) ancillary services from BARBRI itself related to the assessment of individual student strengths and weaknesses beginning even before first-year law school orientation; 4) books, outlines, subject-matter lectures, etc.; and 5) a substantial tuition discount

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DRAFT MOTION 20170509_7-F: I move to approve the proposed USD Law School Discipline fee at \$1,562.00 per semester for FY18.

from the cost of the summer free-standing six week BARBRI course that the overwhelming majority of our students take in preparation for the bar exam itself. The negotiated cost of this program is \$400/student/semester, for an anticipated total cost over 3 years of \$2,400/student.

The total cost increase of \$2,400 over three years represents a substantial financial savings to students. Most of the students purchase BARBRI's summer bar preparation course, and the list price for that course alone is \$3,495. Under the proposed arrangement, students would pay more than \$1,000 *less* for the summer bar preparation course *as well as* receiving all of the additional services and materials over the course of three years.