

MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

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To the Reader:

The inventory of student fees contained in this publication identifies the various student charges and assessments of the Montana University System campuses that have been authorized by the Board of Regents. In addition, the report provides the accounting disposition of the revenue obtained from the fees.

All campuses are on the semester system. Separate semester schedules are provided for undergraduates, graduates, WUE students, and post-baccalaureate students. The University of Montana (UM) campuses and Montana State University Northern assess a higher tuition for upper division undergraduate students than for lower division undergraduate students.

Following the mandatory fee schedules are the fees authorized by the Board of Regents to be charged for specific courses, programs, or services. The authorized room and board rates are also provided. Further details related to room and board may be obtained from each campus.

The mandatory tuition and fees for a full-time resident student for an academic year can be calculated as follows:

- 1) Under the "Course Credits" column on the far left side of the fee schedule, locate the line that reads "15" (or the "flat spot" of "12-18", "14-18", "14 and above");
- 2) Refer across the page to the "Resident Total" column. At Montana State University - Billings, Fall 2005 semester for instance, the amount stated is \$2,427.90. This amount represents the cost to a full-time resident student for one semester at MSU-Billings. Multiply this amount by 2 to obtain the total for an academic year.

Campus-specific information is included in the tabbed section of the document.

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

Board Policy – Biennial Approval

Board of Regent Policy 940.12.1 provides that the Board will approve fees and tuition rate changes every other year, in odd-numbered years following the legislative session. The policy for biennial approval was changed in 2003 and was phased-in over two years. At the May 2005 Board meeting, the Board of Regents approved rate changes for tuition and fees assessed by the Montana University System, including:

- Tuition
- Mandatory Fees
- Course and Program Fees
- Other Fees
- Room and Board

Board Policy - Cost of Attendance

Policy 940.12.1 also requires disclosure of estimated annual costs of attendance at each of the campuses, including costs for tuition, mandatory fees, room and board, and books. The campuses included an estimated amount paid per student for course fees.

STUDENT INPUT

Board Policy 506.1 – Student Participation in Fee Decisions requires the Board of Regents to give student government organizations the opportunity to express student opinion regarding any changes in tuition and fees. The procedure associated with this policy requires the campuses to include a copy of the notification to the associated student government and documentation of the formal presentation. Further, the policy expresses the intent of the Board of Regents to not entertain any proposals regarding any fee changes or initiation of new fees without evidence of student input.

All campuses provided documentation related to student input.

APPROVED CHANGES - TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES

Tuition

Tuition is deposited into the current unrestricted operating fund and used to support the educational and general costs of each campus. Supertuition, or additional tuition assessed for the support of certain high cost programs, is also deposited into the current unrestricted operating fund.

Table 1 summarizes the tuition rate increases for resident and non-resident undergraduate students for each of the next two years. As shown on the table, a full-time resident undergraduate student will pay, on average, just about \$3,800 for two semesters of tuition at a four-year campus next year, or \$330 more than the current tuition rate. A full-time resident undergraduate student at a two-year campus will, on average, see tuition increase by \$83 to nearly \$2,350 in fiscal 2006 compared to fiscal 2005. In fiscal 2007, average annual tuition at the four-year campuses for full-time resident undergraduate students will increase another \$343 to \$4,140 while two-year students will face an \$81 increase, bringing the average annual tuition for full-time resident undergraduate students at two-year campuses to \$2,430. Non-resident students will also see tuition increases.

Projected Revenue, net tuition revenue is projected to increase \$14.2 million in fiscal 2006 and an additional \$14.6 million in fiscal 2007, bringing total net tuition revenue to \$350 million in the 2007 biennium. With fee waivers valued at approximately \$42 million in the 2007 biennium, total tuition revenue in the upcoming biennium will be approximately \$392 million.

For campus-specific tuition rates for all student categories, refer to the tuition matrices.

Mandatory Fees

Mandatory fees are assessed to each student registering at the campuses, regardless of the academic program chosen by the student. Unlike tuition, fee revenue from all mandatory fees (except the registration fee) is deposited into non-general operating funds, including the plant fund, designated sub fund, or auxiliary sub fund, depending upon the ultimate purpose for the fee.

The term “mandatory” is applicable to the student, not the campus. Each campus determines what is mandatory. Board policy authorizing the fee assessment is permissive. As a result, there are substantial differences among the campuses, reflecting the culture and needs of each institution.

The purpose of each mandatory fee is described in the “Description of Mandatory Fees” report in each campus tab. Examples of mandatory fee use include debt service, campus health services, intercollegiate athletics, campus recreation, computer technology, and student union operations.

Projected Revenue - Mandatory fees assessed by the Montana University System are estimated to generate \$34.4 million in fiscal 2006 and \$35.3 million in fiscal 2007, or just over \$1,000 per FTE student annually. This compares to \$24.4 million in mandatory fee revenue collected in fiscal 2000, or approximately \$775 per FTE student annually.

New Rates and Rate Increases – Table 2 on the following page presents total mandatory fees assessed on each campus and the proposed rates for the 2007 biennium. As shown in Table 2, mandatory fees range from \$800 per year to over \$1,200 per year for full time resident students at four-year campuses and \$450 to almost \$1,100 annually at two-year campuses.

Utility Surcharge - At the May 2005 meeting, the Board authorized a utility surcharge to be assessed against the students of the various campuses for the FY 2006 and FY 2007 years. The surcharge will be separately assessed against and applied toward the General Operating and Auxiliary subfunds impacted by natural gas charge increases.

In each case, the amounts of the surcharge will be established in an amount that will generate revenues equal to the estimated natural gas charges which exceed the amounts budgeted by the campuses.

The surcharge is estimated go generate about \$381 thousand a year.

Combined Increases

Table 3 combines the proposed tuition and mandatory fee increases and summarizes the projected changes for the 2007 biennium.

NON-MANDATORY FEES

Course & Program Fees

Course and Program fees may be used for specialized activities, field trips, pass thru fees, laboratory consumables, and materials used by students to create a product that becomes the students' property after use in a specific course. Two-year programs may assess the equivalent of course fees as "Program Fees" that are assessed on all students enrolled in a given program.¹ Because the fees are for a specific purpose designated by the Board of Regents, the financial activity from these fees are accounted for in the designated fund at each campus.

Other Fees

All fees not included in previous categories are in this category and includes fees such as fines, rental fees, certain auxiliary fees, etc.

Projected Revenue – For the 2007 biennium, the total revenue from course and program fees projected by the campuses is approximately \$2.4 million annually, or \$71 per FTE student annually. This compares to \$1.6 million collected in fiscal year 2000, or \$50 per FTE student annually.

Due to the great variability of fees in the Other category, a revenue estimate for the 2007 biennium was not projected

Room and Board

Room and board rate schedules proposed by the campuses are included in Appendix F. Requested rate increases range from less than 2% to over 9%. The cost of utilities is a factor in increased housing costs.

COST OF ATTENDANCE

Board of Regent Policy 940.12.1 also requires each request to approve fees or tuition to include a statement of the total cost of attendance, based on the annual charges likely to be assessed against a typical full time resident student and non-resident student for tuition, fees, board, room, and books. In addition, the campuses were asked to estimate course fees that a typical full time student will pay.

Table 4 summarizes the projected total cost of attendance for each campus for each year of the 2007 biennium. Note that the cost of attendance for MSU-Great Falls College of Technology and UM-Helena College of Technology excludes an estimate for room and board, as there is no student housing at these institutions.

¹ "Course Fee" and "Program Fee" description from March 2000 Task Force on Fees report to the Board of Regents.

