

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **U. of I. Tuition Rates Recommended to Preserve Quality**

CHICAGO — University of Illinois tuition rates for the 2005-06 academic year would increase between \$112.50 to \$211 per semester, depending on the campus, for continuing general undergraduate students without a tuition guarantee, under a proposal to be considered by the university's Board of Trustees at its Jan. 20 meeting in Chicago .

For new general undergraduate students, the university administration recommendation would raise tuition in the range of \$256 to \$291 per semester, depending on the campus, but that tuition level would be guaranteed for the next four years. Students who enrolled during the current academic year in the first wave of the University of Illinois Guaranteed Tuition Program will not see an increase in tuition by state law.

The recommended tuition rates match those initially discussed by administrators and trustees at a Board meeting last Nov. 11 in Urbana .

If approved by the trustees, the new undergraduate tuition rates would form the foundation of tuition changes for the 2005-06 academic year that would generate about \$29 million in net new revenue to help offset an estimated \$47.1 million in new costs next year across the university's three campuses. The increases would be effective in July. The university would still need to find an additional \$18 million from internal reallocations and state support to cover the expected total cost increases.

"These modest and reasonable changes in tuition will allow us to preserve the university's high quality in the lecture halls, classrooms and research laboratories across its three campuses in the face of rising costs and uncertain state funding," President James J. Stukel said. "The largest investments afforded by the new tuition income will be made in faculty salary competitiveness and student financial aid.

"Under this proposal, our own financial aid spending will increase by \$2.8 million, or about \$175 per semester for each aid recipient," Stukel said. "About one-half of the full-time U. of I. undergraduate students pay less than full tuition and fees thanks to financial aid from the university, federal and state programs."

Chester Gardner, vice president for academic affairs, warned educational quality at the university's campuses in Chicago , Springfield and Urbana-Champaign is at risk and the U. of I. cannot afford to defer investing in personnel, student services, facilities and technology.

"The best universities are large, comprehensive and well-funded. The U. of I. has lagged behind peers in student-faculty ratios, a key quality indicator, and faculty salary competitiveness," Gardner said. "Nevertheless, top students are flocking to our campuses, recognizing the value and affordability of a U. of I. degree. We are obliged to ensure the

continued quality of our degree.”

Stukel noted that despite managing resources through internal reallocations and a 25 percent reduction in administrative spending, inflationary cost increases and a state budget crisis have pressured tuition to shoulder a larger portion of the funding obligation.

Of the estimated \$47.1 million in new costs for the next year, \$25.8 million is needed for an average 3 percent salary increase for faculty and staff and \$7.4 million is required to operate new buildings. Other inflationary cost increases are \$5 million for utilities and \$8.9 million for insurance, maintenance of existing facilities, economic development initiatives and technology support combined.

The University of Illinois , with some 71,000 students enrolled at three campuses, has a \$3.3 billion budget for the current fiscal year. The largest sources of unrestricted funds are state appropriations, which held steady at \$700 million after three years of cuts, and tuition income of \$454 million. The largest source of restricted funds is \$608 million in sponsored research projects. Salaries comprise the largest single expenditure category, totaling \$1.7 billion.

In addition to the undergraduate tuition changes, the Board will consider increases in tuition differentials for various specialized and professional programs at UIC and UIUC, and a \$125 per semester differential at UIS for all new students to support core academic program enhancements.

The administration also has recommended changes in mandatory student fees, in consultation with students on each campus, and in room-and-board costs. [Click here for a set of tables listing all undergraduate tuition, fee and room-and-board changes for the 2005-06 year.](#)

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**Reporters/editors/news directors: Meeting agenda items 13-16 give details about the proposed changes in student charges for the 2005-06 school year. Go to [www.uillinois.edu/trustees/agendas](http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/agendas) to access the full agenda of the Jan. 20 meeting.**