RESOLUTION

Date: February 26, 2008
Committee: Tier II Tuition Ad-Hoc
Action: 2nd Reading Item

ECR 08-06 Tier II Tuition Proposal

1 WHEREAS: The state Legislature has given University Presidents the opportunity
to raise a Tier tuition specific to the needs of their own Universities.

2 WHEREAS: The Associated Students of Utah State University will be affected by
such a tuition increase.

3 WHEREAS: The ASUSU Executive Council and Academic Senate are the elected
representatives of Utah State students and have been given the opportunity to make
student priorities known.

4 WHEREAS: The Tier II Tuition ad-hoc committee has identified several priority-
funding areas through extensive research and evaluation.

5 WHEREAS: These priority-funding areas are earmarked as follows: $77,000
additional funding for scholarships divided between the Sophomore Scholarship Fund
($14,000), Graduate Student Senate Enhancement Awards ($12,000), the ASUSU
Leadership Scholarships ($15,000) and for the creation of new scholarships for the
Office of International Students and Scholars ($40,000). Other priority areas are
$11,000 additional funding for the Academic Opportunity Fund, $45,000 for an extra
adviser in the HASS Advising Center, $6,000 for the English Writing Center to
expand their services to the entire campus, and $38,062 for the staffing of the
GLBTA Center, and an additional $5,000 for the GLBTA Operating Budget.
ECR 08-06 Tier II Tuition Proposal

WHEREAS: Another area of interest to students to fund, as much as funding allows for, is for the relocation of the tennis courts, and it is requested that at least $15,000 in one time funding be allocated for this cause.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That the above listed priority-funding areas and additional funding if possible are represented in the proposed Tier II tuition increase.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a detailed policy paper is drafted for this legislation outlining the work of the ad-hoc committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the laws governing truth in tuition be followed throughout the tuition increase process.

Sponsor:

ASUSU Tier II Tuition Ad-Hoc Committee
2008 Tier II Tuition Proposal

History

Each year ASUSU Student Government has the power to recommend to administration how a percentage of Tier II Tuition funds are to be used. This amount in dollars has been in the range of $200,000 per year. Five ASUSU Officers form the Tier II Tuition ad-hoc committee to determine allocation for the Council’s final approval. This year the Tier II Tuition ad-hoc committee was comprised of Peter McChesney (ASUSU President), Ashley Johnson (Executive VP), Bryan Olsen (Student Advocate VP), Jeri Brunson (GSS President) and Nick West (HASS Senator/Senate Pro Tempore).

The Tier II Tuition committee conducted a survey amongst 2,000 students to gauge what the students wanted given a list of advised options. The following is a list from the survey in the order that students felt would be the most important:

- Increase the funding available for scholarships
- Create additional funding in order to support student travel opportunities for academic purposes
- Expansion of the English Writing Center in order to increase its outreach to all students who attend Utah State University
- Create additional funding to be distributed across the Advising Center
- Increasing the resources of the school psychiatrist in order to facilitate a greater amount of students

Based on the results of the survey, in addition to other sources of student input and requests, the following requests are being made:

- $77,000 additional funding for scholarships broken down by: Sophomore Scholarship Fund ($14,000), Graduate Student Senate Enhancement Awards ($12,000), the ASUSU Leadership Scholarships ($15,000) and for the creation of new scholarships for the Office of International Students and Scholars ($40,000).
- $11,000 additional funding for the Academic Opportunity Fund
- $45,000 for an extra adviser in the HASS Advising Center
- $6,000 for the English Writing Center to expand their services to the entire campus
- $38,062 for the staffing of the GLBTA Center
- $5,000 for the GLBTA Operating Budget
- $15,000 in one time funding to assist in the relocation of the tennis courts.

The following will explain these requests.
Sophomore Scholarship

The Sophomore scholarship is a source of funding for Utah State University students who will be enrolled in their sophomore year. Generally fewer scholarships are available to sophomores, and this account serves to aid in this area. Currently $20,000 is awarded in ten $2,000 increments. If this amount were increased more money would be available to directly benefit students.

**PROS:** More students would directly benefit from this additional funding.

**CONS:** Overall tuition costs would be raised.

Graduate Student Senate Enhancement Award - $12,000 additional funds (On-going)

Currently the GSS has funds from Tier II tuition to give 20 awards of $4,000 each. These awards are based both on financial need and academic achievement. In both of the past two years since the award has been in existence, the GSS has received over one hundred applications for these awards. There is considerable financial need among the graduate student population. 25% of graduate students are international students who cannot legally work off campus, pay dramatically higher tuition, and are required to have health insurance. Many domestic students who may legally work are not contractually allowed to find work outside their college and/or department, but may only be working 10 to 20 hrs within their department, which is insufficient to meet their needs. These needs are compounded by the increased cost of tuition for graduate students and the relatively scarce financial aid resources; they are not eligible for federal grants and do not have as many scholarship opportunities.

**Pros:**

- More graduate students would have financial support. 20 awards do not even approach fully meeting the needs of the graduate student population.

**Cons:**

- Increase in Tier II tuition

ASUSU Leadership Scholarships

This is a new initiative to generate more scholarship opportunities that are not as intensive on merit as other scholarships are. These scholarships are to cater to students in need who have a lower GPA due to circumstances that may be beyond their control. These scholarship will require a degree of involvement with the Student Involvement and Leadership Office, and,
provided there is sufficient funding, may also be extended unto students who dedicate much time on the third floor but who do not currently receive compensation (for example partial tuition waivers for the Directors of the Service Center).

Pros:

- Scholarship opportunities for students in need but who fall short of the requirements of merit based scholarships.
- Recipients of these scholarships will be receiving them from ASUSU, an truly effective way for our student government to serve the students.
- Leadership and involvement opportunities foster retention on campus, as well as fostering personal growth for the recipient.

Cons:

- Increase in Tier II Tuition.

Scholarships for the Office of International Students and Scholars

International Students and Scholars pay the highest rate of tuition out of any student group on campus. In additional to this, their ability to make money whilst pursuing their education here at USU is the most restrictive, being only able to work on campus for 20 hours per week except in the event of an approved internship that pertains to their major. Moreover, the Office of International Students and Scholars struggles to find donations to assist their students and only have a few small scholarships to offer the students who are the source of our international alumni.

Pros:

- The students who have the highest financial burdens to study yet the least opportunity to make money for expenses and living will receive assistance that hasn’t been available to them previously.

Cons:

- Increase in Tier II tuition

The Academic Opportunity Fund
The Academic Opportunity Fund is an account that awards students travel funds to attend various research conferences. At these conferences students are able to represent Utah State University as they present posters and other research exhibits. This is a valuable source of funding for students and an increase would allow for more students to attend professional conferences. Currently this account is set at $10,000.

**PROS:** More students will be able to attend professional conferences.

Utah State students will be seen at nationwide events, which is good publicity for the university.

**CONS:** Tuition would need to be raised to provide additional funding.

### HASS Advising Center

The necessity for a Humanities, Arts, and Social Science adviser stems for the fact that HASS is the largest college on campus. Currently, the college has 32 departments and programs that are extremely beneficial to all students at Utah State University. HASS is responsible for the largest bulk of General Education Requirement Classes that invite people from different majors to partake of the great programs that are offered within HASS.

**Pros:**

- By creating another HASS advising position, students will be able to more efficiently meet with their Advisers and keep on track to graduate.

- This also allows the Advisers to become more area specific in order to insure that the guidance the pass along to students is both correct and current.

**Cons:**

- Increase in Tier II Tuition.

### Writing Center Allotment - $6,000 (On-going)

The Writing Center is currently funded primarily by course fees applied to English courses. Usage fees are charged to students who wish to use the Writing Center, either in person or online, but aren’t paying English course fees. Because there is a usage fee, instructors on campus who would otherwise require their students to utilize the Writing Center are not comfortable asking their students to pay the usage fee. There are also instructors who do require their students to use the Writing Center, regardless of the additional fee. Allotting funding from Tier II would able the Writing Center to accommodate those courses and students. It would also
allow the Writing Center to expand the services they currently offer, the number of students who could utilize the Writing Center, and the availability of tutors. One potential expansion is to create a resource for editing and revising graduate student theses and dissertations.

**Pros:**

- Increased availability of tutors in the Writing Center
- Students currently required to use the Writing Center but are not in English Courses would not have to pay additional usage fees
- More students would have access to the Writing Center
- Each department is currently expected to oversee the editing and revision of all graduate theses and dissertations; IF the Writing Center would expand to include these services, this would be a significant relief for departmental staff, advisors, and resources.

**Cons:**

- Increase in Tier II tuition

**GLBTA Center**

In 2000, the Gay and Lesbian Student Resource Center was created. From 2000-2007, the GLSRC was staffed by volunteers and work-study student employees. Last year, during Spring Semester of 2007, Resolution ECR 07-01 was passed unanimously by ASUSU’s Executive Council and Academic Senate recommending an initiative that supported the hiring of a full-time director of the Gay and Lesbian Student Resource Center. This initiative was passed in part, to assist and educate all students, not just GLBT students.

The office has been promoting campus-based groups who educate and raise awareness about sexual and affectional orientation and identities are an essential component of the program. Equally important is the goal of fostering relationships within Logan, Utah and across surrounding communities to help build relationships through which GLBTQQIA students can thrive as they pursue future educational, career, and life goals.

In July of 2007, Gary Chambers (interim VP Student Services) hired a 3/4 time Program Coordinator, in direct response to ECR 07-01. (Please see attached job description for details.) Vice President Chambers funded this position with one-time, temporary funding from the Student Services Administrative budget. Tier Two money would secure this position, perpetuating the notion of a more inclusive campus.
Amount provided by VP Chambers
Temp/One time Salary: $ 26,250
Temp/One time Benefits: $ 11,812 (@ 45% of salary)
Temp/One time Operating Budget: $ 2,000
($40,062 total)

Amount requested from Tier II
Permanent Salary: $ 26,250
Permanent Benefits: $ 11,812 (@ 45% of salary)
Permanent Operating Budget: $ 5,000
($38,062 + $5,000= $43,062)

Pros:
• This will help foster an inclusive campus by showing that ASUSU is mindful of minority groups that have previously been overlooked.

Cons:
• Increase in Tier II tuition

Tennis Courts

Due to the relocation of the tennis courts, we wish to show one time funding support in behalf of students to speedily see the courts replaced.

Pros:
• It shows the students vested interest in the existence of the courts.

Cons:
• An increase in tuition.