

Policy Changes

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January 11, 2017



Georgia Institute of Technology



Background: Georgia Institute of Technology seeks to offer its existing Master of Science in Analytics to a broader audience via distance education delivery methods, particularly through massive open online courses (MOOC). The proposal request follows similar delivery of the existing Master of Science in Computer Science using a MOOC platform that was approved by the Board in May 2013.

Approval Item 1: For students enrolled in GIT's Master of Science in Analytics delivered on the MOOC platform:

- Establish a per credit hour tuition rate of \$275 effective Fall 2017.
- Provide an exception to Board Policy 7.3.4.2 to charge the Special Institutional Fee at a reduced rate of \$194 per semester effective Fall 2017.

Timing of Fiscal Related Board Approvals



Background: Changes to the Bylaws and Board Policy are recommended to provide flexibility with respect to the timing of Board actions related to fiscal matters. These items were introduced at the November Board meeting.

Approval Item 2: Revise Bylaw 12 (Budgets of Institutions)

Approval Item 3: Revise Policy Section 7 (Business & Finance)



Housing & Dining Fee Approvals



Background: Under current policy, institution presidents are permitted to set housing and dining fees except for those that support debt service payments.

For the current academic year there are 174 meal plan options and 349 room rates. Institutions' rate proposals will be reviewed and approved throughout the year.

Approval Item 4: Revise Policy Section 7.3.2.2. All housing and dining fees will be approved by the Board Treasurer, Chief Fiscal Officer.

Dining and Catering: New Contracting Requirements



In addition to policy changes, the Board recently instituted guidelines for dining and catering contracts (BPM 3.4.2)

The guidelines are intended to drive down costs to students through

- Limits on catering allowances
- Elimination of scholarships funded by dining fees, and
- Greater oversight on capital improvements funded by dining fees.

These limits will also apply to institutions who self-operate their dining operations.

Auxiliary and Fee Reserves



Background: The state auditor found a wide range of auxiliary and fee reserves across USG institutions. Under current business procedures, institutions are required to fund certain reserves for capital projects, often using auxiliary revenues.

The new policy requires more frequent and comprehensive monitoring of institution auxiliary fund balances to ensure reserves are adequate while identifying opportunities to reduce student fees when reserves exceed reasonable balances.

Approval Item 4: Add Policy Section 7.3.2.3. Institutions must periodically review the existing reserves within their various auxiliary and student fee funds to ensure affordability for students while also ensuring adequate reserves to maintain operations, manage risk, and fund related capital expenditures.

Distance Learning (Online) Tuition Rates



Background: Since fiscal year 1999, Board policy has allowed institutions to charge special tuition rates for distance education courses and programs. Board approval is not required provided that the rate is not less than the Board approved in-state tuition rate or greater than its out-of-state rate, and provided that the rate applies to all students regardless of residency status.

In discussions with the state auditors, they noted wide disparity in the rates charged by USG institutions as a part of their on-going special examination.

The proposed policy revisions will provide greater oversight and consistency.

Approval Item 5:

- That the Board approve revisions to the BOR Policy Manual, Sections 7.3.1.4
- That the Board allow institutions to request of the Chief Fiscal Officer a reduction to the FY17 distance learning tuition rates, without Board approval
- That the Board approve to freeze the current FY17 distance learning tuition rates set by the institutions until such time as the Board approves new rates, with exception of reductions approved by the Chief Fiscal Officer
- That the FY17 distance learning tuition rates be equally charged to both in-state and out-of state students

Committee on Finance and Business Operations
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