FACT SHEET

ISSUE: Market tuition rate proposals for on-line and continuing education graduate-level courses coming to the Board of Governors in 2011

The below has no substantive changes since it was first distributed in mid-December 2010. These provisions and the amendments to the Board regulation were discussed and approved by the Board of Governors at its January meeting. For specific regulation language, please consult: http://www.flbog.edu/about/regulations/proposed.php.

• Section 1009.24(15) Florida Statutes is the authorizing language for the Florida Board of Governors to consider “market tuition rate,” based upon adopted regulations of the Board.

• Timeline to date:
  o In summer 2010, the Board had a work group of 4 members of the Board of Governors and 3 University Presidents. This group met three times formally with staff to work on the language for the amended regulation, in addition to multiple staff and member feedback and dialogue.
  o At its Nov. 4 meeting, the Board issued a public notice of intent to amend Regulation 7.001 (Tuition and Associated Fees) in order to include procedural guidance to the universities in the System on the submission of market tuition rate proposals for graduate-level courses.
  o At its November 4 meeting, the Board approved the regulation language on first hearing and the minimum public comment clock of 30 days started.
  o The Board will have a second (and usually final) hearing at its meeting on January 20, 2011. The provisions of this language in the amended regulation will become effective immediately if approved at the January meeting, which is expected.

• For this issue, a university Board of Trustees may submit a proposal for market tuition rate only for graduate level on-line courses and graduate level courses offered through continuing education.

• As with any tuition-relation issue, proposals to change tuition and fees at any university must be reviewed and approved first by the respective university’s Board of Trustees before it can be taken up by the Florida Board of Governors. If approved by a Board of Trustees, it is forwarded to the Board of Governors’ Budget & Finance Committee where, if approved, it is heard by the Board of Governors unless referred to staff for additional information-gathering, etc.

• Highlights of the Board regulation outlining the process and governance are as follows:
1. Proposals will exclude critical needs areas as identified in the Board of Governors’ Strategic Plan. These include certain education, health professions, and security and emergency services programs, as indicated in the proposed regulation. The university can request from the Chancellor an exemption to submit a proposal in these areas if it can be demonstrated to increase the number of degreed graduates.

2. There will be a pilot period of three years for this item. During this time, up to five proposals per academic year (Summer/Fall/Spring of a given year) may be submitted. The university provides to the Board an annual status report. After three years, the university provides a report on the activities and success of the programs.

3. A university cannot take existing state-funded programs and replace those with market tuition rate degree programs. For example, if an MBA program exists as a degree program on campus, that program must remain in place and cannot be supplanted by the market tuition rate programs or courses.

4. The proposal cannot increase the state’s fiscal liability, as these programs are intended to be self-supporting.

- Of the 11 institutions in the State University System, several are on record as not interested in pursuing market tuition rate programs, while others are considering the idea and may proffer proposals that correspond to the process outlined in the regulation. The earliest a proposal can be heard by the Board of Governors is at the February meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee, pursuant to the process summarized above and further outlined in the regulation.

- **Voluntary market-rate tuition proposals for graduate on-line and continuing education courses from the universities are to be considered at the Feb. 10 Budget & Finance Committee meeting of the Board of Governors. For those approved, they will be forwarded to the full Board of Governors for review at its Feb. 17 meeting.**