PROPOSED TUITION AND FEE POLICIES

Florida Board of Governors
New College, Sarasota
October 21, 2004

POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- Reviewed policy recommendations and proposals put forward in the last several years
- Researched other states’ and institutions’ policies
- Solicited input from universities
- Consulted with Bright Futures and Florida Prepaid program staff
KEY ASSUMPTIONS

- Guaranteed low-cost access to a bachelor degree for Florida resident students
- Maximum flexibility for institutions consistent with that guarantee
- Incentives for students to progress through system quickly and efficiently
- Policies support strategic plan

POLICY #1: CEILING ON COMBINED TUITION AND FEES FOR RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATES

- Institutional discretion to charge less but not more
POLICY #2: DISCRETION OVER MIX OF TUITION AND FEES BELOW CEILING

- Same level of General Revenue funding provided to each university for each undergraduate student, regardless of tuition and fees charged
- Financial aid fee will increase to 5% of the total Tuition and Fees; the minimal level of capital improvement and building fees will be the level charged in 2004-05
- Few restrictions on "tuition" and "fee" if both are under resident undergraduate ceiling

POLICY #3: 25% TUITION AND FEE SURCHARGE FOR HOURS BEYOND 110% OF REQUIREMENTS

- No impact on Bright Futures or Prepaid College plan
- Moderate level of surcharge with low threshold (few exceptions) for imposition.
- 25% at 110% policy is similar to North Carolina's
- High enough to provide incentive, but low enough to be affordable for students with good reasons to take additional credit—double majors, minors, professional enhancement, last minute change of major, etc...
POLICY #3: EXCEPTIONS

- Relatively few, since surcharge is moderate (not punitive)
- Credit taken outside CC/SUS/FRAG and high school acceleration credit
- Critical teacher shortage areas

POLICY #4: BLOCK TUITION AND FEES

- Universities must implement block tuition policy.
- Model policy is preferred, but not required.
POLICY #4: BLOCK TUITION AND FEES MODEL POLICY

- Block rate for 9 or more credits based on 15 credit rate. (If lower level is set at 12, many students taking 12 may drop to 9-11.)
- Students who take fewer than 30 fall/spring can make up at the same institution at no cost during summer
- $100 fee for course withdrawals in excess of one per year
- Bright Futures eligibility reduced by 15 credits per term regardless of number actually taken.

POLICY #5: DISCRETION TO SET TUITION AND FEES FOR MANY STUDENTS

- No restrictions on university tuition and fees for graduate and professional students, nonresident students, non-degree-seeking students
- Flexibility to set tuition by program, campus, instructional method, schedule, etc.
POLICY #6: ACCOUNTABILITY FOR TUITION POLICY

- Ensures that tuition policy is linked to strategic plan
- Mechanism to track and hold boards of trustees accountable for tuition policy choices

FUTURE POLICY DIRECTIONS

- Tuition policy will be critical to the strategic plan
- Tuition policy alone will not be enough
- Need creative ways to use limited resources more efficiently and to fund growth where growth is needed