

**Summary of University Comments on the Governor's Recommended Policies
(Complete comments attached)**

I. Targeted Incentive Programs

1. UF – Add pharmacy as a critical career area.
2. FSU –
 - a. Given the fact that the funds are non-recurring it would be a gamble for universities to invest in these programs and in the process lower the investments in other students.
 - b. An alternative would be to create a pool of funds as recurring dollars and simply pay a bonus for each degree over some baseline.
 - c. What happens if an institution is over the baseline one term and under the next?
 - d. Generally universities received funds in advance to generate growth. If the incentive is awarded until after the growth, it will not be directly linked to activities initiated in this policy since most graduates would already have been in the pipeline. Should the incentive be linked to policy actions motivated by the proviso?
3. FAMU – Supports as long as funded with recurring funds.
4. USF – The base year (2003-2004) should not include unfunded enrollment.
5. FAU –
 - a. Must ensure that these incentives provide stable, long-term support for the disciplines targeted to increases in enrollment and degree production.
 - b. Need a more expansive definition of each of the fields of study.
 - c. There will always be a considerable lag between the identification of forecasted demand and the fulfillment of that demand by students enrolling in educational programs. Any incentive program must recognize this lag time and structure the reward schedule accordingly.
6. UWF –
 - a. Provide funds to increase outreach and educational efforts to high schools and lower division to stress targeted programs.
 - b. May not be able to compete for this program, since UWF strives to meet the needs of the communities they serve and these targeted programs may not be as high a priority in the region.
 - c. What about other 'critical' needs that would be more regional in nature?
7. UCF – Money arrives after the fact.
8. FIU – Enthusiastic about the Governor's proposal to provide incentives for educational programs serving critical state needs.
9. UNF – Supports policy.
10. FGCU – Supports the concept and suggests that funding should be released up front to hire faculty.
11. NCF – The proposed baccalaureate degree production criteria may not accurately track those students who pursue careers in the targeted occupations. Currently NCF does not offer programs in education, nursing, engineering, and information technology. Many graduates do pursue postgraduate degrees and training in these areas and eventually enter the Florida workforce.

- a. In order to participate, it may be necessary to follow the post-graduate studies of its graduates. Otherwise, NCF may be the only SUS institution not eligible to participate in the targeted incentive program.
- b. Should not be penalized because of its liberal arts curriculum. Need to identify an appropriate niche within the curriculum such that it is eligible to participate in the targeted incentive program.

II. Block Tuition

1. UF –
 - a. Full time students should be defined as enrolled for 9 or more credit hours per semester.
 - b. The UBOT should determine the local fees to be paid under the block fee policy.
 - c. UBOT should be able to set block fees for graduate and professional students.
2. FSU –
 - a. Shouldn't the proviso provide some flexibility in the 15 hours?
 - b. Idea should be piloted a year or so before the introduction of excess hour penalties.
 - c. Need to consider the amount of additional classroom space needed to offer additional courses if average course-loads increase.
 - d. Need to estimate the cost associated with a surge of enrollment growth if the intended result is successful and the average course loads increase.
 - e. The Department of Education should clarify the posting of hours to Bright Futures and Prepaid.
 - f. If a student is in their final semester and only needs 12 hours to graduate within 110% of degree requirement, but under the block fees can enroll for 15 hours. Are the last 3 hours that exceed the 110% charged at out-of-state fees or “free” under block tuition?
 - g. Should consider the impact on working students and the need for additional financial aid.
3. FAMU –
 - a. We recommend that the block tuition proposal be given careful consideration by the Council of Academic Vice Presidents, and that CEPRI be requested to conduct a system wide analysis of the impact of block tuition before such a policy is implemented.
 - b. FAMU has a large percentage of students with low economic backgrounds, for whom the proposed block tuition policy would pose a financial hardship. Requiring students who are currently taking twelve credit hours to pay for fifteen hours amounts to a tuition increase in addition to the proposed increase of 7.5 percent for in-state and 12.5 percent for out-of-state students.
 - c. An analysis of Course Credit Hour Load for Degree-Seeking Undergraduate Students for the 2003 Fall Semester shows that 65 percent took 14 or fewer course credit hours. The same analysis showed that

approximately 15 percent registered for 15 credit hours while only 20 percent took 16 or more credit hours.

- d. Block tuition policies should not be applicable to the summer term.
4. USF – Eliminate the requirement for students to attend summer programs.
5. FAU – Will not be placing a high priority on developing a block tuition program since the nature of their students and their enrollment patterns suggest that such a program would have, at best, very little positive impact and may have negative consequences for a large majority of students.
6. UWF –
 - a. As long as the provision simply “authorizes” universities to establish block-tuition fees, there is no problem with the proposal. However, if the provision is “mandated” then it usurps the local authority.
 - b. Block tuition provides a means and incentive for students to finish in four years and give parents incentive to encourage their children to do just that.
 - c. Students should not be penalized by being forced to pay a block-tuition fee for courses they do not take.
7. UCF – A detailed analysis was done regarding the impact of block tuition at UCF. Based upon this analysis, there is no feasible policy that will not increase costs to the students and not increase costs for state financial aid programs.
8. FIU –
 - a. Supports the concept of block tuition as an option.
 - b. Students enrolled full time on residential campuses will be better able to take advantage of block tuition as proposed than those who are part time with other work and family obligations.
 - c. We do not expect many FIU students to be able to take advantage of this option.
 - d. Oppose charging all full-time students a flat rate equivalent to 15 hours as we agree with our student leadership that such a policy would be counter productive.
9. UNF – Supports proposal as long as it 'authorizes' universities to establish block fees. If mandated, usurps local authority.
10. FGCU – Supports this initiative. Several questions have arisen.
 - a. Is the block fee for tuition only, and would local fees (athletic, health, activity and service, financial aid and transportation access fees) still be charged at the hourly rate? Or must we provide a comprehensive block rate? If we charge tuition for 15 hours and the student registers for 21, are the additional 6 hours counted differently towards meeting our fundable FTE total? There will be policy issues for refunds when the student drops courses and ends up below the block number, and federal financial aid regulatory issues.
 - b. Will this be mandatory or not? What would be the impact on current tuition revenues if we were forced to move to this model? How many additional or fewer FTE’s are we likely to generate as a result of its implementation? What would tuition have to be set at to ensure we have adequate revenue to sustain future growth?

- c. Assuming passage of the block tuition proposal, will universities have enough time to seek UBOT and BOG approval of tuition changes in the short time period between legislative adjournment and the start of fall semester or would we be expected to wait at least one year before implementation?
11. NCF – Under NCF’s unique “contract system” used to establish student course schedules each semester, every student’s contract equates to a minimum course load of 16 credit hours in both the fall and spring semesters. Thus, tuition and fee costs are based on 16 credit hours or 20 credit hours per semester, not 15.
- a. All New College students are full time undergraduates and are already enrolled in a heavier load than 15 hours.
 - b. The proposed block tuition would have the very significant adverse consequence of reducing the College’s student credit hours generated by approximately 15% over the course of an academic year.
 - c. Potential tuition and fee revenue loss as much as \$500,000 annually, plus \$100,000 annually in lost student financial aid fees, building fees, capital improvement fees, activity and service fees and health fees.
 - d. No objections to the permissive nature.

III. University Billing Statements

- 1. UF – No comment provided.
- 2. FSU –
 - a. Shouldn’t “true costs” and tuition bill be defined consistently across universities?
 - b. Should electronic billing statements be considered as a way to reduce the cost of implementation?
 - c. Shouldn’t the Board of Governors be asked to specify the implementation date since the format approval is not until August 15th and bills for the fall will have long since been sent?
- 3. FAMU – Concern regarding the cost of implementation and having a reasonable implementation date.
- 4. USF – This should not be a problem.
- 5. FAU – It is unclear whether the cost and subsidy information required to be on the bill is specific to each student’s account or based on university averages. In addition, two initiatives mitigate against fulfilling the provisions of this policy in a truly substantive way.
 - a. The university has recently installed a new financial software system for billing, which is still in the trial and testing stage. Modifying the system at this time to include real account information and systematic calculation of educational costs would be problematic at best, especially since financial aid is not always set and included at the point of preparing initial bills.
 - b. A more meaningful initiative is moving university billing to a virtually paperless, web-based environment.
- 6. UWF – No exception with the proposal, although the ‘true costs’ of a student’s education would have to be determined.

7. UCF – Policy does not seem to be cost-beneficial and is not supported as proposed. There are several issues associated with the proposed policy that must be considered. The issues are:
 - a. Identification of the “true cost” of a student’s education
 - b. Determine the level of identification of supporting entities
 - c. Isolation of state funding sources and state student financial aid
 - d. Proposal review process and timeline
 - e. Implementation process and impediments
8. FIU - Supports the change to university billing statements.
9. UNF –
 - a. 'Bills' are not issued to students, instead provides 'fee statements' which contain tuition charges per course. Currently moving towards paperless operations, thus could e-mail notification or publication on the web satisfy this requirement?
 - b. What is specifically to be included in 'state student financial aid?'
 - c. Could broader categories be used instead of individualized information, such as 'An in-state undergraduate student taking 3 hours, 6 hours, etc.'
10. FGCU –
 - a. Will the Appropriation Act or the DCU report to the universities what they are being allocated per credit hour, so we will know what to report is being funded by the state for undergraduate and graduate credit hours? If not, how is the amount of funding paid by the state to be calculated?
 - b. There may be some costs issues. FGCU has done this on a limited basis and found it often generates more confusion than benefit.
11. NCF –
 - a. Easily accomplished with minimal cost impact under our current policy of providing students printed tuition and fee bills.
 - b. Eventually will transition to a paperless “on line” billing system whereby students access a web page to view their bill. Costly programming would have to be accomplished to add the additional language and calculations to the web page at this time.
 - c. Allow additional time beyond the August 15, 2004 deadline.

IV. Excess Credit Hours

1. UF – Excess credit hours should not include students in IB or AP programs or hours taken at any post secondary institution not a Florida Community College (CC) or State University. Transfer hours in excess of 60 taken at a CC should not apply.
2. FSU –
 - a. Exemptions for the non-degree seeking students who must take additional courses in order to maintain certified in their profession should be considered.
 - b. Policies would have to deal with the impact on returning or delayed students.
 - c. State employees who are often classified as non-degree seeking students, should they pay the out-of-state fees or would they be exempt.

- d. How will transfer students be handled since many exceed 10% prior to being admitted?
 - e. Will Bright Futures cover the additional costs to students?
 - f. Define excess hours. Does it include all hours attempted or earned?
 - g. The policy may have an unintended notch effect. It penalizes students who actually intend to graduate, while students who flounder for a year or more and then drop out are not penalized at all.
3. FAMU –
- a. Students who have double majors should be exempt.
 - b. The appropriate authorities should individually evaluate students who are not enrolled as degree-seeking students before charging them out-of-state tuition.
 - c. Many professions, such as the K-12 teaching profession, require that its members continue to take courses in order to maintain their certification. These individuals satisfy the requirements by enrolling as non-degree-seeking students. To impose out-of-state tuition on these students who serve a critical function would be detrimental to the State.
 - d. High schools are not graduating enough high-achieving African Americans who are fully prepared to face the rigors of many college curricula, thus FAMU students should not face the burden of paying at the out-of-state rate for excess hours which exceed ten percent. A recent Hour-To-Degree Summary showed that fifty-four percent of the 1,410 graduates from FAMU in 2002-03 had credit hours exceeding 110 percent of the degree requirements.
4. USF –
- a. Institutions should have the authority to determine what certificate and special programs would be exempt. UBOTS are in the best position to set the boundaries based on local conditions.
 - b. Faculty Senate – Endorsed a resolution outlining concerns and recommendations.
5. FAU –
- a. Recommends leaving the threshold for calculating excess credit hours at the current level of 115%.
 - b. Poses a threat to the pursuit of the university mission in the extension of this concept of full cost payment to non-degree students.
 - c. Students dually-enrolled and community college students who are encouraged to enroll in such programs through state-sponsored acceleration and articulation policies would be impacted.
6. UWF –
- a. A 150-credit-hour threshold might be more appropriate.
 - b. Discourages students from double majors and minors, which would hurt the UWF Honors Program.
 - c. Takes strong exception in requiring students to pay the out-of-state tuition as this specifically harms professionals meeting certification requirements, those working to improve a skill set, penalizes members of the military and their dependents.

7. UCF – Proposed policy as structured is not supported. If the policy is applied, recommends the following:
 - a. That it be applied only to excess hours generated at that institution.
 - b. It initially be applied using a 115% threshold in order to determine what behaviors can be influenced while still encouraging students to complete the degree program.
 - c. Any excess hours policy must allow for minors and double majors, and develop a billing process that does not include a penalty for those hours.
8. FIU –
 - a. The requirement for students with hours in excess of 110% of those required for the degree to be charged nonresident tuition could be a tremendous burden for our students and discourage many from continuing their education.
 - b. The students affected would be close to graduation, and the extra financial burden is likely to slow their completion of a degree.
 - c. The percentage criterion should be increased to 125% to reduce the burden on working adult students.
 - d. Recommend a small surcharge rather than the proposed charge of nonresident tuition as a penalty.
 - e. Charging nonresident tuition rates for non-degree students will have a negative impact on FIU students
9. UNF –
 - a. Excess credit hours should be defined at 15% more rather than 10%.
 - b. Based on data regarding students classified as non-degree seeking, UNF has specific concerns about the potential impact of this policy on the following types of students in the following areas; those seeking a second bachelor's degree, dual majors, dual enrollment program, seeking teacher certification, preparing for CPA exam, international exchange program, who have master's degrees in nursing and are taking graduate courses to become nurse practitioners, graduate school applicants awaiting for admission decisions and are taking prerequisite requirements, community college transfers, impact on financial aid, and retention and graduation rates due to the financial inability to continue.
 - c. UNF Faculty – Adopted a resolution opposing this policy.
10. FGCU – Well intentioned, but extremely complex to implement.
 - a. It is costly, and there are technical issues concerning the identification of students who have taken excess hours
 - b. How will credits toward the degree be counted? Who will be counted in this analysis, why and how? Would the excess tuition, if charged, stay with the university or go back to the state?
11. NCF – All students have a minimum 7 contracts and 3 Independent Study Projects required to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree which is the equivalent of 124 credit hours. However, given the rigorous curriculum, including a required senior thesis, approximately 85% of New College graduates take 140 credit hours (8 contracts equaling 128 credit hours and 3 ISPs equaling 12 credit hours) or more to earn their baccalaureate degree.

- a. The proposal would have an adverse “out-of-pocket” financial impact. The net effect of this proposal would result in a significant increase in tuition and fees for the majority of in-state NCF students.
 - b. Current Bright Futures eligibility requirements allow NCF students to take up to 154 credit hours of instruction paid through Bright Futures, as opposed to a maximum of 132 credit hours available for students attending other SUS institutions. We recommend that NCF in-state students remain eligible to take up to 154 credit hours toward completion of baccalaureate degree requirements, as has been the case in the past. If need be, the out-of-state tuition rate could be mandated for those students taking in excess of 154 credit hours.
12. Faculty of the State of Florida – Urges the Board of Governors not to require out-of-state tuition for non-degree seeking students and to provide adequate latitude for those students who take over 120 hours.