

Resolution: USF Faculty Senate, February 18, 2004

The Governor's Budget recommendations, outlined in his proposed Appropriations Bill, contain the following recommendation on Page 33:

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 157, university boards of trustees shall establish policies which require students who are in excess of the number of hours needed to graduate by more than ten percent or who are not enrolled as degree-seeking to pay the out-of-state fee per credit hour. (Entire bill can be viewed at <http://www.ebudget.state.fl.us/billview/home.asp>)

The Faculty of the State of Florida, represented by the chairs and vice chairs of the Faculty Senates assembled in the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates, strongly urge 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 credits (or the required minimum credits in any degree program). The reasons are as follows:

1. Non Degree Seeking Students include people

- seeking professional certification
- seeking to obtain or maintain professional licensure
- seeking training for community service, especially in social services
- desiring to maintain or enhance their contribution to a skilled labor force in a global economic marketplace
- desiring to learn new skills for new jobs because of the changing economy
- seeking to maintain the educated citizenry Horace Mann stated was necessary for republican institutions to survive
- desiring further education as part of a lifetime learning plan

By charging out-of-state tuition, a student would have to pay \$2000+ rather than \$400 for a single course, and the state would be freezing students out of the university, and in so doing lowering the skill and intellectual capacities of its citizenry.

This would harm all universities, and especially those with many part time students. An urban university, where many citizens call on the university to take courses for continuing education and certification, would stand to lose as much as \$2.2m and could turn away hundreds of students who could not afford out-of-state tuition..

2. With regard to the 120+ credit rule, while overly excessive credits ought to be regulated, it is important to note that the vast majority of undergraduate students change their majors at least once, and many twice or more. These are young men and women, still uncertain of their skills and aptitudes, who meet with failure in one path, but will be highly successful in another. Moving from a major such as engineering to business, or business to English, for example, is not uncommon, and can easily require an additional semester or year, an additional 15 to 30 credits. Some students, faced with the alternative of remaining in an undesired major or paying the substantially increased tuition, will surely drop out, robbing themselves and the state of an educated member of the workforce and community. The effect will also be a lowering of retention and graduation rates, counter to our performance goals.

The final decision in this case ought to be given to the various universities within guidelines that contain adequate latitude to compose policies that take into account the American undergraduate experience and the overall and future needs of the State.

Be it resolved that the USF Faculty Senate endorses this resolution, and requests that the USF Administration join us in that endorsement.