

**FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDED REGULATION**

DATE: June 30, 2022

REGULATION NUMBER AND TITLE: 7.003, Fees, Fines and Penalties

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 7044 added to statute the constitutional requirement from section 7(e), Article 9 of the State Constitution, that any proposal by a university to raise, impose, or authorize any fee, must be approved by at least nine affirmative votes of the Board of Trustees and 12 affirmative votes of the Board of Governors. The bill also adds new requirements for the noticing of any proposed changes to tuition and fees.

Also removes the requirement of a fall submission on potential new or increased fees being considered by the university. The spring submission will remain in effect.

FULL TEXT OF THE REGULATION IS INCLUDED WITH THIS NOTICE.

AUTHORITY TO PROPOSE REGULATION(S): Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; Board Regulation Development Procedure dated March 23, 2006.

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS' OFFICIAL INITIATING THE PROPOSED REGULATION: Tim Jones, Vice Chancellor Finance and Administration

COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED REGULATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 14 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE TO THE CONTACT PERSON IDENTIFIED BELOW. The comments must identify the regulation on which you are commenting:

General Counsel, Board of Governors, State University System, 325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 1614, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, (850) 245-0466 (phone), (850) 245-9685 (fax), or generalcounsel@flbog.edu

7.003 Fees, Fines and Penalties.

(1) The Board of Governors must authorize all fees assessed to students. Accordingly, the specific fees listed in this section, and the tuition and associated fees defined in Regulation 7.001, are the only fees that may be charged for state fundable credit hours without the specific approval of the board, except as authorized in Regulation 8.002. For purposes of clarification, the term "at cost" or "cost" as used in this regulation includes those increased costs that are directly related to the delivery of the goods, services, or programs.

(2) All tuition and fees described in this section, and any proposed changes to such tuition and fees, must be prominently posted on the state university's website in an area that is transparent and easily accessible. Each state university shall publicly notice and notify all enrolled students of any proposal to change tuition or fees at least 28 days before its consideration for a vote taken at a board of trustees meeting. The notice must:

- (a) Include the date and time of the meeting at which the proposal will be considered.
- (b) Specifically outline the details of existing tuition and fees, including how such tuition and fees are expended, the rationale and necessity for the proposed change, and how the funds from the proposed change will be used.
- (c) Be posted on the university's website and issued in a press release, which must also be enclosed in an e-mail sent to all enrolled students.

~~(1)~~(3) Pursuant to section 7(e), Article IX of the State Constitution, any proposal or action of a constituent university to raise, impose, or authorize any fee, as authorized by law, except for tuition, must be approved by at least 9 affirmative votes of the members of the board of trustees of the constituent university, if approval by the board of trustees is required by law, and at least 12 affirmative votes of the members of the Board of Governors, if approval by the Board of Governors is required by law, in order to take effect.

~~(2)~~(4) Each university board of trustees is authorized to assess the following fees at the statutory amounts listed:

- (a) Security / Access / Identification Card, Duplicate Security / Access / Identification Card, Fee Card, or Passbook:
 - 1. Annual - cost up to \$10.00.
 - 2. All duplicates - cost up to \$15.00
- (b) Orientation Fee - up to \$35.00.
 - 1. Effective fall 2011, the board of trustees of the University of West Florida may assess a \$50 Orientation Fee.
- (c) Admissions Deposit - Up to \$200. The admissions deposit shall be imposed at the time of an applicant's acceptance to the university and shall be applied toward tuition upon registration and budgeted in the Student and Other Fee Trust Fund. In the event the applicant does not enroll in the university, the admissions deposit shall be budgeted in an auxiliary account of the university and used to expand financial assistance, scholarships, student academic and career counseling services, and admission services at the university.
- (d) Transcript Fee - per item; up to \$10.00.
- (e) Diploma Replacement Fee - per item; up to \$10.00.

- (f) Service Charge - up to \$15.00 for the payment of tuition and fees in installments.
- (g) Audit Registration Fees -- Audit registration assures a course space for the student; however, no grade is awarded. This fee is the same as the tuition and associated fees provided in Regulation 7.001. Budgeting of fee proceeds shall be in the Student and Other Fee Trust Fund.
- (h) Registration of Zero Hours -- Such registration provides for examinations, graduations, use of facilities, etc., when deemed appropriate by the institution. The student is assessed tuition and associated fees for one credit hour. The Zero Credit Fee shall be budgeted in the Student and Other Fee Trust Fund.
- (i) Application Fee -- Individuals who make application for admission to _ universities within the State University System shall pay a non-refundable application fee of not more than \$30.00. The fee shall be budgeted in the Student and Other Fee Trust Fund. Provisions may be made to waive the application fee as specified by the university.

~~(i)~~(j) _____ Late Registration Fee -- Universities shall assess a Late Registration Fee to students who fail to register before the end of the regular registration period. This fee may also be assessed to students reinstated after their course schedules were cancelled due to non-payment of fees. The fee shall be not less than \$50 nor more than \$100 with a minimum of 50 percent budgeted to the Student and Other Fee Trust Funds and the balance budgeted in an Auxiliary Trust Fund. Provisions may be made to waive the Late Registration Fee as specified by the university.

~~(j)~~(k) _____ Late Payment Fee -- Universities may assess a Late Payment Fee to students who fail to pay, or make appropriate arrangements for payment (installment payment, deferment, or third-party billing), of tuition and associated fees by the deadline set by each university. The fee shall be not less than \$50 nor more than \$100 with a minimum of 50 percent budgeted to the Student and Other Fee Trust Fund and the balance budgeted in an Auxiliary Trust Fund. Provisions may be made to waive the Late Payment Fee as specified by the university.

~~(3)~~(5) Before the board's last meeting of each calendar year, the university board of trustees shall notify the board of any potential increases in fees outlined in sub-paragraph ~~(4)~~(2). A university board of trustees may then submit a proposal for an increase in that fee to the Board of Governors' budget committee for consideration by the committee during a June meeting.

- (a) The proposal shall be submitted in a format designated by the chancellor and include at a minimum:
 1. The current and proposed increase to the fee and a description of the process used to determine the need for the increase, including any student involvement.
 2. The service or operation currently being funded by the fee.
 3. An analysis of whether the service or operation can be performed more efficiently to alleviate the need for any increase.
 4. The additional or enhanced service or operation to be implemented.
 5. Identification of other resources that could be used to meet this need.
 6. The financial impact on students, including those with financial need.
 7. The current revenue collected and expenditures from the current fee.

8. The estimated revenue to be collected and expenditures for the fee increase.

- (b) The board will act upon the budget committee recommendation at the next scheduled meeting.
- (c) An increase in these fees can only be implemented with the fall term.

Every five years the university board of trustees shall review the fee increase to determine if the fee has met its intended outcomes and whether the fee should be increased, decreased or discontinued. The university board of trustees shall submit its findings to the board. Any subsequent decreases or continuation in these fees are delegated to the university board of trustees, with notification to the chancellor.

~~(4)~~(6) Each university board of trustees is authorized to establish separate activity and service, health, and athletic fees on the main campus, branch campus, or center.

- (a) The fees shall be retained by the university and paid into the separate activity and service, health, and athletic funds. A university may transfer revenues derived from the fees authorized pursuant to this section to a university direct-support organization of the university to be used only for the purpose of paying and securing debt on projects approved pursuant to section 1010.62, Florida Statutes and pursuant to a written agreement approved by the Board of Governors. The amount transferred may not exceed the amount authorized for annual debt service pursuant to section 1010.62, Florida Statutes.
- (b) The sum of the activity and service, health, and athletic fees a student is required to pay to register for a course shall not exceed 40 percent of the tuition. Within the 40 percent cap, universities may not increase the aggregate sum of activity and service, health, and athletic fees more than 5 percent per year or the same percentage increase in tuition, whichever is higher.
- (c) A university may increase its athletic fee to defray the costs associated with changing National Collegiate Athletic Association divisions. Any such increase in the athletic fee may exceed both the 40 percent cap and the 5 percent cap imposed by this subsection. Any such increase must be approved by the athletic fee committee in the process outlined in subparagraph (4)(d) and cannot exceed \$2 per credit hour.

(e)

- (d) Increases in the health, athletic, and activity and service fee must be recommended by a fee committee, at least one-half of whom are students appointed by the student body president. The remainder of the committee shall be appointed by the university president. A chairperson, appointed jointly by the university president and the student body president, shall vote only in the case of a tie. The recommendations of the committee shall take effect only after approval by the university president, after consultation with the student body president, and approval by the university board of trustees. An increase in these fees may occur only once each fiscal year and must be implemented beginning with the fall term.

The student activity and service fee shall be expended for lawful purposes to benefit the student body in general. This shall include, but shall not be limited to, student publications and grants to duly recognized student organizations, the membership of which is open to all students at the university without regard to race, sex, or religion. The fee may not benefit activities for which an admission fee is charged to students, except for student-government-association-sponsored

concerts. The allocation and expenditure of the fees shall be determined by the student government association of the university, except that the president of the university may veto any line item or portion thereof within the budget when submitted by the student government association legislative body. The university president shall have 15 school days from the date of presentation of the budget to act on the allocation and expenditure recommendations, which shall be deemed approved if no action is taken within the 15 school days. If any line item or portion thereof within the budget is vetoed, the student government association legislative body shall within 15 school days make new budget recommendations for expenditure of the vetoed portion of the fees. If the university president vetoes any line item or portion thereof within the new budget revisions, the university president may reallocate by line item that vetoed portion to bond obligations guaranteed by activity and service fees.

- (e) Unexpended fees and undisbursed fees remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall be carried over and remain in the student activity and service fund and be available for allocation and expenditure during the next fiscal year.

~~(5)~~(7) Technology Fee - Each university board of trustees may establish a technology fee to be paid by all students. The fee may be up to 5 percent of the tuition charged per credit hour. The revenue from this fee shall be used to enhance instructional technology resources for students and faculty. The revenue and expenditures shall be budgeted in the Local Fund budget entity.

~~(6)~~(8) Off-Campus Educational Activities - As used herein, "off-campus" refers to locations other than state-funded main campuses, branch campuses, or centers. Each university board of trustees is authorized to establish fees for state fundable off-campus course offerings when the location results in specific, identifiable increased costs to the university. These fees will be in addition to the tuition and associated fees charged to students enrolling in these courses on-campus. The additional fees charged are for the purpose of recovering the increased costs resulting from off-campus vis-à-vis on-campus offerings. The university shall budget the fees collected for these courses to the Student and Other Fee Trust Funds. Each university shall use the additional fees collected to cover the increased cost of these courses and reimburse the appropriate Educational and General fund, or other appropriate fund if the costs are incurred in other than Educational and General funds.

~~(7)~~(9) Material and Supply Fees - Each university board of trustees is authorized to assess Material and Supply Fees not to exceed the amount necessary to offset the cost of materials or supply items which are consumed in the course of the student's instructional activities, excluding the cost of equipment and equipment repairs and maintenance. Revenues from such fees shall be budgeted in the Auxiliary Trust Fund.

~~(8)~~(10) _____ Housing Rental Rates - Basic rates for housing rental shall be set by each university board of trustees. In addition, the university board of trustees is authorized to establish miscellaneous housing charges for services provided by the university at the request of the students.

(11) Parking Fines, Permits and Decals -- Each university board of trustees shall establish charges for parking decals, permits and parking fines.

~~(10)~~(12) Transportation Access Fee - Each university board of trustees is authorized to establish a transportation access fee, with appropriate input from students, to support the university's transportation infrastructure and to increase student access to transportation services.

~~(11)~~(13) Returned Check Fee -- Each university board of trustees shall assess a service charge for unpaid checks returned to the university.

~~(12)~~(14) Collection costs -- Each university board of trustees is authorized to assess a charge representing reasonable cost of collection efforts to effect payment for overdue accounts. Amounts received for collection costs shall be retained by the university.

~~(13)~~(15) Service Charge -- Each university board of trustees is authorized to assess a service charge on university loans in lieu of interest and administrative handling.

~~(14)~~(16) Educational Research Center for Child Development Fee -- Each university board of trustees is authorized to assess child care and service fees.

(17) Transient Student Fee - Each university board of trustees is authorized to assess a fee not to exceed \$5.00 per course for accepting a transient student and processing the student's admissions application pursuant to Section 1006.73.

~~(15)~~—

~~(17)~~(18) Capital Improvement Fee - This fee may be used to fund any project or real property acquisition that meets the requirements of Chapter 1013. Each university board of trustees shall assess \$4.76 per credit hour per semester. Any increase in the fee beyond \$4.76 must be first recommended by a fee committee, at least half of whom are students appointed by the student body president. The remainder of the committee shall be appointed by the university president. A chairperson, appointed jointly by the university president and the student body president, shall vote only in the case of a tie. The recommendations of the committee shall take effect only after approval by the university president, after consultation with the student body president, and approval by the university board of trustees. An increase in these fees may occur only once each fiscal year and must be implemented beginning with the fall term. The fee may not exceed 10 percent of the tuition for resident students or 10 percent of the sum of tuition and out-of-state fees for nonresident students. The fee for resident students shall be limited to an increase of \$2 per credit hour over the prior year, and any proposed fee increases or decreases must be approved by the Board of Governors. No project proposed by a university which is to be funded by this fee shall be submitted to the Board of Governors for approval without prior consultation with the student government association of that university.

~~(18)~~(19) Student Financial Aid Fee - Each university board of trustees is authorized to collect for financial aid purposes an amount not to exceed 5 percent of the tuition and out-of-state fee. The revenues from fees are to remain at each university. A minimum of 75 percent of funds from the student financial aid fee shall be used to provide financial aid based on demonstrated financial need. Each university shall report annually to the Board of Governors on the revenue collected pursuant to this

subsection, the amount carried forward, the criteria used to make awards, the amount and number of awards for each criterion, and a delineation of the distribution of such awards. The report shall include an assessment by category of the financial need of every student who receives an award, regardless of the purpose for which the award is received. Awards which are based on financial need shall be distributed in accordance with the federal methodology for determining need. An award for academic merit shall require a minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or the equivalent for both initial receipt of the award and renewal of the award.

~~(19)~~(20) Each university board of trustees is authorized to assess the following fees which will have varied amounts:

- (a) Development Research School Fees - activity fees which shall be discretionary with each university.
- (b) Library Fines - per book or unit, per day; the funds shall be budgeted to the Student and Other Fee Trust Fund.
- (c) Overdue Reserve Library books - per book, per library hour; the funds shall be budgeted to the Student and Other Fee Trust Fund.
- (d) Late Equipment Fee, Physical Education - per item, per day.
- ~~(d)~~
- (e) Fees and fines relating to the use, late return, and loss and damage of facilities and equipment.
- (f) Distance Learning Fee - Universities may assess a distance learning fee to any student enrolled in a course listed in the distance learning catalog. The average distance learning fee amount assessed by a state university may not exceed \$30 per credit hour.

(21) Each university board of trustees is authorized to assess reasonable fees for incidental non-academic services provided directly to individuals. This could include, but not be limited to, fees for duplicating, lost keys, copyright material, breakage, standardized tests, library loans.

~~(20)~~(22) Each university board of trustees is authorized to assess an international student service fee to cover the university costs associated with reporting requirements of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System administered by the Department of Homeland Security for F-Visa and J-Visa degree seeking students.

~~(21)~~(23) Excess Hour Fee - This fee shall be budgeted in the Student and Other Fee Trust Fund.

- (a) State universities shall require a student to pay an excess hour surcharge for each credit hour in excess of the number of credit hours required to complete the baccalaureate degree program in which the student is enrolled. Each university must calculate an excess hour threshold for each student based on the number of credit hours required for the degree. For any student who changes degree programs, the excess hour threshold must be adjusted only if the number of credit hours required to complete the new degree program exceeds that of the original degree program.
- (b) All state university undergraduate students who entered a postsecondary undergraduate program at any Florida public institution of higher education as a first-time-in-college student in fall 2009 or thereafter and prior to fall 2011 shall pay an excess hour fee equal to 50 percent of the undergraduate tuition

identified in Regulation 7.001(3) for each credit hour in excess of 120 percent of the number of credit hours required to complete the baccalaureate degree program in which the student is enrolled.

- (c) All state university undergraduate students who entered a postsecondary undergraduate program at any Florida public institution of higher education as a first-time-in-college student in fall 2011 and prior to fall 2012 shall pay an excess hour fee equal to 100 percent of the undergraduate tuition identified in Regulation 7.001(3) for each credit hour in excess of 115 percent of the number of credit hours required to complete the baccalaureate degree program in which the student is enrolled.

All state university undergraduate students who entered a postsecondary undergraduate program at any Florida public institution of higher education as a first-time-in-college student in fall 2012 through the 2019 spring term shall pay an excess hour fee equal to 100 percent of the undergraduate tuition identified in Regulation 7.001(3) for each credit hour in excess of 110 percent of the number of credit hours required to complete the baccalaureate degree program in which the student is enrolled. For the 2019 summer term and thereafter, an excess hour surcharge equal to 100 percent of the tuition rate for each credit hour in excess of 120 percent shall be paid. Effective July 1, 2018 each university shall refund the excess hour surcharge assessed for up to 12 credit hours to any first-time-in-college student who completes a baccalaureate degree program within four years after their initial enrollment in a university.

- (d) Each university shall implement a process for notifying students of this fee upon a student's initial enrollment. A second notice must be provided to the student when the student has attempted the number of credit hours needed to complete the baccalaureate degree program in which the student is enrolled. The second notice must include a recommendation that each student who intends to earn credit hours at the university in excess of the credit hours required for the baccalaureate degree program in which the student is enrolled meet with the student's academic advisor. The excess hours' determination shall be based on the baccalaureate degree program in which the student is enrolled. If a student changes degree programs, the excess hours' threshold shall be adjusted to the new program's required hours. Pursuant to Regulation 7.002(1), the university shall establish regulation procedures for the implementation of this section.

- (e) All credit hours for courses taken at the university from which the student is seeking a baccalaureate degree shall be included when calculating the number of hours taken by a student, including:

~~1.~~ Failed courses.

1.

2. Courses dropped or withdrawn from after the university's advertised last day of the drop and add period, except as provided for in subparagraph (21)(f).
3. Repeated courses, except repeated courses for which the student has paid the full cost of instruction as provided in Regulation 7.001(12~~0~~).
4. All credit hours earned at another institution and accepted for transfer by the university and applied toward the student's baccalaureate degree program.

- (f) All credit hours earned under the following circumstances shall not be calculated as hours required to earn a baccalaureate degree:

1. College credits earned through an articulated accelerated mechanism.

2. Credit hours earned through internship programs.
3. Credit hours required for certification, recertification, or certificate programs.
4. Credit hours in courses from which a student must withdraw due to reasons of medical or personal hardship.
5. Credit hours taken by active-duty military personnel.
6. Credit hours required to achieve a dual major taken while pursuing a baccalaureate degree.
7. Remedial and English as a Second Language credit hours. Credit hours earned in military science courses that are part of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.
8. Credit hours earned or taken for the civics literacy competency requirement.

~~(22)~~(24) _____ Convenience fee – Each university board of trustees may establish a convenience fee when accepting payments by credit cards, charge cards, and debit cards. The fee shall not be greater than the cost of providing the service. The fee is not refundable to the payor.

~~(23)~~(25) _____ ~~Before the Board of Governors' last meeting of each calendar year, the university board of trustees shall notify the board of any potential new fees that are being considered by the university. A university board of trustees may then submit a proposal for a new fee not currently authorized in board regulation or statute to the Board of Governors' budget committee for consideration by the committee during a June meeting. The deadline for submission of a proposal shall be determined by the Board Office.~~

~~(a)~~ The proposal shall be submitted in a format designated by the chancellor, and include at a minimum:

(a)

- ~~1.~~ 1. _____ The purpose to be served or accomplished with the fee.
 2. The demonstrable student-based need for the fee that is currently not being met through existing university services, operations or another fee.
 3. The process used to assure substantial student input or involvement.
 4. Any proposed restrictions, limitations, or conditions to be placed on the fee.
 5. The financial impact of the fee on students, including those with financial need.
 6. The estimated revenue to be collected and proposed expenditures for the new fee.
 7. The outcome measures that will be implemented to determine when the purpose of the fee will be accomplished.
- (b) The aggregate sum of any fees approved by the board that a student is required to pay to register for a course shall not exceed 10 percent of tuition. All other fees shall be based on cost.
- (c) The fee can only be implemented in the fall term.
- (d) The revenue generated by this fee may not be transferred to an auxiliary enterprise or a direct-support organization and may not be used to pay or secure debt.
- (e) The university shall account for the revenue and detailed expenditures of this fee in the Annual Report.

- (f) The fee cannot be an extension of, or cover the same services, as an existing statutory fee.
- (g) The fee cannot be utilized to create additional bonding capacity in an existing fee.
- (h) The fee should support a new service or activity that is not currently supported or should be supported with education and general funds (state and tuition).
- (i) The fee shall not supplant revenue from other sources that are currently used or have been used to support a service or activity.
- (j) The fee should support a service or activity in which a majority of students is able to participate or from which derive a benefit.
- (k) Once the board approves a fee under this section, a university fee committee shall be established similar to other existing fee committees.
- (l) The board will act upon the budget committee recommendation at the next scheduled meeting.
- (m) Every five years the university board of trustees shall review the fee to determine if the fee has met its intended outcomes and whether the fee should be increased, decreased or discontinued. The university board of trustees shall submit its findings to the board. Any subsequent decreases or continuation in these fees are delegated to the university board of trustees, with notification to the chancellor.
- (n) If a university board of trustees' proposal is denied, within five calendar days the university board of trustees may request reconsideration by the board's Tuition Appeals Committee, which shall consist of the chair of the board and the chair of each board committee. The Tuition Appeals Committee will meet within ten calendar days after the Board of Governors denial to consider a university board of trustees request for reconsideration.

~~(24)~~(26) Pursuant to subparagraph ~~(243)~~, the university boards of trustees designated below are authorized to assess the following fees:

- (a) Green Fee - This fee may be assessed to establish or improve the use of renewable energy technologies or energy efficiencies that lower the university's greenhouse emissions.
 1. University of South Florida: up to \$1.00 per credit hour
 2. New College of Florida: up to \$1.00 per credit hour
 3. University of West Florida: up to \$1.00 per credit hour
- (b) Test Preparation Fee - at cost. This fee may be assessed to increase accessibility to test preparation courses in programs where students are expected to obtain specific preparation for a practice-based examination.
 1. Florida International University
 2. Florida A&M University - (bar test preparation)
- (c) Student Life and Services Fee - This fee may be assessed to expand student participation in transformational learning opportunities that build new and enhances ongoing activities which connect students to the institution.
 1. University of North Florida: not to exceed 5 percent of tuition.

| Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; History—Formerly BOR Rule 6C-7.003. Derived from 6C-2.74 and 6C-2.76, Amended and Renumbered 12-17-74, Amended 2-22-76, 6-22-76, 6-28-76, 11-1-76, 9-8-77, 2-14-79, 9-28-81, 12-7-82, 12-13-83, 10-2-84, Formerly 6C-7.03, Amended 1-8-86, 8-11-86, 12-25-86, 6-2-87, 10-17-89, 4-10-90, 1-7-91, 7-2-91, 9-15-91, 8-4-92, 11-9-92, 4-12-93, 5-30-93, 9-23-93, 8-1-94, 1-24-96, 4-16-96, 12-15-97, 8-28-00, 8-12-01, Amended and Renumbered as 7.003 9-25-08, Amended 12-10-09, 11-4-10, 9-15-11, 6-21-12, 11-08-12, 11-21-13, 9-22-16, 11-8-18, 10-30-2019, 9-1-2021, X-X-2022.