



Fairbanks, Alaska 99775

May 14, 2021

To: Anupma Prakash, Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor  
Julie Queen, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services

From: Tuition and Fee Committee

Re: Tuition Rate Proposal Options for Fall 2022

The standing committee includes the following representatives (current incumbents):

AVC Finance (Amanda Wall)

AVC Student Affairs (Ali Knabe)

Student Governance Representative (Riley von Borstel)

Graduate Student Representative (Kara Kornhauser)

CTC Administrator (Keith Swarner)

CRCD Administrator (Bryan Uher)

eCampus Executive Director (Owen Guthrie)

Athletics Administrator (vacant)

Dean (Ellen Lopez)

OMB Analyst (Shelby Carlson)

Military and Veteran's Affairs Director (vacant)

Registrar's Office (Kim McFadden)

Bursar's Office Subject Matter Expert (Michael McFetridge)

Faculty (Diane Wagner, Eric Heyne, and Kevin Alexander)

Charge: Please reconvene the T&F committee to propose one (or two, if necessary) options for UAF leadership to consider for fall 2022 (AY2023) for an increase to tuition rates. Understanding the technical issues highlighted by the previous report, please also make recommendations that consider ease of implementation as part of any rate increase option.

**Option 1: 5% increase to lower and upper-undergraduate tuition**

To remain consistent with UAA and UAS, the committee recommends a 5% increase to lower and upper-undergraduate tuition and no change to graduate tuition, which is scheduled to be increased 5% in 2021-22. This option would generate approximately \$39.87 thousand in gross tuition revenue, an increase of \$1.57 million from projected FY22 revenue.

CTC is not in agreement with this recommendation. The committee is concerned about increasing CTC and CRCD campus tuition rates, as they are already substantially higher than peer institutions. As such, the committee recommends that an amount

equal to or greater than 15% of the increase (\$235,500) be made available to CTC and CRCO to bring tuition rates down in the form of student aid.

### **Option 2: Begin to merge lower and upper tuition rates into a single undergraduate rate**

For UAF's tuition rates to more closely match peer institutions, the lower tuition rate would be increased over five years to meet the upper tuition rate to create a singular undergraduate rate. This is dependent on a differential tuition model between the Troth Yeddha' campus and the community campuses and CTC.

- Plan to increase lower tuition by 4.3 percent each year starting fall 2022 to fall 2026 (FY27) to meet the upper tuition rate of \$289 and create one undergraduate rate.
- Freeze any increases in the upper tuition rate.
- No proposal to increase the graduate tuition rate or the non-resident tuition for fall 2022.

#### *Concerns*

GER's account for ~70% of UAF's lower-division credit hours. If GERs are kept at a lower tuition rate at the Troth Yeddha' campus then it doesn't make much sense to merge lower and upper tuition rates, but GERs being a lower cost at the community campuses and a higher cost at the main campus may create unhealthy competition for GER tuition among campuses.

### **Option 3: gradually increase upper-division tuition while holding lower-division tuition steady**

This option responds to the fact that our bachelor's degrees are comparatively underpriced and our community campus programs and degrees are comparatively over-priced. It also avoids the many problems associated with differential tuition rates for the same classes.

- Plan to gradually increase upper-division tuition with a target of an appropriate degree cost-competitive with peer institutions
- Freeze lower-level tuition rates
- Take time to build capacity to implement program-based or location-based differential tuition rates in the future