

2023-2024 Tuition Review Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 25, 2023

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Zoom

1. Minutes for the September 21 meeting and this meeting will be shared electronically for vote of approval
2. Premium Tuition Requests
 - a. MS in Mechanical Engineering and Aerospace Engineering [Srinath Ekkad] 15 minutes.
 - i. The department shared their justification for the premium tuition.
 - ii. Focus on viewing the master's degree as a professional degree.
 - iii. Request \$1,500/semester/student, would be prorated for part time students. Four main goals:
 1. Hire advisors to help with advising
 2. Budgeted support for graduate TAs
 3. Money requested for TT faculty development. Related to more professional development, writing, management type courses.
 4. Graduate fellowships to help recruit our finest students into graduate programs and pursue the masters.
 - iv. Estimates would pull in \$774,000 based on the current number of masters students. The goal of this is to better advise students, provide the courses that they're looking to supplement, help them connect to coops and internships, and focus of tracks within the masters programs and then support the courses as mentioned.
 - v. We have a lot of applications that come through that we do not take. Large undergrad. When we make expansion, we also expect to grow the graduate program. Will also be using some of the money to advertise some of the masters programs. Given that we have the capacity to grow but not growing due to resources, this can help with that.
 - vi. Questions –
 1. Back in the old funding model, it was not OK to use premium tuition to support the teaching component, and couldn't hire faculty on that. Wondering where things stand now with TAs?
 - a. You can hire faculty on premium tuition because it's tuition but you can't on fees.
 2. Is this only for new students applying to the program?
 - a. Will have to be clear in communications for those already enrolled as it will apply to them.

3. Question whether or not use for recruitment of new students is an appropriate use.
 - a. Didn't budget it for that. Recently one of our faculty members became the advisor for MS non thesis students. We already have the capacity to grow. When we start doing that we will be doing more advertising for both programs to potentially increase enrollment in these niche areas. Be more effective use of these resources. 80k.
 4. Currently no TA support for graduate programs in terms of classroom support.
 5. Competitiveness – worried about negative impact yield.
 - a. One of the focuses is we can increase our own NC students a lot more. Second, when bringing in out of state students, not a significant burden, when we make the niche areas, make it an appealing program. Industry partners can come and recruit more from graduate students.
 6. Is there a CPT option within the degree?
 - a. Not within but will do over the summer. If we had a NTT director of the non-theses that's a potential option to be added in but don't because we can't mention it.
 - b. Curricular practical training – allows international to get off campus training in the summer
 7. Other benefits to the students
 - a. We have certainly been looking at demand from students in areas that are more aligned to what the jobs are currently. A lot are AI classes. Manufacturing / industrial areas. On aerospace into space systems. We are thinking we can double up courses that are focused on target areas, and work with industry on internships and get industry to come in and provide problems that need solving through this graduate project. The industry would be involved in working with them and create professional counseling in terms of jobs/internships and the industry is fully involved in the program.
3. Discussion: TRAC's recommendation regarding Premium Tuition Request [Committee]
20 mins
- a. Discussion
 - i. Certainly par for the course of many of the engineering masters programs we have that have a premium tuition. On the concerned side is increased cost. We've heard a lot from masters, especially in ECE about issues of affordability especially with inflation. Given these are international, the strength of the dollar has increased financial stress.

- ii. Follow up for AE and ME quite different student composition to ECE.
Some potential to recruit more instate students there.
 - b. Motion for approval by Dean Mark Hoversten
 - c. Seconded by Dean Peter Harries
 - d. 9 for approval, 0 against, 1 absent
4. Preliminary testing of different tuition rate scenarios/discussion [Jennifer Coltrane and Committee] 20 mins
- a. Review of the scenario spreadsheet and how it is used.
 - b. The remaining time of the committee was spent reviewing different increase scenarios.

Meeting adjourned at 2:23 pm.