

December 6, 2019

Dear College of Business Administration (COBA) Students:

After many years of discussion and planning, the College of Business submitted a differential tuition request to the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents in September. After thorough review, the proposal was approved on October 31st. Prior to the approval, we held two hearings on campus to discuss the need for differential tuition and the implications. We know that many of you could not attend, thus we want to try to answer as many questions as possible prior to it taking effect. The following is a brief "FAQ" about the implications of differential tuition.

How much is the increased tuition?

It will be \$22.50 per semester credit hour. Thus, this could be as much as an additional \$270 per semester when taking twelve or more hours in a semester.

Who will be charged this amount and when?

The \$22.50 per semester credit hour will be charged to new students fall 2020 and beyond, students on variable tuition plans for fall 2020 and beyond, and students whose guaranteed plans expire starting fall 2020 or beyond.

Why is this being charged?

COBA is in the midst of several major strategic initiatives that should significantly enhance the reputation of the university and the value of a COBA degree, including AACSB accreditation. Unfortunately, state funding declined at a time when we had to make additional resource commitments or find ourselves in a very precarious position. The money will be used to support additional faculty positions, staff positions, and to support other strategic initiatives. The money **will not** be used for faculty pay raises or travel. It is intended that all funds will be utilized to broadly improve the education and support services available to COBA students.

Do other schools charge this?

The direct answer is some. Within the A&M System, there are differential tuition charges at Texas A&M University-Commerce, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Tarleton State University, and West Texas A&M University. The amounts and applicability to students do vary, but ours is the least per semester credit hour charge of any of the institutions.

Is there anything being done to try to offset this tuition increase for students?

There certainly is, as we did not take lightly the decision to increase tuition for students. Due in part to this charge to COBA students, and the \$38 per semester credit hour charge for our mechanical engineering technology students, the university decided to not have a general tuition increase for the 2020-2021 year. That decision saved all students approximately \$5 per semester credit hour. Second, COBA is looking very carefully at ways to reduce course materials costs while maintaining quality. Currently, course materials may cost \$500 or more per semester for full time students. In some programs, we hope to be able to cut that cost in half over time. However, it's still too early to know how fast, and by how much, we'll be able to reduce course materials costs. We should know a lot more in the spring of 2020 and hope to have some of the savings in effect by fall.

Are there ways I can reduce the cost to me?

If you are on a guaranteed tuition plan, you can ensure that you take the appropriate amount of hours each term to graduate within that guaranteed timeline.

Taking additional hours during the spring and summer of 2020 may be financially beneficial to those on a variable plan. If you have always been on a variable plan, you also may be able to switch to a guaranteed plan before the start of the summer 2020 term. If you do switch, you may find your spring 2020 and/or summer 2020 tuition go up, but would avoid the much bigger jump for fall 2020. Please check with the business office and financial aid to determine the best financial option for you.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



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