Update & Draft Report from Task Force on Graduate Tuition

Council of Deans
Patrick S. Osmer
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Charge

• Gather data from peer institutions on graduate tuition, charges to external grants, reduced tuition for post-candidacy students
• Make preliminary assessment of OSU policies and practices; determine if fiscally sound adjustments can be made rapidly
• Develop financial models for possible changes in tuition, amount charged to grants, or decreasing tuition for post-candidacy doctoral students

Preliminary findings

• Compared to CIC universities, OSU is
  – In mid-range for graduate tuition and for amounts charged to grants for pre-candidacy students
  – Second highest (to Michigan) in amount charged to grants for post-candidacy students
• 9 of the 16 institutions polled by Beck committee reduce tuition for post-candidacy students

OSU Policies and Practices

• The range of tuition charges on grants across the OSU colleges is 0 to 100%
• The average cost sharing for tuition charges on grants paying full F&A costs is 48%
• There is a wide range across OSU of the amount of tuition and F&A funds that may be returned to departments or PIs

Short-term finding

• OSU colleges right now have complete latitude in the amount of tuition to charge to grants
• They similarly have latitude in how they return some F&A funds to departments or PIs
• At least some problems in these areas can be solved right now!
  – With education about the budget model, transparency of information, and appropriate dialogue
Recommendations for Post-candidacy students

- Reduce registration requirement to 3 hrs/qtr
- Summer registration to be optional
- Continuous registration is required (leaves of absence can be requested)
- Colleges to retain flexibility for how tuition is charged

Policy Implications

- Norms on time to candidacy and time to degree have to be determined
- Graduate school policies on post-candidacy residency have to be adjusted
  - 4th quarter fee authorization to be investigated
- Redefine full-time status for post-candidacy
  - Implications for international students and visa requirements have to be addressed
  - Health-care and other benefits and fees have to be reviewed

Preliminary Fiscal analysis and Implications

- State subsidy is not reduced
  - Margin is 285 FTE above floor
  - Budget neutral at university level
- There would be gains and losses at college level, depending on numbers of post-candidacy students
- More detailed modeling and OSURF analysis is continuing

Other comments

- We want more timely completion of degrees
- Expect more students to be supported on grants
- We have to ensure good quality of students
- Will need to monitor times to candidacy and to degree

Proposed Next Steps

- Recommendation follows directly from the Freeman committee
- Target date for implementation is Autumn, 2008
  - Phase in for existing post-candidacy students
- Inform and consult with constituent groups
  - OAA, Research, Budget & Finance, HR
  - Deans
  - Chairs, Grad studies chairs
  - Grad. students
  - Senate Fiscal
  - PPAC