

on in-state students at public colleges and universities.” As a result of this Act, the University division received over \$11 million in funding in 2009-10. This funding came along with an understanding, expressed verbally by state budget-writers, that higher education institutions would use ARRA funding to mitigate the need to increase tuition to Virginia residents beyond 5 percent.

The Governor’s Commission on Higher Education, Reform, Innovation, and Investment introduced the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011 at the start of the 2011 General Assembly. In this legislation, institutional tuition and fee-setting authority is retained by the Board of Visitors. However, total tuition and fee revenue is limited to the aggregate cost of education for all enrolled students, minus state General Fund support. The model does allow for exclusion of Virginia resident tuition and fee revenue directed towards financial aid, an institution’s nongeneral fund share of the state mandated salary and fringe increases, improving faculty salary competitiveness, and unavoidable cost increases to ensure flexibility and inclusion of specific institutional characteristics, missions, and goals. The university is in compliance with this test; thus, the Board of Visitors retains the authority to set tuition and fee levels.

For 2019-20, the 2019 General Assembly approved a pool of funds to support “In-State Undergraduate Affordability”. Allocations of this pool are to be granted to public institutions in Virginia that maintain tuition and mandatory Educational & General (E&G) fees for in-state undergraduate students to the same levels as in 2018-19. Accepting the funding and holding in-state undergraduate tuition and E&G fees level was optional. Virginia Tech and all four-year public universities in the commonwealth accepted the funding and held in-state undergraduate tuition level for the 2019-20 academic year.

Mitigation of Tuition Dependency

Tuition increases are one component of the university’s overall resource and budget development strategy. To mitigate dependency on tuition the university continuously explores opportunities to maintain and grow enrollment in strategic market-informed disciplines and locations, invests in quality enhancements to ensure the value of a Virginia Tech degree, and seeks to diversify revenue by leveraging non-tuition sources including philanthropy and entrepreneurial activities. Tuition provides a significant portion of the university’s E&G revenue, and the price elasticity of demand is an ever-present consideration in the development process.

Summary of Tuition and Fee Rates

A summary of the recommended tuition rates is shown on Schedules 1 and 2, and a summary of fees is attached on Schedules 3 and 4. Finally, the total of all mandatory costs for students to attend Virginia Tech is detailed on Schedule 5 for undergraduate students, Schedule 6 for graduate students, and Schedule 7 for professional degree students.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the proposed tuition and fee rates be approved, effective Fall Semester 2021.

March 22, 2021

