

U. T. SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS
ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM
DECEMBER 6, 2007

8. U. T. System: Discussion and appropriate action related to consideration of tuition and fee proposals

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The University of Texas System Board of Regents recognizes and applauds the open and consultative process that is being used by the U. T. System institutions and their tuition policy advisory committees to identify and define needs and associated tuition cost and to make recommendations for academic years 2008-09 and 2009-10;

WHEREAS, The U. T. System Board of Regents understands clearly that tuition increases are necessary as a basis for the continued pursuit of excellence in education and research at the various institutions;

WHEREAS, The cost of Higher Education and its associated services has increased nationally, at a rate generally above the Consumer Price Index for many years;

WHEREAS, The tuition cost at U. T. System institutions remains competitive and can be considered a good value in comparison to peer institutions across the nation;

WHEREAS, The U. T. System Board of Regents gratefully acknowledges the most recent contributions to Higher Education made by the State Legislature in the 80th Session, and particularly to the U. T. System institutions;

WHEREAS, The U. T. System Board of Regents assumes a public responsibility to the people of Texas to address issues of affordability, access, and accountability in Higher Education in general, and for U. T. System institutions in particular;

WHEREAS, The U. T. System Board of Regents has the ultimate authority to set tuition for all campuses and the fiscal and educational responsibility to balance all of the above in reaching decisions that convey approval of new tuition levels, and

WHEREAS, The U. T. System Board of Regents recognizes that there is a mandated 20 percent set aside from tuition for financial aid.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the U. T. System Board of Regents will limit tuition and fee increases to a maximum of 4.95 percent, or \$150 per semester, whichever is greater, for each of academic years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. A minimum of twenty percent of these increases will be used for student financial aid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs is authorized to work with the leadership of the institutions to identify any truly exceptional circumstances that might warrant additional consideration and to bring those circumstances for consideration by the U. T. System Board of Regents.