WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 6, 2020

Report No. 20.5/1.

FY2021 Student Cost Guarantee

At today’s Western Illinois University Board of Trustees meeting, the Board will consider approval of tuition, fees and room and board rates for new Western Illinois University undergraduate and graduate students for Fiscal Year 2021, effective Fall 2020.

Western Illinois University will continue to offer the *Gilbert Cost Guarantee* for tuition, fees, room and board rates for each entering undergraduate student class. The guaranteed rates remain in effect for four years if a student maintains continuous enrollment. Incoming students in a degree program that requires more than four years to complete benefit from the guaranteed rate until the expected time of degree completion.

This report provides background information on the processes, policy considerations, and planning parameters used by Western Illinois University students, faculty, and staff in forming all costs recommendations to the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees for both Western Illinois University-Macomb and Western Illinois University-Quad Cities students.

Shared Governance Processes

*Higher Values in Higher Education,* Western Illinois University’s Strategic Plan, promotes partnerships to advance the mission, goals, values, and priorities of the institution. The following processes were followed when formulating the Fiscal Year 2021 cost guarantee.

**Tuition:** A tuition recommendation was formed by the President and President’s staff after considering benchmark data and University/statewide priorities and goals. The President shared recommended tuition increases with the President’s Advisory Group before making final recommendations to the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees.

**Fees at Western Illinois University-Macomb:** The Student Government Associations for Western Illinois University made fee recommendations to the Vice President for Student Services and Associate Vice President for Budget and Finance, based upon data provided by University staff. After review, the Vice President for Student Services received approval from the Auxiliary Facilities Committee for those applicable fees. The approved recommendation was then submitted by the Vice President for Student Services and Associate Vice President for Budget and Finance to the President for consideration before final submission to the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees.

After evaluation, the President met with representatives from the Student Government Associations, the Quad Cities Director of Student Services, the Associate Vice President for Budget and Finance and the Vice President for Student Services to propose changes to the initial recommendations presented to finalize what would be presented to the Board of Trustees.

**Room and Board Rates:** The Inter-Hall Council made a room and board cost recommendation to the Vice President for Student Services, based upon data provided by University staff. Once reviewed, the Inter-Hall Council’s recommendation was forwarded to the Auxiliary Facilities Committee for approval. The approved recommendation was then submitted by the Vice President for Student Services to the President for consideration. The President and President’s staff adjusted in light of the COVID-19 pandemic before final submission to the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees.

Policy Considerations and Planning Parameters

The following policies and planning parameters are considered when making tuition, fee, and room and board recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

* **Generating revenue to successfully attain the highest priorities and goals identified in *Higher Values in Higher Education.***Western Illinois University’s Fiscal Year 2020 All Funds Operating Budget was $210.6 million. Approximately 28-percent of the University’s budget is derived from the University Income Fund (tuition) and approximately 24-percent is derived from state funds. The remaining 48-percent is generated by the University’s Auxiliary Facilities System (revenue from room and board and the University’s bond revenue fee which supports University Housing and Dining Services, University Union, and Campus Recreation), and other Non-Appropriated Funds (revenue generated from external grants and contracts, self-supporting entities, and fees).
* **Extending commitments of access and affordability to students from Illinois and beyond.** Tuition for all undergraduate and graduate domestic students are assessed at the in-state rate.
* **Supporting the statewide strategic plan for higher education, that college is affordable for all Illinoisans, particularly low-income students.** Tuition and fees for Fiscal Year 2020 undergraduate students at Western Illinois University ranked twelfth out of the twelve public universities. Ranking is in descending order from highest to lowest. Western is now the lowest cost alternatives among all Illinois public universities. It is anticipated that this year’s tuition and fee recommendations will maintain this position.





Recommendations

Based upon the policy considerations and planning parameters identified on the previous pages, the following are recommended to the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees:

Tuition

Recognizing the unprecedented financial burden placed upon our students resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, tuition should remain level for undergraduate and graduate students.

Room and Board Rates

Recognizing the unprecedented financial burden placed upon our students resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, Fiscal Year 2021 room and board fees shall remain level for undergraduate and graduate students.

Fees for all Students

Recognizing the unprecedented financial burden placed upon our students resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the need to adjust the fee structure as the modality of courses has changed significantly since the establishment of the existing structure, fees shall be placed at Fiscal Year 2020 Macomb rates for new Macomb and extension students. The rate for Quad Cities courses will be incrementally adjusted over a four-year period to become equivalent with all other mandatory fee rates, with the initial phase-in beginning Fall 2020, with the goal of having an equivalent fee rate to be used on all campuses and for all modalities in an effort to provide appropriate services for all Western Illinois University students and mitigate fee revenue loss.

\*This report was received during the BOT meeting on May 6, 2020