

Submitted: January 9, 2008

Approved: March 11, 2008

**Recommendation #36: Determining how the GPIDEA course fee for C-Base graduate students enrolled in a GPIDEA course will be funded.**

**Issue number: T-09**

***Background***

The Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (GPIDEA) is a consortium of universities that offer courses to students enrolled at other participating universities. The courses are primarily delivered via a web-based delivery mechanism. A common tuition fee is charged for all courses offered through this consortium. The tuition for the 2007-2008 academic year (fall, spring and summer) is \$415 per credit hour.

Students enrolled in a GPIDEA course are assessed at the standard GPIDEA rate. There is a formula of how the fee is shared between the host and the teaching institution, but generally, the institution that is teaching the class gets most of the tuition revenue.

Iowa State University currently administers this program through the Continuing and Distance Education department (CDE). Consistent with other courses administered through CDE, the tuition revenue and the program expenses associated with GPIDEA courses are managed outside of the General Fund, with one exception. Graduate students who are on an assistantship (C-Base) are assessed a full-time, resident tuition rate and cannot be assessed an additional amount for GPIDEA. The tuition revenue from these students is managed within the General Fund. Therefore, if a C-Base student enrolls in a GPIDEA course, the amount due to other institutions is funded from the General Fund. In FY07, nearly \$8,200 in GPIDEA course fees were paid from the General Fund and treated as an offset to tuition revenue.

According to the tuition revenue distribution method as prescribed by the Resource Management Model, the tuition revenue generated from a graduate student is distributed entirely to the “home” college of the student. When a graduate student enrolls in a course that is offered outside their home college, revenue will be transferred from the student’s home college to the college offering the course.

Each course has only one primary offering department. The primary offering department is defined for the course based on records within the Office of the Registrar’s course catalog file, which contains a record for all courses offered by the university. Generally, the department teaching the course is the primary offering department. For those courses that are cross-listed, the department that is teaching the course is generally the primary offering department and the other departments that offer the course are considered secondary offering departments.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Resource Management Model Implementation  
Operations Team  
Tuition Revenue Work Group

***Recommendation***

The RMM Tuition Revenue implementation work group recommends that the primary offering department and/or college that is offering a GPIDEA course be responsible for funding any shortfall created when a C-base graduate student enrolls in a GPIDEA course. The primary offering department is defined for the course based on records within the Office of the Registrar's course catalog file.