

Submitted: September 20, 2007 (revised from August 22, 2007)

Approved: September 21, 2007

**Recommendation #22: Distributing tuition revenue generated from half semester courses**

**Issue number: T-04**

***Background***

The Budget Model Review and Implementation Committee (BMRIC) recommended that all tuition revenue collected by the university be distributed to the colleges based on student enrollment and student credit hours.

The BMRIC recommended that 25 percent of net undergraduate student tuition and 100 percent of net graduate and veterinary medicine professional student tuition be distributed to colleges based on the student's college of enrollment. The BMRIC also recommended that 75 percent of net undergraduate student tuition be pooled (SCH tuition pool) and distributed to colleges based on the proportion of student credit hours taught by each college. Tuition revenue, net of financial aid, generated from differential undergraduate tuition will be distributed entirely to the college charging the differential tuition. Currently, only upper division engineering students are charged differential tuition.

It has been recommended by the Tuition Revenue Work Group that the Office of Registrar's 10<sup>th</sup> day enrollment census data for each term will be used for the 25 percent distribution of undergraduate tuition revenue and 100 percent distribution of graduate and professional tuition revenue. Because some students who enroll in second half semester courses do not enroll at Iowa State until after the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the term, there was a concern that the tuition revenue generated from these students would not be included in this tuition revenue distribution. The Tuition Revenue Work Group reviewed this issue and discovered that approximately 0.15% of the students that were assessed tuition for the Spring 2007 term, were not included in the Office of the Registrar's 10<sup>th</sup> day enrollment census data. It was therefore concluded that the Office of the Registrar's student enrollment data captures virtually all students who are enrolled during a term.

It has been recommended by the Tuition Revenue Work group that the student credit hour data reported by the Office of Institutional Research will be used for the distribution of the undergraduate tuition SCH pool. Because the Office of Institutional Research's data is taken at a certain point in time, there was a concern that student credit hours generated from first and/or second half courses would not be included in the student credit hour data used for the distribution of the undergraduate tuition SCH pool. The Tuition Revenue Work Group reviewed this issue and discovered that the course enrollment system allows for an "effective date" of enrollment for adding or dropping a course. The Office of the Institutional Research captures a term's student credit hour data using an "effective date" as of the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the term. It was concluded that because the Office of Institutional Research's reports student credit hour data using an "effective 10<sup>th</sup> day of term", that the SCH data they report captures virtually all student credit hours generated

during the term.

***Recommendation***

Because virtually all students who enroll in a second half semester course are included in the Office of Registrar's 10<sup>th</sup> day enrollment census data, the Tuition Revenue implementation work group recommends that this data should be used for the distribution of the tuition revenue generated from half semester courses. If a student does enroll after the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the term (i.e. enrollment is not captured in the Office of the Registrar's 10<sup>th</sup> day enrollment census data) then the tuition revenue generated by this student should be included in the term's undergraduate tuition SCH pool and distributed to the colleges based on the proportion of student credit hours taught by each college.

Because virtually all student credit hours associated with second half semester courses are included in the Office of Institutional Research's "effective 10<sup>th</sup> day of the term", the Tuition Revenue Work Group recommends that this data should be used for the distribution of tuition revenue generated from half semester courses. In the future, to ensure that all student credit hours generated from second half semester courses are captured in a term's student credit hour data, the Tuition Revenue Work Group suggests that the Office of Institutional Research review the possibility of capturing the "effective 10<sup>th</sup> day of term" student credit hour data on or around the 45<sup>th</sup> day of the term (i.e. 5 days after the start of the second half of the semester).