

Submitted: August 22, 2007

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Recommendation #23: Assigning students seeking a minor, multiple majors or multiple degrees to an academic department
Issue number: T-02, T-43, T-44

Background

The Budget Model Review and Implementation Committee (BMRIC) recommended that 25% of the undergraduate tuition revenue be distributed to a college based on the student's college of enrollment. The BMRIC also recommended that 100% of the graduate tuition revenue be distributed to a college based on the student's college of enrollment.

For undergraduate students who are pursuing a minor, the Office of the Registrar's records captures both the major and the minor of the student. For undergraduate students who are pursuing multiple majors, the Office of the Registrar's records captures both a primary major and a secondary major. Generally, the primary major is determined by which department is providing the primary advising for the student.

For students who are pursuing a graduate and undergraduate degree concurrently, the current policy is to assess the student using the graduate tuition rate. Because the student is assessed the graduate tuition rate, they are considered enrolled as a graduate student.

For graduate students who are enrolled in a dual graduate degree program or pursuing multiple graduate degrees, the Graduate College's records capture both a first degree and a second degree. Generally, the student's initial primary degree of record is the first degree that the student pursues. When the first degree is completed, the student record is changed so that the student's second degree becomes the primary degree of record. Although there are cases where there is some overlap when a student is completing their first degree and starting on their second degree, there are relatively few graduate students who start and complete multiple degrees simultaneously.

The Tuition Revenue implementation work group discussed the option of "splitting" the student between departments if they are pursuing a minor, multiple majors or multiple degrees. Although this could be perceived as fairer for the distribution of tuition revenue, the work group rejected this as a viable option for the following reasons:

- a. Because 75% of the undergraduate tuition revenue will be distributed based on their proportion of the university's total student credit hours, there are incentives for a department to offer a second major for an undergraduate student. The department will be credited with the student credit hours that they teach for the student's second major and the department's college will receive the tuition revenue that is distributed based on student credit hours.

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- b. It would not be fair to split the tuition revenue without splitting allocation of central administrative expenses associated with undergraduate, graduate and professional students (i.e. Student Services, IT Services and the Library). The methodology for the classification of students to a college is used for both the distribution of tuition revenue as well as the allocation of expenses. Splitting the student would make the allocation process more complex and less transparent for the colleges.
- c. It would not be fair to split the tuition revenue associated with graduate students without splitting the expenses associated with graduate student scholarships. The methodology for the classification of students to a college is used for both the distribution of tuition revenue as well as the means for determining the college that will be responsible for the costs of the graduate student's scholarship (if applicable). Splitting students for both revenue and expense purposes would make the process of funding graduate scholarships more complex for the colleges..

Recommendation

For the purposes of distributing tuition revenue to the colleges, the Tuition Revenue implementation work group recommends the following:

- Undergraduate students who are pursuing a minor or multiple majors will be classified to an academic department and college based on the primary major of the student as recorded by the Office of the Registrar's 10th day enrollment census record. Therefore, for the purpose of distributing the undergraduate tuition revenue to a college based on the student's college of enrollment (i.e. the 25% percent portion), the college whose department is offering the student's primary major will receive the tuition revenue.
- Students who are pursuing both a graduate and undergraduate degree concurrently are assessed as graduate students and therefore will be classified as a graduate student. The student will be classified to an academic department and college based on the graduate degree of the student as recorded by the Office of the Registrar's 10th day enrollment census record. Therefore, the college whose department is offering the graduate degree will receive 100% of the student's tuition revenue. If the graduate student takes a course outside their college of enrollment, the college who is offering the course will receive a revenue transfer based on an established per student credit hour rate.
- Students who are enrolled in a dual graduate degree program or pursuing multiple graduate degrees will be classified to an academic department and college based on the graduate student's current primary degree as recorded by the Office of the Registrar's 10th day enrollment census record. Therefore, the college whose department is offering the primary graduate degree will receive 100% of the graduate student's tuition revenue. If the graduate student takes a course outside the college

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offering the primary graduate degree, the college who is offering the course will receive a revenue transfer based on an established per student credit hour rate.