
ATTACHMENT D

Resolution from the Planning and Operations Committee

We recommend that the External Degree Program not be required to charge a higher rate of tuition to out-of-state students until the whole matter of in-state/out-of-state tuition for distance education programs is considered and guidelines are established that will treat all such programs in a consistent manner.

Points to consider relating to distance education and non-resident tuition.

1. The wording of Act 96-663 of the Alabama Legislature dealing with resident/nomesident tuition seems not to apply to distance education. See Section I (4): "RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT STUDENT. In determining resident or nomesident classification, the primary issue is one of intent. If a person is in Alabama primarily for the purpose of obtaining an education, that person shall be considered a nomesident student." Thus the act seems to deal only with persons who are "in Alabama."
 2. The primary sponsor of the act, Representative Tim Parker, has told the committee that distance education or correspondence programs were not considered while the bill was being shaped and the bill was not intended to affect such programs.
 3. Just as we take into consideration the resident/nomesident tuition rates of schools likely to compete with The University of Alabama for residential students, so the Office of Academic Affairs should survey the tuition structures of distance education programs likely to compete with UA for the same students.
 4. Increasing tuition to 2.74 times its current amount (from \$104 to \$285 per credit hour) will almost surely reduce the number of students entering distance programs, and, on balance, may well result in a net
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decline in revenue for those programs.

5. Reducing the number of out-of-state distance education students would seem to run counter to President Sorensen's stated desire to increase the national visibility of The University of Alabama.

6. **If** there is a change to be made in the tuition structure of distance education programs, that change should be made for all such programs at the same time.

7. Distance education students do not require or utilize the University's infrastructure in the same way as do resident and nonresident students enrolled in on-campus programs.

8. As Representative Parker told the committee, the State of Alabama ought not provide a subsidy for nonresident students in distance education, and, thus, either of two tuition policies ought to be employed, as appropriate.

a. **If** the in-state tuition currently charged in a distance education program covers the full costs of the education received by the student (including faculty and staff remuneration, administrative costs, and infrastructure costs), then there need be no differentiation between in-state and out-of-state tuition.

b. **If** such in-state tuition does not cover the full costs, then out-of-state students should be required to pay extra tuition in the amount between the in-state tuition and the actual cost of their distance education.