


To: The Arizona Board of Regents

From: Rita Hartung Cheng  
President 

Date: March 20, 2019

Subject: Northern Arizona University Tuition Proposal 2019-2020

Dear Regents,

Northern Arizona University has engaged in significant planning and preparation in order to bring the attached tuition and fee recommendation to the Arizona Board of Regents for the 2019-2020 academic year. We have met with numerous student groups and individuals to outline our proposal and discuss our continued efforts to control costs, while ensuring a high quality education to every student who chooses to attend NAU and earn their degree.

Our recommendation, once again, places a high priority on NAU's mission of access and the state's goals of increasing postsecondary attainment. This requires a thoughtful balance to expanding program access and maintain affordable options for students. Included in NAU's priorities is maintaining the Pledge guaranteed tuition program for undergraduate students on the Flagstaff Campus. The desire to maintain this tuition model has been reaffirmed by our students year after year both publicly and privately as we appreciate their commitment to the strategic planning process. While NAU's mission and strategic initiatives are broad, our largest student population is resident on-campus undergraduates, with approximately 67% of our students coming to us from high schools and community colleges throughout Arizona. Staying mindful of costs, this predictable, guaranteed tuition program is critical to our partnership with students and families in helping them achieve their higher education goals. Our Pledge tuition program is a priority for NAU as we are determined to remain accessible to Arizona's students and prepare our graduates with the skills needed for Arizona to meet its educational and economic goals.

Once again we have carefully evaluated all program and class fees, building upon the elimination of hundreds of class fees in the last three years. This year we are proposing to eliminate more than a quarter of all remaining class fees. NAU is proposing to implement or adjust several undergraduate and graduate program fees for the upcoming academic year.

These program fee proposals reflect our efforts to remain transparent in our tuition and fee setting process, ensure our students are able to leverage financial aid support for program fees, and provide resources to administer higher cost programs without shifting that cost to all students.

As we work to keep tuition as low as possible, we are recommending that fall tuition for incoming undergraduates on the Flagstaff campus, statewide undergraduates, and all graduate students include an increase to reflect our programming costs. We are also recommending that our high quality degree options at our community campus sites throughout Arizona and online remain at a price point below the Flagstaff Campus tuition. The unique adjustments proposed for Yavapai's tuition rates, reflect that Yavapai programs are no longer operating in alternative ways from other NAU statewide sites and aligns all statewide campus tuition rates.

This year brought significant discussion with student leaders around focused program and campus needs. Two particular areas of emphasis rose to the top of the discussion as opportunities to enhance our campus community. Based upon needs expressed by our students, faculty, and staff, we proposed a \$25 per semester increase to the Health and Learning Center fee to increase mental health counseling and support services, and a \$10 per semester increase in the Green fee to enhance campus sustainability partnership projects.

Thank you for your continued support of NAU. This proposal ensures that the university remains positioned to do more for Arizona's higher educational attainment goals and workforce development, and that 98 percent of continuing undergraduate students on NAU's Flagstaff campus will not experience a tuition increase.

Thank you for your support.