UNIVERSITY: University of Arizona (UA)

**DIFFERENTIAL TUITION REQUEST**

**College/School:** College of Nursing  
**Department:** College of Nursing  
**Program:** BSN Program (Traditional)

**Is this for the graduate level, undergraduate level or all levels?**  
GRADUATE LEVEL □ UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL □ ALL LEVELS □

**Is this a new differential tuition fee or an increase to an existing differential tuition fee?**
NEW DIFFERENTIAL TUITION FEE □  
EXISTING DIFFERENTIAL TUITION FEE □

**Amount requested:** $1,000 per semester

**Current Fee:** $___________  
**Requested Fee:** $___________

**BACKGROUND:**
An undergraduate differential tuition fee of $1,000 per semester is proposed for the College of Nursing to include students enrolled in the traditional (4 semesters) BSN degree program. The College of Nursing already has in place special program fees for graduate students and many of the same cost drivers exist in the undergraduate program as well. Specifically, differential tuition will be used to enhance and sustain the specialized educational environment existing within the College for clinical simulation (Steele Innovative Learning Center). In addition, differential tuition fees will be used to offset escalating costs for clinical supplies, expand classroom and computer lab technology resources, support new methods for teaching and learning, and enable the College to hire and retain high caliber faculty. Nursing, consistent with other clinical disciplines, incurs higher instructional costs. Adoption of a differential tuition fee for traditional undergraduate Nursing students will more accurately reflect the cost of instruction. Clinical supervision of undergraduate nursing students must retain a ratio of 1 faculty instructor to every 8 student nurses.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Access:** The College of Nursing remains committed to providing access to undergraduate education for students seeking professional nursing careers. 20% of the fees will be set aside for financial aid to students who demonstrate need. The College of Nursing, through philanthropic sources, provides scholarships to a large number of undergraduate students and development efforts continue to focus upon student support.

**Quality of Education:** Ranked among the top 6% of nursing programs in the country, the College of Nursing is considered a leader in nursing education.
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Market Pricing and Cost:** With the proposed differential tuition fee, the cost of these programs will rank in middle third of the 2008-09 tuition and fees of our peers and remain highly affordable for undergraduate nursing education. Nursing is among the top three undergraduate majors at public research universities nationally in which a special program fee or tuition differential has been applied according to a report presented in October, 2008 at a conference of College and University Business Officers (CACUBO).

**Affordability:** The additional fees will apply to all first degree (traditional) undergraduate nursing students. The College of Nursing enrolls upper division students and has transitioned its undergraduate traditional BSN program to four (4) semesters from five (5) semesters effective with students enrolling for the fall semester 2009. The change in the length of the program will positively impact upon the affordability of an undergraduate nursing education and the proposed differential tuition fee will not fully negate this benefit to students.

**Earnings Potential of Graduates:** The market demand for nursing professionals remains very strong. The earnings potential for an entry level Registered Nurse with a baccalaureate degree ranges from $50,000 to $60,000 per year.

**Benefits to the University:** The fee will enable the College to maintain and enhance its traditional undergraduate program and continue its practice of offering a nationally distinguished education in healthcare to meet the needs of the citizens of Arizona.

**Student Consultation and Support:** Students within the College of Nursing are well aware of the resource intensity of their education and are generally supportive of increased fees in order to maintain and enhance their educational experience. The adoption of the differential tuition will be communicated extensively to enrolled traditional undergraduate students through the student association, Student Nurses of the University of Arizona (SNUA). Student leaders will refer all students with expressed financial need resulting from this differential tuition to the College of Nursing Office of Student Affairs. Every effort will be made to assuage any undue financial burden emanating from this fee.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Arizona Board of Regents is requested to approve the implementation of a differential tuition fee of $1,000 per semester for the traditional undergraduate BSN program.