

MEMORANDUM

TO: Christina Royal, President
FROM: Marcia L. Mitchell, Comptroller
SUBJECT: Student Fee Proposal for FY 2018
DATE: February 23, 2017

In developing a student fee proposal for FY 2018, we are taking last year's approach of calculating the increase that would keep HCC in the lower quartile of cost for the 15 Massachusetts community colleges under the current fee schedules. Taking that approach last year made HCC the fourth most affordable college in the state.

The Massachusetts Department of Higher Education issues a report on the relative annual cost of public colleges and universities based on "mandatory" tuition and fees paid by students taking 15 credits per semester. The term "mandatory" refers to tuition and fees applied to all students and courses, and does not include special course and program fees.

The current report for FY 2017 shows the following ranking among community colleges:

1. Greenfield	\$6,632
2. Quinsigamond	\$6,540
3. Mt. Wachusett	\$6,250
4. Berkshire	\$6,200
5. North Shore	\$6,160
6. Northern Essex	\$6,160
7. Mass Bay	\$5,990
8. Middlesex	\$5,900
9. Massasoit	\$5,850
10. Springfield Technical	\$5,736
11. Bristol	\$5,654
12. Holyoke	\$5,570
13. Roxbury	\$5,470
14. Cape Cod	\$5,402
15. Bunker Hill	\$4,860

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If the Educational Services Fee is increased by \$5 per credit (2.7% of the total cost of attendance, or 3.35% of our current ESF at \$150), annual student cost would be increased by \$150.

Assuming current enrollment projections (-6%), this increase would result in approximately \$540,400 in annual revenue.

In addition to the primary fee increase, we are recommending that the both Transportation Fee and the Student Services Fee (each \$20 per student per semester), be increased \$5. This would result in increased expenses to students of \$20 per academic year (assuming attendance in two semesters), and increased annual revenue of approximately \$120,600. Currently, revenue from the transportation fee supports our PVTAs expenses, and the Student Services Fees supplement the general fund. Neither fee has been adjusted in a number of years.

These two revisions would bring our annual cost to \$5,740, making us the sixth least expensive community college, assuming other institutions do not raise fees. Most CFOs reported in recent council meetings that they expected to pass on either small or no fee increases; ultimately, our final ranking will depend upon what increases other colleges decide to implement.