



Full Board Meeting
December 3, 2020
8:30 am

Presentation

BOT-2 Tuition and Fees

- 2.1 Tuition Differential for the MS in Sustainability & Environment
- 2.2 Recommendations for 2021-2022

Background Information

BOT-2.1: Tuition Differential for the MS in Sustainability & Environment

The Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability in the College of Arts and Sciences is requesting approval for a tuition increase to support the new Online MS in Sustainability & Environment by \$100 per credit hour for courses specifically related to the required course work, beginning academic year 2021-22. Revenue will be used to support: 1) graduate assistantships (1 in years 1-2, and 2 in years 3-4); 2) membership in the Leaders' Alliance of the National Council for Science and Environment (annually); and 3) staff salary (beginning year 2 and increasing annually thereafter). With full enrollment, the maximum revenue generated from differential tuition is \$72,000.

Note: This program was approved by the Board of Governors in Spring 2020 after the cut-off for last year's tuition approval process and is therefore, being considered as a new program request.

Recommended Action

That the Board of Trustees of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro approve the tuition differential for the MS in Sustainability & Environment as described in BOT-2.1.

BOT-2.2: Recommendations for 2021-2022

Tuition is charged to partially defray the costs of general academic and administrative operations of campuses, including academic programs and faculty and administrative salaries and benefits. Fees are charged only for limited, dedicated purposes and shall not be used to defray the costs of general academic and administrative operations of campuses, including academic programs and faculty and administrative salaries and benefits.

Tuition and fees are reviewed and approved by the University's Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina System. The Board of Governors will not approve tuition rates inconsistent with the General Assembly.

Recommended Action

That the Board of Trustees of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro approve the tuition and fee recommendations for 2021-2022 as presented in BOT-2.2.

Attachments (see below):

- 2.1 Tuition Differential for the MS in Sustainability & Environment
- 2.2 Presentation – Tuition and Fee Recommendations for 2021-2022



Robert J. Shea, Jr.
Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration

BOT-2.1

Request for Differential Tuition for Master of Science in Sustainability & Environment

PROGRAM HISTORY

The Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability (GES) launched a M.S. in Sustainability & Environment that is unique in the UNC System and builds on the recent (2018) consolidation of the undergraduate only (BA) Environment & Sustainability Program (EVS) with the comprehensive (BA, MA, PhD) Department of Geography. The undergraduate program in Environment & Sustainability has grown in recent years, and the Department of Geography identified sustainability as a focal area in their strategic plan. Given the lack of a master's degree in sustainability in the UNC System, and given the particular institutional strengths of the new Department of GES, UNCG is poised to take the lead sustainability that serves the needs of the region, state, and beyond.

For several years, the problems and opportunities of environmental stewardship and sustainable activities have been emphasized at UNCG at every level - from the operations of the physical plant to courses in nearly every academic unit on the campus. The M.S. in Sustainability & Environment builds on the unique definition of Sustainability at UNCG where "academics, operations and outreach are conducted with careful attention to the enduring interconnectedness of social equity, the environment, the economy and aesthetics." The former undergraduate SPLS concentrations in environmental and sustainability studies as well as the current BA in Environment & Sustainability that replaced them all have curricula built on that definition. As such, the structure the M.S. in Sustainability & Environment contains foundational seminars in sustainability and in environment plus required core classes from four related areas: natural science of the environment, society and equity, economics and development, and ethics and aesthetics. In addition to a required final project, further electives come both from a core of sustainability focused courses that are central to the Department as well as from others outside the Department that individual students identify and take, with advisor approval, to complete the necessary 36 credits.

USES FOR REVENUE GENERATED THROUGH DIFFERENTIAL TUITION

Graduate Assistant Stipends & Tuition: The program will use revenue received through differential tuition to provide stipends. Both the Environment & Sustainability Program and the Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability have needs for graduate students to assist with daily operations of research and teaching.

Program Admin: to provide logistical and administrative support to the EVS Director, who is responsible for both the undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as the GES Department. A select list of tasks would include:

- handling semesterly course scheduling and curriculum change updates
- organizing events (planning, funding, advertising)
- scheduling meetings (especially for advising)

- conducting financial work (accounting etc.)
- managing student records (website profiles, alumni newsletter)
- maintaining social media / webpage / calendar-of-events
- handling office staffing (student workers, student club)
- working with adjunct/other faculty teaching EVS courses
- handling intake of prospective students
- connecting students with opportunities (graduate schools, summer programs, internships), and
- coordinating with other departments/faculty on curricula and events.
- managing advertising efforts
- coordinating recruiting events
- intake of new and prospective students

Educational Expenses: to provide \$7,500 for membership in the National Council for Science and the Environment’s (NCSE) Leaders’ Alliance (formerly the Council of Environmental Deans and Directors) and funding (varies by year) for travel to attend two annual meetings for the Alliance and one annual meeting for NCSE (usually joint with the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences). Additional travel funding is necessary particularly in years 1-2 to attend recruiting events. In years 1-3, UNCG Online and the Graduate School are providing the bulk of advertising efforts. Upon full enrollment, differential tuition will provide for continual print, digital, and other forms of advertising.

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT

The approved MS in Sustainability & Environment projected an enrollment of 10 in its first year. Due to the late approval by the BOG and subsequent delay of SACSCOC approval, very little advertising was possible, nor were we able to take applications until late Spring 2020 during the rise of the Covid 19 pandemic. Nonetheless, the program successfully launched with 15 in the first semester, which exceeded the enrollment projection. 16 students have filed their intent to enroll beginning Spring 2021 bringing the total first-year enrollment to **31**. This new program has vastly exceeded enrollment projections and is poised to grow. It will not be possible to maintain this program without the resources provided by this differential tuition request.

COMPARATIVE TUITION & FEE DATA

INSTITUTION	MS Degree	MODALITY	ANNUAL TUITION & FEES
UNCW	Environmental Studies	Residential	\$7456.94
Duke University	Environmental Management	Residential & Online	\$42,176.75 Regardless of Modality
College of Charleston	Environmental Science	Residential	\$18,296
UNCG	Sustainability & Environment	Online	\$5,256

CURRICULUM

The M.S. in Sustainability & Environment requires the following five categories of coursework:

1. Foundational Seminars: GES 662 & 664 (6 sh)
2. Core Topical Seminars: GES 682, 684, 686 & 688 (12 sh)
3. Interdisciplinary Electives: any 3 relevant courses (non-GES-prefixed, 9 sh)
4. Internship, Capstone or Thesis: either GES 695 x1 for internship or GES 697 x1 for capstone, or GES 699 x2 for thesis (3 or 6 sh)
5. Departmental Electives: 1 or 2 relevant GES-prefixed courses (3 or 6 sh)

The interdisciplinary and departmental electives will be customized with the student based on interests and professional needs in one of the four focus areas: environmental sciences (courses from e.g. biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, geography, etc.), equity & society (courses from e.g. policy, sociology, history, women's and gender studies, African and African Diaspora Studies, geography, etc.), development & economics (courses from e.g. business, economics, sustainable tourism, etc.), and ethics & aesthetics (courses from e.g. philosophy, literature, art, music, theater, dance, etc.).

Year 1	Course No.	Course Title
Year 1	GES 662	Seminar in Sustainability
Year 1	GES 688	Topics in Environmental Sciences
Year 1	GES 686	Topics in Equity & Society
Year 1	GES 684	Topics in Development & Economics
Year 1	GES 682	Topics in Ethics & Aesthetics
Year 1	GES 664	Seminar in Environment
Year 2	GES 699 or 3-credit elective	Thesis (or GES elective if capstone/internship)
Year 2	GES 3-credit elective	(GES elective)
Year 2	Non-GES 3-credit elective	(interdisciplinary elective)
Year 2	GES 699 (or GES 695 or GES 697)	Thesis (or capstone/internship)
Year 2	Non-GES 3-credit elective	(interdisciplinary elective)
Year 2	Non-GES 3-credit elective	(interdisciplinary elective)

PROJECTED REVENUE AND EXPENSES

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Enrollment	31	40	40*	40*
Total SCH with DT	0	720	720	720
Estimated Revenues	0	\$72,000	\$72,000	\$72,000
Grad Tuition & Stipends	0	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$32,000
Program Admin	0	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Marketing	0	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$5,000
Educational Requirements	0	\$14,000	\$12,000	\$10,000
Balance	0	0	0	0

**40 is the capacity available under the current structure. The enrollment could readily increase with an increase in faculty dedicated to teaching in this program.*

BOT-2.2

Tuition and Fee Proposal for 2021-22

Key Considerations

- Legislative Guidance
- Guidance provided by UNC System policy
- Tuition and fee rates at UNCG compared to state/national peers
- Average indebtedness of UNCG's students compared to other students
- Institutional needs that could be addressed with tuition/fee revenue

How do UNCG's tuition and fee rates compare nationally?

Most recent national report from College Board stated that the average in-state undergraduate tuition and fees at public universities was \$10,440 in 2019-20. The rate increased to \$11,990 for in-state students at public doctoral universities, like UNCG.

UNCG's in-state undergraduate rates:

\$ 7,331 2018-19

\$ 7,406 2019-20

\$ 7,468 2020-21

National Peer Comparison 2019-2020 Tuition and Fees

	Rank from Highest Tuition and Fees to Lowest			
	Undergraduate		Graduate	
	Resident	Nonresident	Resident	Nonresident
Bowling Green State University	2	8	6	11
Florida International University	16	14	15	13
Indiana State University	10	9	13	12
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis	7	1	12	3
Kent State University	6	10	10	9
Middle Tennessee State University	11	5	8	4
Northern Illinois University	3	15	9	15
Old Dominion University	13	4	3	2
Portland State University	15	13	11	14
The University of Texas at Arlington	8	6	7	1
University of Louisville	5	3	5	6
University of Memphis	9	11	2	8
University of Southern Mississippi	12	16	14	16
University of North Carolina at Greensboro	14	7	16	10
Virginia Commonwealth University	4	2	4	5
Western Michigan University	1	12	1	7

UNC System Comparison 2019-2020 Tuition and Fees

	Rank from Highest Tuition and Fees to Lowest			
	Undergraduate		Graduate	
	Resident	Nonresident	Resident	Nonresident
Appalachian State University	7	7	6	7
East Carolina University	4	5	7	8
Elizabeth City State University	16	16	16	12
Fayetteville State University	13	12	15	15
NC A & T State University	11	10	8	11
NC Central University	10	11	9	10
NC State University	2	2	3	2
UNC Asheville	8	4	5	4
UNC Charlotte	9	9	12	9
UNC-Chapel Hill	1	1	1	1
UNC Greensboro	6	6	4	5
UNC Pembroke	15	15	13	13
UNC School of the Arts	3	3	2	3
UNC Wilmington	5	8	10	6
Western Carolina University	14	14	11	14
Winston-Salem State University	12	13	14	16

Tuition

- No tuition increase is being requested

Student Fee Proposal

- (1) Student Fee Rates
- (2) Use of Revenue Generated

Fees

PROPOSAL: Fee Rates

- Assess 20% increase on the Student Health Fee or a 2.16% increase to overall fees
- Total fees would increase by \$62 per student annually, from \$2,866 to \$2,928

Student Health Fee

- Covid-19 Related Expenses
- Hire 5 Counselors
- Additional Psychiatric Services
- Market Rate Adjustments to Retain Existing Staff

Potential Tuition and Fees for 2021-22

Regular Term	2019-20 Tuition & Fees Year	Tuition & Fees		Tuition & Fees		Total Annual Tuition & Fees	Percent Change
		Increase Per Semester	Increase Per Year	Increase Per Year	Increase Per Year		
(New) Resident Undergraduates	\$ 7,406	\$ 31.00	\$ 62.00	\$ 62.00	\$ 7,468	0.84%	
Non-Resident Undergraduates	\$ 22,565	\$ 31.00	\$ 62.00	\$ 62.00	\$ 22,627	0.27%	
Resident Graduates	\$ 8,203	\$ 31.00	\$ 62.00	\$ 62.00	\$ 8,265	0.76%	
Non-Resident Graduates	\$ 21,921	\$ 31.00	\$ 62.00	\$ 62.00	\$ 21,983	0.28%	



Thank You