

February 15, 2011

G. Kemble Bennett, Ph.D., P.E.  
Vice Chancellor and Dean of Engineering  
Dwight Look College of Engineering, Texas A&M University

Dr. Bennett,

On behalf of Student Engineers' Council and the Presidents' Roundtable, I would like to express my support for differential tuition as indicated by the accompanying report. My support of differential tuition derives itself from the passion that you have exemplified for the Dwight Look College of Engineering and the positive impacts of differential tuition which you have so elegantly described. In addition, my support derives itself from the facts which the College of Engineering administrators have provided, subsequently described:

**What is differential tuition?**

An additional \$400 tuition per regular semester (Fall and Spring) to all engineering undergraduate students starting Fall 2011; \$5.76M directly to the College of Engineering per year.

**Possible uses and benefits of differential tuition:**

- Improved facilities, laboratories—up to date education.
- Faculty salaries and support—retention of faculty; smaller classes; improved S/F ratios.
- Educational enrichments (e.g., Institute for Engineering Innovation)—improved marketability of graduates.
- Targeted Scholarships—improved diversity enhances education and marketability of graduates.
- Students will have strong input as to uses—money goes directly to College except for a mandated 20% set aside for scholarships. These funds will be earmarked for engineering student scholarships.

**Consequences of disapproval:**

- Larger class sizes; fewer faculty, TAs and advisors.
- Loss of top faculty to other higher ranked institutions as salaries lag.
- Static program due to inadequate resources; leads to diminished program quality, rankings and value of degree.
- Diminished marketability of graduates.
- Engineering will diminish in importance at TAMU in relation to other programs which have differential tuition.

For these reasons, and those mentioned in the accompanying report, I am in full support of differential tuition and the positive impacts it will provide to the Dwight Look College of Engineering. As a servant of Student Engineers' Council, the Presidents' Roundtable and the students in the Dwight Look College of Engineering, I wish to offer my availability to you at all times in order to help assist you in enacting differential tuition for the Dwight Look College of Engineering.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Roney', with a stylized, cursive script.

Aaron J. RONEY  
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