

STUDENT ENGINEERS' COUNCIL

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Differential Tuition

Student Opinion of Differential Tuition, Dwight Look College of Engineering

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Attention

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1 Introduction

Student Engineers' Council has done extensive studies on behalf of its constituents regarding the proposal for differential tuition in the Dwight Look College of Engineering. Students in the College of Engineering are, generally, in support of differential tuition on the bases which will be subsequently addressed. The opinion of the students will be illustrated by the results of a college-wide survey made in November of 2010 and a special session of the Presidents' Roundtable which took place in February of 2011.

2 Engineering Survey

2.1 Introduction

Each semester, the Student Engineers' Council prepares and hosts an Engineering Survey for the entire engineering community at Texas A&M University. During the Fall 2010 Semester, the Engineering Survey took place between Monday, November 8, 2010 and Friday, November 19, 2010.

Out of forty-seven (47) multiple-choice questions in the Fall 2010 Engineering Survey, three (3) were dedicated to differential tuition. Students were asked to identify preferred areas for additional funding, willingness to pay additional monies to improve the competitiveness of the University, and attitude toward switching universities as a result of increased tuition.

As a point of concession made by Student Engineers' Council, the students who responded to the Fall 2010 Engineering Survey were provided no information regarding differential tuition.

2.2 Results

The questions presented to students regarding differential tuition were as follows:

1. If an additional fee were added to your base tuition costs, which area would you like it to target the most?
2. Select the additional fee range you would be willing to pay per semester to maintain the University's level of competitiveness with other top universities: [\$0-\$200, \$201-\$400, \$401-\$600, \$601-\$800, \$801-\$1000]
3. Texas A&M University consistently ranks among the best valued universities, and the Dwight Look College of Engineering maintains high recruiting standards. Would you be unable or unwilling to continue your education at Texas A&M University if this additional fee was passed?

Table 1: Results of Question 1.

Response	Frequency	Count
Merit based scholarships for engineering students.	24.40%	436
Facilities maintenance and improvement	20.20%	361
Need based financial aid for engineering students.	17.90%	319
Laboratory equipment maintenance and improvements.	14.50%	259
Engineering enrichments programs.	11.30%	202
Retention of faculty members.	9.80%	175
Increased faculty salaries.	2.00%	35
Not answered.		69

Table 2: Results of Question 2.

Response	Frequency	Count
\$0-\$200	64.30%	1140
\$201-\$400	20.40%	362
\$401-\$600	8.80%	156
\$801-\$1000	4.90%	86
\$601-\$800	1.60%	29
Not answered.		83

Table 3: Results of Question 3.

Response	Frequency	Count
No.	71.20%	797
Yes.	28.80%	323
Not answered.		17

2.3 Conclusion

The results of the Fall 2010 Engineering Survey indicate that: engineering students prefer additional funding to be directed toward merit based scholarships and facilities maintenance and improvement; in addition, engineering students were not knowledgeable on the issue of differential tuition at the time the survey was taken. With the additional information posted on the Student Engineers' Council website (<http://sec.tamu.edu/DifferentialTuition.aspx>), it is expected that the majority of engineering students will understand the necessity and benefits of implementing differential tuition to sustain the competitiveness of the Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M University.

3 Presidents' Roundtable

3.1 Introduction

The Presidents' Roundtable of the Dwight Look College of Engineering convened on Thursday, February 3, 2011 for a special session. The Presidents' Roundtable consists of presidents of various Engineering Student Organizations (including Student Engineers' Council [SEC], Society of Women Engineers [SWE], National Society of Black Engineers [NSBE], Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers [SHPE], etc.). During this special session, twenty-one (21) presidents were in attendance; in addition, Dr. G. Kemble Bennett, Dr. N. K. Anand and Dr. Jo Howze were available for questions during the meeting.

3.2 Student Knowledge

Due to the intimate nature of the Presidents' Roundtable, the students were provided with a plethora of information which is now available on the Student Engineers' Council website (<http://sec.tamu.edu/DifferentialTuition.aspx>). Of the information presented to the Presidents' Roundtable, the following was the most impactful:

Differential Tuition – Peer Institutions			
University	Undergraduate Additional tuition for Engineering*	Total Tuition Paid by Resident Engineering Undergraduates	2010 U.S. News & World Report Undergraduate Ranking (Public)*(a)
University of California - Berkeley	\$0	\$12,461	1
Georgia Tech	\$0	\$8,328	2 (tie)
University of Illinois	\$4,728	\$15,114	2 (tie)
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (lower division)	\$828	\$12,666	4
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (upper division)	\$3,020	\$16,364	
Purdue University	\$1,050	\$10,120	5
University of Texas at Austin	\$836	\$9,822	6
University of Wisconsin-Madison	\$1,400	\$10,387	7 (tie)
Virginia Tech	\$30/SCH for 1000 level courses	\$10,179	7 (tie)
Penn State (lower division)	\$0	\$14,412	9 (tie)
Penn State (upper division)	\$924	\$16,506	
Texas A&M - current	\$0	\$8,386	9 (tie)
University of Houston	\$1,132	\$8,886	-
Texas Tech	\$0	\$8,260	
Texas A&M – proposed:	\$800	\$9,186	

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Figure 1: Differential Tuition at Peer Institutions.

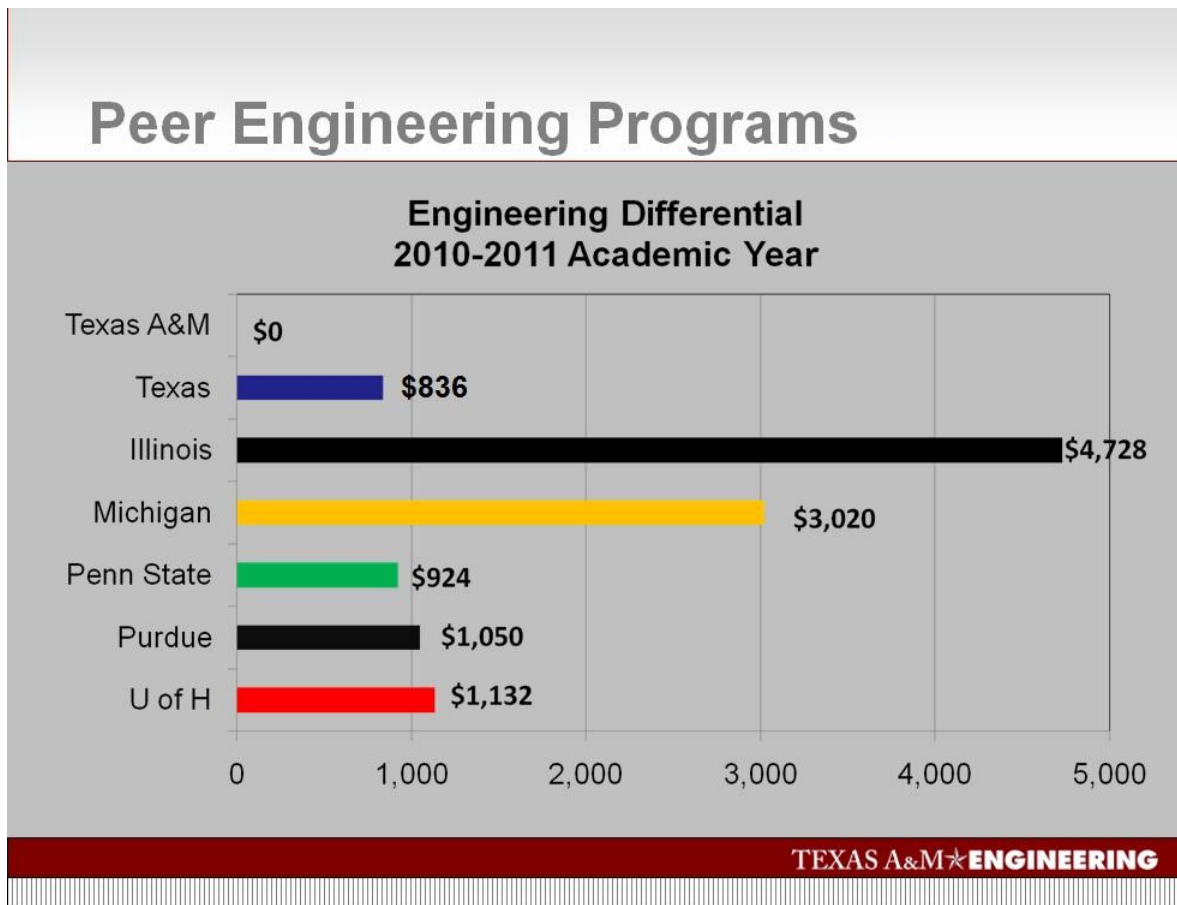


Figure 2: Peer Engineering Programs.

3.3 Results

As a result of the meeting, and after the administrators left the room, the room of twenty-one (21) presidents unanimously supported differential tuition. The outcome of the special session of Presidents' Roundtable strongly illustrates the student support of differential tuition in the Dwight Look College of Engineering.

4 Conclusion

When educated about the pros and cons of differential tuition, students are very understanding of differential tuition and the positive impact it will have on the College of Engineering.