Differential Tuition Board Meeting - 10/8/18

Members in attendance:

Daisy Beltran, Professor Sterling Bone, Professor Jef Doyle, McKell Johnson, Eric Joss, Levi Larsen, Professor Konrad Lee, Ruth Loveland, Associate Dean Dave Patel (chair), Cameron Pitt, Jordan Price, Veronica Robinson, Professor Ryan Whitby, Lydia Williams, Justin Wright

Chair Dave Patel welcomed board members and asked them to introduce themselves. After introductions, Patel noted that he had two main agenda items to discuss, in addition to any topics board members wanted to discuss. He asked members to review the revenue and allocation of FY18 differential tuition, which is available online at https://huntsman.usu.edu/about/differential-tuition

The review prompted conversation around several questions, as follows:

Why are students charged Differential Tuition on internships?
Students get the internship and do the work, but faculty are involved as advisors. Should this be reconsidered? We don’t want to deter students from taking internships for credit. Students are opting out of the internship credits due to the extra cost. However, students are paying for the credit, not the experience.

Does Differential Tuition only go to faculty teaching classes?
No, it pays for staff as well. Staff are not in the classroom, but they’re integral for the execution of programs and student experiences.

Why is there a lack of specificity to where the money is going?
The website lists the allocation of funds per the categories authorized by the USU Board of Trustees.

Has the school set aside some differential tuition funds for individual student proposals, as per a discussion from last year’s meeting?
Requests for individual student travel and experiences that have come to the School’s attention have been supported through donor funds. There has not been a need to dip into differential tuition funds to support student opportunities.

What is the school doing to increase the awareness of the allocation of differential tuition funds?
Several ideas were discussed such as adding a clause into class syllabi, creating short videos, or TV slides for social media, and hold regular town halls. The student members of the advisory board will recommend ways the school can promote the value proposition of differential tuition.

What’s being done to create a collaborative relationship between students and administration?
The administration has been more proactive in communicating with students about allocation of differential tuition, including two advisory board meetings last year and two open town halls. In addition to this board meeting, an open town hall has already been scheduled to discuss any issues of concern.

At the end of the conversation, Patel asked if the board would consider a proposal to amend the board charter to 1) increase the number of students on the board and to include faculty representation from
each academic department, and 2) clarify procedure to amend the charter. The motion was considered and seconded and passed by voice vote.

Meeting Action Items:

- Dave Patel with meet with academic leadership to explore changing current internship credit from upper-division to lower division.
- Dave Patel will ask the HSB Curriculum Committee to consider ways to add information about differential tuition to course syllabi.
- Cameron Pitt, Business Senator, will discuss with student members of the board ways to more effectively and proactively communicate the value proposition of differential tuition.