AGENDA ITEM #VIII-D-1  
MARCH 17, 2015  
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD

SECOND READING – TUITION

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT: It is recommended that Board of Trustees considers for the second reading an increase in the in-district tuition rate from $118.00 per credit hour to $128.00 per credit hour and in the senior citizen rate from $89.00 to $96.00 per credit hour effective Fall semester of 2015. The formulas for figuring out-of-district and out-of-state tuition remain unchanged. These rates will be calculated after Fall 2015 tuition rates at community colleges contiguous to Highland have been determined.

BACKGROUND: In 1995, the Board of Trustees agreed in principle to follow a general approach of setting the tuition and fees for in-district students at a rate approximating the state average tuition and fees rate charged by other Illinois community colleges. Due to the decreases in state funding since that time, Highland now receives one of the lowest unrestricted state Equalization grants in the Illinois Community College system. State funding has become a smaller percentage of Highland’s budget each year and is projected to be about 12% of Highland’s operating revenues in FY16.

A $128 tuition rate coupled with our technology fee ($13) and activity fee ($6) will likely be higher than the overall state average tuition and fee rate in FY’16. The Administrative Rules of the Illinois Community College Board require that the out-of-state tuition rate be set at a minimum of 1.67 times its in-district tuition rate. The out-of-district tuition rate is calculated at 1.5 times the highest in-district rate of our contiguous districts.

Early budget projections that include continued decreases in property tax values and state support indicate that this recommended increase in tuition may require the College to adopt a deficit budget in FY’16, to be offset by a planned decrease in the Operating Funds fund balance.

If (as originally planned when Illinois Community Colleges were established) state funding was one-third of the College’s revenue sources, then we would only be looking at a per credit hour tuition rate of about $105.

BOARD ACTION: 

Approved 3/17/15, as amended