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**TOPIC:** University of Maryland, College Park: Update on the Implementation of Undergraduate Differential Tuition for Students Majoring in Engineering, Business and Computer Science

**COMMITTEE:** Finance

**DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING:** October 6, 2016

**SUMMARY:** In May 2015, the Board of Regents approved the implementation of undergraduate differential tuition at UMCP for students majoring in the fields Engineering, Business and Computer Science. The differential tuition fee was phased in over 3 academic years, starting at \$350/semester in Fall 2015 and growing to \$700/semester in Fall 2016 and \$1,400/semester in Fall 2017. In subsequent years, the differential tuition fee will be increased consistent with the rate of Undergraduate Resident Tuition on a yearly basis. Differential tuition is charged to students with 60 or more credits, representing those students with Junior or Senior class standings.

Following the implementation of differential tuition, certain questions arose with regard to credits earned by students, typically in High School, that are accepted by UMCP toward degree completion, including Advanced Placement credits and other similar honors programs. The concern raised and presented to the Board of Regents is that the advanced students are being penalized with an additional year of differential tuition charges since their approved AP and other credits put them above the differential tuition threshold in what would otherwise be their Sophomore year. While certain benefits are associated with these advanced credits, it was presented that students in these majors will generally not be able to graduate any earlier than in four years and thus, they will have paid greater tuition differential than those students without the advancement placement and other credits. It was also expressed by the Board of Regents that approval for UMCP's undergraduate tuition differential was based on charges being applicable for only 2 years. UMCP is addressing these concerns in such a manner as to ensure that no student will be subject to more than 4 semesters of full-time equivalent differential tuition charges.

In recognizing the concern expressed at the Board of Regents meetings, UMCP commits to the following:

- Continue the current methodology of charging the full differential tuition rate to full-time students starting in their Junior year (as measured by 60 or more credits); part-time students will continue to pay the per credit differential tuition rate.
- Charge regular, full-time students for no more than 4 semesters of undergraduate differential tuition (at the prevailing per semester rate in effect for each semester).
- Charge part-time students on a per-credit basis but, in aggregate, not charge for more than the equivalent of 4 full-time semesters of undergraduate differential tuition.

The first application (i.e., a student reaching the 4 semester maximum) will be in Fall 2017 when students could have been charged 4 semesters of differential tuition (Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016 and Spring 2017). UMCP will make the necessary modifications to its systems to ensure the desired and intended outcome.

**ALTERNATIVE(S)**: This is an information item.

**FISCAL IMPACT**: This is an information item.

**CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION**: This is an information item.

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

DATE:

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BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

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SUBMITTED BY: Joseph F. Vivona (301) 445-1923

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