

Ozarka College
Board of Trustees
Finance Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 4, 2013
President's Conference Room – Administration Building
3:00 p.m.

Item No.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes from December 5, 2012
3. Discussion Items
 - A. Finance
 1. Tuition and Fee Structure
 2. Public Safety Fee
 3. Cost of Living Adjustment
 - B. 2013 – 2014 Operating Budget
4. Adjournment

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Discussion Item A.1 – Tuition and Fee Structure

Rationale:

Ozarka College has not increased tuition for the last two years while the vast majority of our colleague institutions have increased tuition both years. During this time, the State of Arkansas has kept funding levels for higher education flat or provided minimal increases to adjust institutions that are below 75% of adequate funding. Although appreciated, efforts in this area have not benefited Ozarka College to a large extent. Ozarka is currently funded at 56% of adequate need as determined by the State.

During FY 2013, the City of Melbourne passed a sales tax to help support the College; however, the anticipated annual proceeds of the tax are not enough to completely offset the annual debt requirement.

A tuition increase of \$ 3 to 4 per credit for both in-state and out-of-state tuition is being recommended. In addition, a \$10 increase to the existing web fee is also being requested. The web fee is a course specific fee that only applies to courses being delivered via Internet. The income generated from the increases in tuition and web fees will be used to for operating expenses.

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Discussion Item A.2 – Public Safety Fee

Rationale:

Due to the rise of violent crimes on campuses nationwide and a growing concern expressed by our students for their safety while on campus, the Administration feels that a pro-active stance should be taken to maximize the safety of all students, visitors and staff while on our property.

After much discussion of available options, it is the consensus of the Administrative Council that it would be in the best interest of the College to enter into a contract agreement with the local sheriff's department to provide a full-time deputy for public safety and law enforcement. Uniforms, equipment, radios and other supplies would need to be purchased. In addition, extra-help personnel would be hired to ensure that public safety issues and concerns are addressed at each location.

To offset the expense of implementing these public safety initiatives, a new Public Safety Fee of \$2.50 per credit hour is recommended. The income generated from the fee will be used to offset the personnel costs of contracting for a full-time deputy, part-time personnel, equipment, supplies, uniforms and other expenses.

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Discussion Item A.3 – Cost of Living Adjustment

Rationale:

Ozarka College is fortunate to have such a dedicated and conscientious workforce. In recognition of this, the Administration recommends that a two percent (2%) cost of living adjustment be effective July 1, 2013 for all eligible faculty, staff, and administrative personnel.