

Ozarka College  
Board of Trustees  
Finance Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, May 3, 2023  
President's Conference Room – Administration Building  
10:00 a.m.

Item No.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes from May 5, 2022
3. Discussion Items
  - LPN/RN Testing Fee Increase
  - Health Insurance Premium Increase
  - COLA
  - 2023 – 2024 Operating Budget
4. Adjournment

Ozarka College  
Board of Trustees  
Finance Committee Meeting  
Discussion Item – 2024 LPN/RN Assessment Fee Increase

Rationale:

The College is currently charging \$190 per semester for the LPN Assessment Fee and \$240 per semester for the RN Assessment Fee. This fee covers the cost of the ATI testing that is used to assess skills during the semester and required testing for the students to advance from semester to semester. In addition to the assessment fees, students must purchase the accompanying textbook and pay for virtual lab simulations needed for their skills assessments.

ATI has not had a price increase for the last 6 years, but will be doing so for the upcoming academic year. In addition, they are offering a new product that would incorporate virtual clinicals and eliminate the need for the required textbook. This bundle is less expensive than what the current assessment fee, textbook, and virtual clinicals is currently costing our nursing students.

The new assessment fees will be \$600 for LPN students per semester and \$667 for RN students per semester.

Ozarka College  
Board of Trustees  
Finance Committee Meeting  
Discussion Item – 2024 Health Insurance Premium Increase

Rationale:

Employee health insurance is one of the premier benefits offered to all Ozarka College employees. Currently 88% of all employees participate in the health benefit by enrolling in either single or family coverage.

The health insurance premiums have not increased since 2017. Due to rising costs of medical care and expected increased utilization caused by legislative mandates with regard to certain testing and other changes, premium increases will be necessary to keep our self-insured planned adequately funded.

Beginning January 2024, the premiums for single coverage will increase \$15 per month and family coverage will increase \$40 per month.

Absorbing this increase will help with the retention of current employees and ensure that Ozarka College's benefit package is competitive or superior to other employers in the area.

Ozarka College  
Board of Trustees  
Finance Committee Meeting  
Discussion Item – 2024 COLA

Rationale:

Act 599 of 2017 created the Higher Education Uniform Classification and Compensation Act and amended by Act 763 of 2020. Under this Act, the administration and management of the Uniform Classification and Compensation System moved from the Department of Finance and Administration - Office of Personnel Management (DFA - OPM) to the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE). As part of that responsibility, the Director of the ADHE can provide written approval to institutions of higher education to provide a COLA of up to two percent (2%).

Any COLA greater than two percent (2%) must be approved by the Director of ADHE after review by the Legislative Council or, if the General Assembly is in session, the Joint Budget Committee.

Due to the rising cost of inflation that the country is experiencing and to help retain staff, a two percent (2%) cost of living for all eligible employees was included in the proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2024.

Ozarka College  
Board of Trustees  
Finance Committee Meeting  
Discussion Item – 2024 Operating Budget

Rationale:

The 2024 Operating Budget has been completed and is presented for your review.