

ATTACHMENT B: ESFCOM AY25-26 Tuition Rate Change Student Feedback

Overview:

The College of Medicine conducted a Qualtrics survey, which remained open for nearly two months to allow students ample time to provide their feedback and insights. As expected, the student responses primarily focused on three key themes:

Consolidated Student Feedback on Proposed Tuition Increase

1. General Opposition to the Increase

- Many students oppose the tuition increase, with concerns that it adds to their already substantial financial burden.
- Several students expressed frustration that medical education costs continue to rise, with little perceived benefit to them.
- There is a sentiment that increasing tuition discourages students from pursuing lower-paying specialties like primary care.

2. Request for Transparency

- Students want a detailed breakdown of how the additional tuition revenue will be allocated.
- There is skepticism about the necessity of the increase, especially given reports of faculty salary reductions and cuts to student resources.
- Multiple students suggested an itemized list of budget changes to help them understand the reasoning of the tuition increase

3. Concerns About Scholarships & Financial Aid

- Students indicated that while tuition is increasing, scholarship support has decreased significantly.
- Comparisons were made to other institutions with higher tuition but more robust financial aid, making their real costs more affordable.
- The lack of consistent scholarship funding disproportionately affects students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Alternative Solutions Suggested

- Increased fundraising and alumni engagement to generate more financial support.
 - We are optimistic that the University's capital campaign will help us increase our student scholarship funding.

- Stronger advocacy for increased state funding to support medical education.
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Recommendations for the College of Medicine Administration

1. Expand Scholarship Opportunities

- Prioritize increasing scholarship funds to help offset rising tuition costs.
- Seek additional donor funding and philanthropic support to enhance student financial aid.

2. Enhance Transparency in Budgeting & Tuition Allocation

- Release an annual financial report detailing the allocation of tuition revenue.
- Continue to inform incoming students during onboarding that annual tuition increases of 2–3% should be expected to adjust for inflation and other budgetary pressures.
- While the college is not aware of any faculty salary reductions or student resource cuts, we will investigate further.
- Continue to advocate for greater state financial support.

3. Explore Alternative Funding & Cost-Saving Measures

- Continue seeking innovative strategies to reduce costs and improve financial efficiency.

Additional Financial Context

- We are in the process of hiring a new financial educator to support students. This position will lead student financial education efforts, implement debt-minimization initiatives, and oversee the financial literacy program for all MD students across the four clinical campuses.
- WSU's COM average Cost of Attendance is below the median of all community based medical schools and all public medical schools, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) report released on November 2024.
- Based on the 2025 AAMC tuition and fees report, WSU ranks 14th highest among the 33 community-based medical schools.