

Faculty Regent Report September 2025

May Board Meeting Review:

The Board approved the Annual Operating Budget for 2025-26 at this meeting. While many aspects of the budget were unremarkable and consistent with past practices, the Board approved major changes to our undergraduate tuition model.

Full-Time Plus Tuition Program:

- Summary
On-campus students *attempting more than 15 credit hours will be charged \$348/extra credit hour* starting after 15.5 credit hours. (Note: This is a 20% discount over standard credit hour fees.)
- Stated Reasoning:
 - High Volume of Course Drops/Efficiency in Scheduling
 - Tuition Equity with Online Students
 - Resource Allocation (Predicted \$950,000 Increased Revenue)
 - Institutional Alignment
- Additional Consequences:
 - Students adding/dropping courses **after Add/Drop Period**, will be **charged the same \$348/credit hour** attempted.
 - For instance, a student enrolled in 15 hours drops a 3-credit course and enrolls in another 3-credit course. They have always been **enrolled in 15 hours but will be charged for attempting 18 hours**.
- Faculty Concerns/Area of Study:
 - Timely Communication Issues –
 - Faculty advisors did not know about the Tuition Plus Program until *after* advising was largely complete. Students were advised to take more than 15 hours without knowledge this would result in charges.
 - Faculty advisors did not know about Late Add Charges until *after* the Drop/Add Period ended. Faculty and chairs allowed students to add courses without being able to counsel them of the financial consequences.
 - Retention/Academic Achievement Issues –
 - Will additional tuition charges result in retention issues? Even relatively small balances can serve as obstacles to future retention and graduation. Is the increased tuition revenue costing us in other areas?
 - Are special populations at risk? Students requiring supported instruction from ENG 101R to supported courses for majors enroll in courses that are more than the traditional three hours. How do these students fare under the new program?
 - High achieving students also take over 15 hours. Do we see a decrease in student research, independent studies, and enrichment activities that enable students to attend graduate and professional schools?
 - Are there programs/majors that are more greatly disadvantaged by this program? If so, how can we mitigate these issues?

Summer Board Activities:

- Presidential Evaluation
- Board Self-Assessment Survey
- Reviewed Athletics Alignment
- Refinement of University Scorecard
- Faculty Representative to Council on Postsecondary Education Selection

September Meeting Predictions:

- Review Current Enrollment & Budget Realignment
- Consequences of Pell & Federal Financial Changes
 - BookSmart Program Review
- Hummel Planetarium Renovation
- ECU Campus Master Plan Feedback
- Plans for Board Education Sessions