

TUITION REREGULATION

HISTORY

In 2003, the Capitol granted tuition-setting authority to the governing boards of public colleges and universities instead of the Texas State Legislature under HB 3015. This was due in part to a handicap posed on universities from deep cuts in state funding to higher education and the need for flexibility for institutions to remain competitive with national peers. Legislators understood that this vote would result in decreased state support and increased tuition.

Plans for reform in the last session and during the interim have ranged from complete state regulation of tuition to codifying certain benchmarks for institutions to meet in order for them to be able to consider tuition increases.

In 2016, UT-Austin requested a 3% tuition increase in each of the next two years, and that request was approved by the Board of Regents. This is after resident undergraduate tuition has been frozen at UT-Austin since fall 2011.

2017 GOAL

We ask the legislature to support public higher education institutions by maintaining the flexibility to set tuition and fees upon approval by the corresponding board of regents.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

The institution lacks efficiency.

- In 2015, Kiplinger ranked UT-Austin the 13th Best-Value Public College in the nation and the number one Best-Value in Texas.
- Financial aid increases have out-paced increases in listed tuition for resident undergraduates at UT-Austin over the last decade.
- President Fennesz prioritized efficiency in his State of the University address, and UT-Austin is a model for efficiency in higher education. For example, administrative cost is 5.4 percent according to figures collected by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

More regulation will encourage universities to more rapidly increase four year graduation rates.

- The number of students to graduate on time from UT reached record highs this year, with 60.9 percent of undergraduates earning their degrees in four years or less.

The legislature has recently boosted higher education funding in terms of formula and research funding, and there is no cause for increases in tuition on the heels of this enhanced funding

- The proposed increase of three percent in tuition over the next two years just keeps up with inflation.
- State revenue was reduced by \$92 million to UT-Austin for the biennium in 2012.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Since 1984, adjusted state funding is down more than 40%.
- The University of Texas at Austin's tuition percent increase was significantly less after deregulation (2003-2015) than before deregulation (1993-2003).
- UT-Austin has not raised tuition since 2011.