August 5, 2020

Dear Student,

Thank you for your message regarding the economic impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on CSU students. We understand that the realities of the pandemic have had significant financial impacts on everyone in the CSU community, making questions about tuition and fees all the more pressing. The university – at the Chancellor’s Office and across our 23 campuses – is working diligently to mitigate these impacts, and at the same time, maintain academic continuity, provide a vast array of student support services, and maintain our students’ progress toward degree, while safeguarding the health and well-being of all students, faculty and staff.

For these reasons, instruction on all CSU campuses will be primarily virtual this fall, with some hybrid models for courses and programs that also require in-person instruction. This approach will ensure that students continue their education and progress toward degree completion, while maintaining personal safety and well-being despite the current public health crisis. Likewise, a vast majority of campus-based academic and student support services have switched to primarily virtual and some hybrid delivery, and will continue to be available to all students. We are working hard on instructional design and delivery while providing significant professional development to faculty and staff to optimize the student educational experience during this global crisis that sadly will persist for some time.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for setting systemwide tuition, and all students – at all campuses – are charged at the same rate each academic year, regardless of instructional modality. With our ongoing commitment to affordability, CSU tuition is amongst the lowest in the nation, and over the last eight years, tuition has been increased just one time. Tuition covers approximately half of the university’s costs for delivering instruction, academic programs, and services. The remainder is covered by the State of California, and by campus-based mandatory fees which cover specific, campus-based fixed costs and ongoing expenses of maintaining and operating student programs, services and facilities. Students pay tuition and campus mandatory fees regardless of whether they are a full-time student, part-time student, online student or a student studying abroad – and even if they do not expect to ever use the programs or facilities they support.

Tuition and campus mandatory fees generally cover fixed and ongoing expenses that the university continues to incur during the pandemic to maintain instruction, and operate student programs and facilities, many of which remain available to students virtually. Examples of these expenses include but are not limited to ongoing administrative and overhead costs for faculty and staff wages and benefits, utilities, repair and maintenance, payment of existing financing and long-term debt obligations for some facilities, academic retention and support services, library research and resources, academic counseling, supplemental student instructional services, academic student success centers, career development programs, student government programs, virtual recreation services and programs, diversity and inclusion programs, physical and mental health services from
our student health centers, student clubs and activities, and mentorship and internship programs. The most significant costs associated with delivering all CSU instruction and programs, whether virtual or in-person, are personnel costs, which are not decreasing during this time. Additionally, for the upcoming 2020-2021 academic year, funding from the State of California for the CSU has been substantially reduced as a result of the economic downturn caused by the pandemic, which creates an additional financial strain on the university.

Because instruction and related expenses are continuing, it is not appropriate to reduce tuition. It is likewise inappropriate to reduce mandatory campus fees except in very limited circumstances. Reducing tuition and mandatory campus fees in the midst of the economic impacts of this pandemic would necessarily lead to increased employee layoffs, and would adversely affect course availability, academic programs, and time to graduation. To ensure that the university can make its programs and facilities available to students now and in the future, they must be financially supported and maintained during the pandemic.

We have reviewed the fee schedule for fall 2020 and have determined that all scheduled fees remain warranted.

We strongly encourage you to contact our Financial Aid Office [https://www.csudh.edu/financial-aid/](https://www.csudh.edu/financial-aid/) at finaid@csudh.edu to explore whether you might qualify for any available need or performance-based grant or aid.

Thank you again for your message, and we wish you every success in your academic program at CSUDH.

Take care and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Deborah Wallace
Vice President for Administration and Finance / CFO
California State University, Dominguez Hills