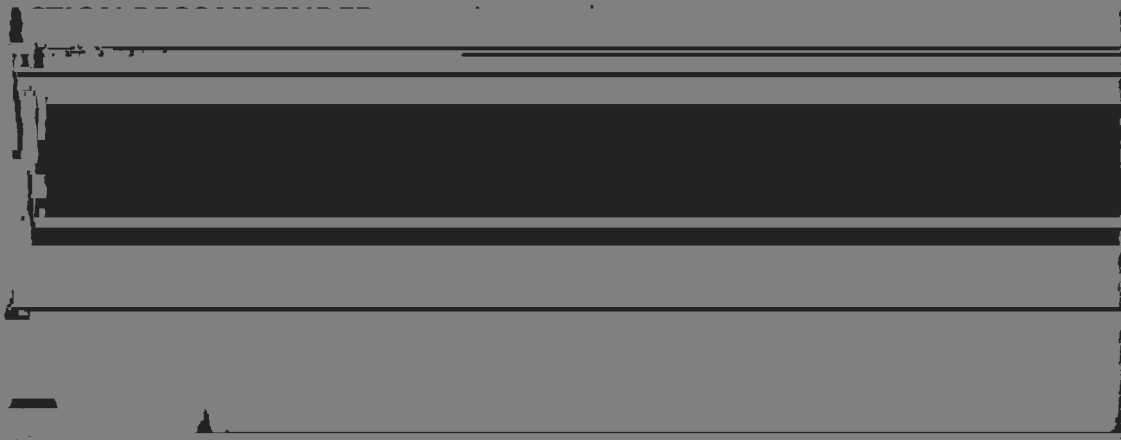


DATE: May 11, 2017

SUBJECT: Tuition and Fee Ranges (REVISED)



**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Since 2010, the Complete College Tennessee Act has required the Commission to make student fee and state appropriation recommendations. Average full-time, annual tuition and mandatory fees for 2016-17 is **\$8,987** at public universities, \$4,224 at community colleges, and \$3,647 at the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs). Tennessee's public higher education tuition and fee levels are considered average compared to peers including affordability and financial aid, the income profile of students attending Tennessee public institutions, and institutional revenues and cost inflation. The FOCUS Act expanded THEC's authority on student fee levels, across the states in the Southern Regional Education Board. Over the last five years, tuition and mandatory fees have increased an average of four to five percent across the sectors, while state appropriations have increased an average of nearly four percent per year. These ranges apply only to resident, undergraduate students on the tuition (maintenance fee) rate, as well as the total maintenance and mandatory fee charge.

not graduate. With the introduction of Tennessee Promise in the fall of 2015, Tennessee saw a reduction in the number of student loan originations, suggesting that the relative debt level of Tennessee students to our state peers may continue to decrease in the coming years.

#### RECOMMENDATION

At the November 2016 Commission meeting, the Commission approved a tuition and fee guidance range of zero to four percent, incorporating a budget increase request of \$48 million in new state funds.

Attachment II details the comparison of 2016-17 tuition and mandatory fee rates with the maximum allowed increase (i.e. four percent) for each university and \$55 community college as well as the TCAT system. Currently, the average fully-tuition-eligible tuition and mandatory fee for 2016-17 is **\$8,987** that includes

**\$9,347**

**\$359**