

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

SPECIAL PROGRAM FEES REQUEST

College/School: College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Department/School School of Government and Public Policy

Program: Masters in Public Administration

Is this a graduate or an undergraduate program fee?

GRADUATE PROGRAM XX

Is this a new fee range or an increase to an existing fee range?

EXISTING FEE X

Current Fee: \$2,000 per academic year Requested Fee: \$2,500 per academic year
(increase of \$500 per year)

BACKGROUND:

In 2001 the ABOR approved the implementation of a new program fee starting in the academic year 2001-2002 for students in the Masters in Public Administration Program. The fee was implemented in order to cover the cost of a Program Coordinator position and ERE. Additionally, program fees were to be used for student scholarships and additional student services to include but not be limited to: social activities, bringing in guest speakers, purchasing technical equipment for student use and additional student support services. Recent University budget cuts coupled with increased program cost have made it necessary to request a fee increase for fall 2010 to continue to fund students and additional program costs.

DISCUSSION:

This program fee was maintained at the rate of \$750 per semester from 2001- 2008. Beginning in the fall of 2008 ABOR approved an increase in this fee to \$1000 per semester. These monies have funded a Program Manager position, ERE and student scholarships totaling over \$30,000. Additional student services funded by these fees have included a lap top computer for student use, guest speakers and public sector seminars.

The number of applicants for the Masters Program in Public Administration has remained consistent and there has been no evidence to suggest that the additional program fee has hindered student interest. The cost for delivering the same level of professional support for these additional student services has increased dramatically in the past eight years. The need for student scholarships has also increased two-fold.

The director of the school and the program manager of the MPA program met with first and second year students in the spring 2007 to discuss an increase in the program fee of \$250 per semester. The students were unanimous in their support for the fee increase as long as the

increase would go to enhance the services provided to the MPA students or to increase the number and amount of the scholarships offered. Additionally they stated that they would support future small increases if student services and scholarships were enhanced. It is the intention of the school to use the additional revenue for these purposes (including 17% set aside for financial aid) and we are consulting with our MPA students just as we have in the past to explain the need for the increased fees and how we will use them to their benefit.

The additional revenue from increased program fees will allow the School of Government and Public Policy to maintain its professional support of the program as well as to continue to support necessary student services such as scholarships, social activities and guest speakers and seminars. Student surveys also suggest that charging an additional \$250 per semester for program fees will not decrease the number of applicants to the program as it will still remain highly competitive with other University program fees.

The UA peers with MPA programs have higher institutional tuition and fees and do not have a program fee on the MPA program. When the program fee of \$2,500 per year is added to the total tuition and fees, the total tuition, fees, and program fee for resident graduate students in this program will still be below the median of our peers at a total of \$10,132.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE REQUEST ON REVENUE:

The requested **increase** will generate approximately **\$31,500** in revenue next year that will be used to enhance the professional opportunities of the graduate students in this program.

RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend that the Arizona Board of Regents approve the proposed program fee increase to \$2,500 per academic year for the Masters in Public Administration program at the School of Government and Public Policy at the University of Arizona effective the academic year 2010-2011. The increased program fee reflects the higher costs associated with offering the program and will be grandfathered in so that the increase will only affect students enrolling in the fall of 2010 and go forward.