

Proposed Tuition and Fee Rates for 2020-21

FINANCE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

May 14, 2020

Development of 2020-21 Tuition and Fee Rates

The university has traditionally developed tuition and fee proposals in February and March of each year, with final rates submitted to the Board of Visitors in late March or April. This process allows the university to incorporate the impact of legislative actions taken during the General Assembly session into the tuition and fee proposals. Finalizing these rates at the Spring Board of Visitors meeting helps students plan for the financial costs of the upcoming academic year and allows the Office of University Scholarships and Financial Aid to deliver timely and effective financial aid award information to current and prospective students.

The 2020 General Assembly session adjourned on March 7th, 2020, passing a 2020-22 biennial budget for final approval by the Governor. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor and General Assembly unallotted most new General Fund spending. This means that no new state support has been approved for Virginia Tech for 2020-21. However, the university recognizes the financial strain this pandemic has created for students and families, and proposes continuing the current tuition rates into 2020-21, with limited fee adjustments.

Attached Schedules 1–7 provide a summary of all tuition and fee rates proposed for 2020-21, including any increase/decrease from the prior year.

Tuition

The defined state process envisions utilizing the Six-Year Financial Plans that are developed in accordance with state guidelines and approved by the Board as the framework for the development of tuition and Educational & General (E&G) fees, given certain assumptions about General Fund support provided by the General Assembly. However, development of tuition and fee recommendations for 2020-21 considers the extenuating circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, no tuition increase is recommended. The proposed full-time annual 2020-21 rates shown below. Semester rates equal one-half of annual rates.

	<u>2019-20 Charge</u>	<u>Proposed 2020-21</u>
<u>Undergraduate</u>		
Resident	\$ 11,420	\$ 11,420
Nonresident	29,960	29,960
 <u>Graduate</u>		
Resident On-Campus	13,701	13,701
Nonresident On-Campus	27,614	27,614
Resident Off-Campus	15,167	15,167
Nonresident Off-Campus	29,559	29,559

Impact of Student Financial Aid Programs

As reported to the Board in November 2019, the university maintains a robust student financial aid program to ensure access and affordability of the institution's programs. Consistent with this goal, it is important to remember that the proposed charges represent the gross amount assessed to students and may be offset by one of the university's various financial assistance programs. This includes the Funds for the Future program, which shelters returning undergraduate students from tuition and fee increases for families with incomes up to \$100,000, and new investments that expand the overall student financial aid program. The university continues to make strategic investments into student financial aid programs that support low- to middle-income students and support enrollment management strategies.

Part-Time Students

Part-time tuition charges for all student categories are derived from the full-time rate and are directly related to the number of credit hours taken. For tuition calculation purposes, the full-time undergraduate semester rate is divided by twelve credit hours and the full-time graduate student semester rate is divided by nine hours. The proposed per-hour charges for 2020-21 are:

	2019-20 <u>Charge</u>	Proposed <u>2020-21</u>
<u>Undergraduate</u>		
Resident	\$ 475.75	\$ 475.75
Nonresident	1,248.25	1,248.25
<u>Graduate</u>		
Resident On-Campus	761.25	761.25
Nonresident On-Campus	1,534.00	1,534.00
Resident Off-Campus	842.50	842.50
Nonresident Off-Campus	1,642.25	1,642.25

Special Tuition Rates

Summer and Winter Session Rate

The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011 outlines several objectives that seek to expand access to and promote degree completion across the commonwealth's higher education system. During non-traditional academic time periods, increasing year-round utilization of facilities and advancing opportunities for degree completion is an important strategy for supporting these objectives. To position the university for continued innovation in non-traditional session enrollment growth, in 2012-13 the university shifted the assessment of undergraduate tuition to a per-credit hour basis at a ten percent discount of the regular session hourly rates for on-campus students. The university proposes to continue this assessment methodology for the 2020-21 Winter and Summer sessions. This approach provides a financial incentive for students to complete their degree at an accelerated pace and offers improved flexibility for faculty to innovate academic offerings during these non-traditional sessions.

The proposed per-hour charges for Winter and Summer 2021 are:

<u>Undergraduate On-Campus</u>	<u>2019-20 Charge</u>	<u>Proposed 2020-21</u>
Resident	\$ 428.25	\$ 428.25
Nonresident	1,123.00	1,123.00

Veterinary Medicine

When the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine was formed, the two states agreed to provide equal contributions (per Virginia and Maryland student) to the instructional operating budget. It was also agreed that both Virginia and Maryland students would pay the same resident tuition rate. The tuition agreement has been sustained since the first class was admitted.

Until 1996-97 only residents of Virginia and Maryland were admitted for study in the professional veterinary medicine curriculum. In 1996-97, the enrollment policy was modified to admit nonresident students (i.e. non-Virginia and non-Maryland residents). This change did not affect the enrollment totals for Virginia or Maryland. For 2020-21, the enrollment plan envisions 40 nonresident students in the entering cohort.

Each year the tuition proposal is reviewed with the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine Budget and Program Review Board (established to review the college's budget and comprised of representatives from Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland). The university, in conjunction with the Budget and Program Review Board, proposes no increase in the tuition rates for all veterinary medicine students for 2020-21. The current and proposed annual tuition rates are displayed below:

	<u>2019-20 Charge</u>	<u>Proposed 2020-21</u>
Virginia-Maryland Students	\$ 21,906	\$ 21,906
Nonresident Students	50,435	50,435

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

Integrated as the ninth college of Virginia Tech on July 1, 2018, the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine is funded through a combination of medical student tuition and partnership support. The current and proposed annual tuition rates are displayed below:

	<u>2019-20 Charge</u>	<u>Proposed 2020-21</u>
Medical Education	\$ 53,113	\$ 53,113

Program Specific Online Graduate Tuition Rates

For select online graduate programs with significant demand beyond the commonwealth's borders and the capacity for growth, the university has developed a tiered set of tuition rates that apply to all students in each program. These rates ensure coverage of the direct and indirect cost of instruction and satisfy state policy requiring that nonresident students be assessed at least the average cost of education. This rate structure is organized into three tiers; market assessment and review of program costs determine each program's rate tier. Students are also assessed the traditional mandatory E&G fees (Library and Technology). As these programs are completely online, students are not assessed the Commonwealth Facility and Equipment Fee.

The proposed per-credit hour tiered tuition rates and the approved programs in each tier are summarized below:

<u>Program Specific Online Graduate Tuition</u>	<u>2019-20 Charge</u>	<u>Proposed 2020-21</u>
<u>Tier 1 Rate</u>	\$ 975.00	\$ 975.00
Master of Information Technology		
<u>Tier 2 Rate</u>	900.00	900.00
Master of Natural Resources		
Master of Agriculture and Life Sciences		
<u>Tier 3 Rate</u>	825.00	825.00
Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management		

Professional Masters and Certificate Pricing

To support the strategic goal of increasing the number of students enrolled in professional graduate degree and certificate programs, specifically at sites outside of the Blacksburg campus, the university proposes continuing the piloting of market-based pricing strategies in select programs. Programs eligible for these pricing strategies will display market demand that extends beyond the commonwealth and generate net revenue above the direct and indirect cost of instruction (therefore, above the average cost of education). In some cases, a program-specific supplemental fee may also be approved.

The specific programs listed below are approved to utilize a market-based residency-neutral tuition rate that achieves the average cost of education and improves the program's ability to recruit participants from beyond the commonwealth. For 2020-21, the following rates are approved to be assessed on a per-credit basis for all enrolled credits:

	<u>2019-20 Charge</u>	<u>Proposed 2020-21</u>
Evening MBA	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 1,025.00
Data Analysis and Applied Statistics (DAAS)	1,025.00	1,025.00

Special Tuition Rate for Elementary and Secondary School Personnel

The original policy regarding special tuition rates for elementary and secondary school personnel was approved in 1984 and allowed public school teachers to attend graduate classes at Virginia Tech on a reduced tuition schedule for purposes of recertification. Recertification is a statewide requirement that can strengthen the total education system. The original policy underscored the university's commitment to improving the quality of elementary and secondary education through the continued education of elementary and secondary school teachers.

In January 1989 the Board of Visitors approved a revised policy. Teachers, counselors, administrators, and supervisors employed by elementary and secondary school systems in the Commonwealth of Virginia could enroll in graduate classes, both on-campus and at off-campus locations, and pay approximately 60 percent of the authorized tuition rate. The Board of Visitors also expanded the policy in two ways: First, all elementary and secondary school personnel became eligible for the reduced tuition rate. Second, all graduate hours qualify for the plan, not just recertification hours. Further, elementary and secondary school personnel may enroll in an unlimited number of graduate courses for the purpose of recertification or for an advanced degree.

In February 1999 the Board of Visitors approved an expansion of the special tuition rate to include undergraduate-level courses for vocational teachers who do not have a bachelor's degree.

In 2015-16, the Board of Visitors established a 25 percent discount, resulting in a special tuition rate for elementary and secondary school personnel of 75 percent of the corresponding campus tuition rates (excludes professional and executive programs). Continuing the 25 percent discount for 2020-21 is recommended.

The following table shows the proposed special rates for Elementary and Secondary School Personnel per-credit hour for 2020-21 Virginia residents:

	2019-20 <u>Charge</u>	Proposed <u>2020-21</u>
Undergraduate	\$ 357.00	\$ 357.00
Graduate		
Blacksburg Campus	571.00	571.00
Extended Campus	632.00	632.00

Special Tuition Rate for Study-Abroad Programs

Providing study-abroad opportunities is an important strategy in strengthening Virginia Tech's international programs. The Board of Visitors previously approved a special tuition rate for students who participate in the various study-abroad programs operated by the university. The special tuition rate reflects instructional services that all students receive, but excludes the cost of on-campus services.

In 2008-09 the study abroad rate was 80 percent of the on-campus tuition rates. The university proposes to continue the special tuition rate for study-abroad programs. Consistent with prior

years, the special tuition rate for study abroad would not apply for students studying at the Steger Center for International Scholarship.

The following table shows the proposed special rates for study-abroad programs per-credit hour for 2020-21:

	2019-20 <u>Charge</u>	Proposed <u>2020-21</u>
Undergraduate		
Resident	\$381.00	\$381.00
Nonresident	999.00	999.00
Graduate		
Resident	609.00	609.00
Nonresident	1,227.00	1,227.00

Educational and General Fees

Technology Service Fee

In accordance with the language in the 1998 Appropriation Act, the university implemented an Educational and General technology service fee effective with the 1998 fall semester for all students. The fee is currently \$76 per academic year. Part-time students pay half the full-time rate. No increase to the Technology Services Fee is recommended for 2020-21.

Library Fee

Beginning in Fall 2013, the university instituted an annual fee to support a robust scholarly environment to advance academic achievement. The Library Fee supports comprehensive library resources, online access to library resources for enrolled students, and enhancements to student library services. The fee is currently \$99 per year. Part-time students pay half of the full-time rate. No increase to the Library fee is recommended for 2020-21.

Commonwealth Facility and Equipment Fee

The 2003 General Assembly required the establishment of a capital fee to be assessed to all nonresident students at institutions of higher education for 2003-04 to pay a portion of the debt service on bonds issued under the 21st Century Debt Program issued for construction of new facilities on campus. The 2004 General Assembly increased the nongeneral fund portion of lease payments for the 2004-06 allocation of equipment under the Higher Education Equipment Trust fund and stipulated the source of the nongeneral funds be an increase in fees for nonresident students at public institutions of higher education starting in 2005-06. Part-time students pay one-half the full-time rate. The Commonwealth Facility and Equipment fee of \$604 is assessed to all nonresident students. No change in the Commonwealth Facility and Equipment fee is proposed for 2020-21.

Immigration Services Fee

To support the administrative costs and maintain the quality of immigration services provided to degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate international students, the university implemented an Immigration Services Fee beginning with students enrolling in Fall 2018. This fee helps support costs uniquely associated with the administration of international student enrollment such as academic and financial verification, immigration regulation, Student and Exchange Visitor Program System (SEVIS) reporting requirements, financial processing fees, and compliance with United States Government regulations. International students on a domestic campus are assessed the fee. For international Graduate students on assistantship, the fee is remitted under Section 4-2.01b.6 of the Virginia Appropriation Act in recognition of their service to the University. The Immigration Services fee of \$275 per semester is assessed to all degree-seeking students on a Type F or Type J visa. No change in the fee is recommended for 2020-21.

Average Cost of Education

The Commonwealth of Virginia has a well-established methodology for computing the per student educational cost for colleges and universities. This process identifies the average educational cost for all undergraduate and graduate students, including part-time and full-time students taking classes at both on-campus and off-campus locations. The Average Cost of Education does not include professional programs such as veterinary medicine.

Until 2004, the Average Cost of Instruction was utilized as the measure of per student instructional cost. The Average Cost of Instruction identified the instructional cost components within the Educational and General appropriation and computed an average instructional cost. In 2004, a new state policy replaced the Average Cost of *Instruction* with the Average Cost of *Education*. The Average Cost of Education is the instructional funding need generated by the base budget adequacy model. The Average Cost of Education is not comparable to the Average Cost of Instruction due to the differences in methodology.

The Average Cost of Education now serves as the basis for ensuring that nonresident undergraduate and graduate students cover at least 100 percent of the average cost of their education as the General Assembly instructed colleges and universities in the 1991 legislative session. Nonresident tuition and mandatory E&G fee rates for the upcoming academic year are examined against the Average Cost of Education in the prior year to insure they cover 100 percent of the Average Cost of Education. Commonwealth policy continues to allow the university to recover the full cost from nonresidents as a group.

Because the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia does not compute the Average Cost of Education until July, the following table presents Virginia Tech's estimate of the Average Cost of Education and coverage percentages by student category for 2020-21. The Average Cost of Education is estimated to be \$19,706. The proposed Virginia Tech nonresident tuition and mandatory E&G fees are 150 percent of the Average Cost of Education and are in compliance with state tuition policy. Average percentages of the Cost of Education by individual student category are summarized in the following schedule.

	<u>2019-20</u>		<u>2020-21 Proposed</u>	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% of Average</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% of Average</u>
<i>Estimated Average Cost of Education</i>	<i>\$ 19,680</i>		<i>\$ 19,706</i>	
<u>Undergraduates*</u>				
Residents	11,595	59%	11,595	59%
Nonresidents	30,135	153%	30,135	153%
<u>Graduates*</u>				
Residents	13,876	71%	13,876	70%
Nonresidents	27,789	141%	27,789	141%
<u>Residency</u>				
Residents		60%		60%
Nonresidents		150%		150%

** Amounts include proposed tuition and E&G fees. The nonresident facility and equipment fee is not comparable to the Average Cost of Education.*

Excess Credit Hour Surcharge

The 2006 General Assembly (§ 23.1-509 Code of Virginia) required the establishment of a surcharge to be assessed to all resident undergraduate students beginning in the semester after 125 percent of credit hours required for baccalaureate degrees have been completed.

This applies to students entering on or subsequent to August 1, 2006. The surcharge amount is the difference between the Average Cost of Education and the in-state undergraduate tuition and mandatory E&G fees. In effect, the surcharge requires the in-state student to pay the Average Cost of Education once they have exceeded 125 percent of degree requirements.

The following table displays the actual 2019-20 surcharge amount and an estimated surcharge amount for 2020-21 based on Virginia Tech's estimate of the Average Cost of Education for 2020-21 and the proposed 2020-21 tuition and mandatory E&G fees included in this package.

	<u>2019-20 Charge</u>	<u>Estimated 2020-21*</u>
Average Cost of Education	\$19,680	\$19,706
In State Undergraduate Tuition and E&G Fees	11,595	11,595
Surcharge-Annual	8,085	8,111
Surcharge Per Credit Hour	337	338

*The Average Cost of Education for 2020-21 is an estimated value pending SCHEV's computation in July 2020.

Comprehensive Fee

The Student Activity Fee, the Health Service Fee, the Athletic Fee, the Transportation Services Fee, the Recreational Sports Fee, the Student Services Fee, and the Student Cultural Activities Fee are consolidated into one Comprehensive Fee in order to streamline the process for collecting and accounting for these charges. The \$2,096 per student fee is the lowest Comprehensive Fee charged by any public four-year institution in Virginia in 2019-20. Comprehensive fees at the other five public doctoral institutions range from \$2,349 to \$6,058. Individual descriptions and recommended amounts for 2020-21 are below for each component of the Comprehensive Fee. Part-time students pay one-half of each fee.

Student Activity Fee

The Student Activity Fee covers the maintenance and operation of the student centers, student programs, and supports student activities as determined by the Student Budget Board. The fee is currently \$330 per academic year. No increase to the Student Activity Fee is proposed for 2020-21.

Health Service Fee

The Health Service Fee supports normal medical and nursing attention and counseling services provided by Schiffert Student Health Services, Cook Counseling Center, and Virginia Tech Rescue Squad operations. A \$37 increase in the Health Service Fee is recommended for 2020-21 to cover costs in Cook Counseling Center including seven additional counselors, an outreach coordinator, office space and operating support, and nurse practitioner to meet student demand for services. The total fee is currently \$471 per academic year. For 2020-21, an increase of the Health Service Fee to \$508 per academic year is recommended.

Athletic Fee

A portion of the university's athletic program operations is supported by the Athletic Fee. The student fee revenue covers the costs of athletic administration and sponsoring intercollegiate varsity sports that do not generate revenue. This fee entitles students to free admissions into sporting events, while recognizing that student seating is limited thus not guaranteed. The current fee is \$326 per academic year. No increase to the Athletic Fee is proposed for 2020-21. Based on the university's understanding, the 2020-21 Athletic fee recommendation is in compliance with § 23.1-1309 of the Code of Virginia, which limits the percentage share and annual growth of the student fee component as a portion of the overall intercollegiate athletics revenue.

Transportation Services Fee

Students enrolled at Virginia Tech have unlimited access to bus transportation provided by the Blacksburg Transit System through a contract the university negotiates with the Town of Blacksburg each year. In addition to the convenience for students, the bus system and alternative transportation programs save the university considerable resources by lowering requirements for on-campus parking. A \$21 increase in the Transportation Services Fee is recommended for 2020-21 to deliver the increased service level to meet student demand and support the expected cost of operating the system by the Town in 2020-21. The current fee is \$171 per academic year. For

2020-21, an increase of the Transportation Services Fee to \$192 per academic year is recommended.

Recreational Sports Fee

The Recreational Sports Fee supports debt retirement, maintenance, operations, intramural and extramural sports club programs, and recreational activities. The current fee is \$327 per academic year. No increase to the Recreational Sports Fee is proposed for 2020-21.

Student Services Fee

The Student Services Fee supports Career Services, non-self-supporting student services components of the Hokie Passport Office including the cost of new student IDs, the Division of Student Affairs, and the campus wireless network. The current fee is \$298 per academic year. No increase to the Student Services Fee is proposed for 2020-21.

Student Cultural Activities Fee

The Student Cultural Activities Fee supports the presence and practice of the arts across campus for all students, and provides free or greatly reduced admission to enrolled students. The current fee is \$173 per academic year. No increase to the Student Cultural Activities Fee is proposed for 2020-21.

Summary of Comprehensive Fee

	2019-20 Charge Annual Fee	Proposed 2020-21 Annual Fee
Student Activity Fee	\$ 330	\$ 330
Health Service Fee	471	508
Athletic Fee	326	326
Transportation Services Fee	171	192
Recreational Sports Fee	327	327
Student Services Fee	298	298
Student Cultural Activities Fee	173	173
Total	\$2,096	\$2,154

Room and Board Charges

The university's Residential and Dining Programs serve students by providing on-campus housing and dining services. Generally, all entering freshmen must live on campus, and housing is available on a limited basis for returning students who choose to live on campus. The university establishes optional room and board rates based on a derivation of the Board-approved fee to appropriately reflect costs for Summer Session and summer conferences. All students living on campus must select a meal plan, with the exception of students who elect to reside in the Oak

Lane – Phase IV housing development; off-campus students may elect to participate in one of the meal plan programs.

Room Fees

An average 2.5 percent increase is proposed to cover utility costs, residential mail delivery enhancements, increased personnel associated with residential hall operations, and residential facilities planning. Northern Virginia Gallery proposed rates include local operating alignments. The proposed annual room rates by location and room type are listed below:

	2019-20 Charge	Proposed 2020-21
<u>Room Fees</u>		
Double Occupancy:		
Lower Quad (Pre-1983 Dormitories)	5,124	5,254
Payne Park - Traditional - Double	5,636	5,778
Main Campbell & Newman - Double Occupancy	5,776	5,922
Hillcrest - Double Occupancy	6,210	6,366
Cochrane Hall	6,376	6,536
O'Shaughnessy - Traditional Double	6,556	6,720
East & West Ambler Johnston - Traditional/Efficiency Double	6,612	6,778
Payne Park - Suite - Double	6,794	6,964
Payne Park - Suite - Double (Large Suite)	6,958	7,132
Upper Quad (Pearson & New Cadet Hall)	7,012	7,188
New Residence Hall West - Double Occupancy	7,116	7,294
East & West Ambler Johnston - Private Bath Double	7,522	7,712
Single Occupancy:		
Payne Park - Traditional - Single	7,706	7,900
Main Campbell & Newman - Single Occupancy	7,844	8,042
Hillcrest - Single Occupancy	8,442	8,654
Payne Park - Suite - Single	9,370	9,606
New Residence Hall West - Single Occupancy	9,694	9,938
Other:		
Special Purpose Housing	6,396	6,556
Graduate Life Center at Donaldson Brown - Double	7,116	7,294
Oak Lane IV	7,634	7,826
Graduate Life Center at Donaldson Brown - Single	9,694	9,938
The Gallery (NOVA) - 4-Person Unit	6,900	7,150
The Gallery (NOVA) - 3-Person Unit	7,700	7,900
The Gallery (NOVA) - 2-Person Unit	8,300	8,400

Living Learning Community Fee

The Living Learning Community Fee is an optional charge for students participating in a Living Learning Community in Lee Hall, East & West Ambler Johnston, Pritchard Hall, Harper Hall, O'Shaughnessy Hall, Peddrew-Yates Hall, Payne Hall, and Special Purpose Housing. These residence halls offer unique living and learning opportunities to the student residents who choose to pay the optional annual program fee of \$100 to support the cost of operating the program. No increase in the Living Learning Community fee is recommended for 2020-21. Living Learning

Community programming will be offered in three additional residence halls in 2020-21: New Residence Hall East, Hillcrest Hall, and Newman Hall.

Residential Telecommunications Fee

All students living on campus pay the Residential Telecommunications Fee, which supports residential cable television service, wired network connectivity, and high-performance wireless network coverage. Residential students currently pay \$394 annually for telecommunication services. No increase in the Residential Telecommunications Fee is recommended for 2020-21.

Board Fees

Students living on-campus currently have a choice of three types of flexible meal plans. The Flex Plan operates like a debit account with a designated amount for the purchase of food in the dining facilities. Students may deposit cash to their Flex accounts to increase their balance during the year. Consistent with the purchasing power of traditional meal plans, the intent of annual rate changes for the Flex Plans is to hold overall purchasing power constant from year to year.

A 2.2 percent increase is proposed for board fees to cover increased food costs, increased hourly wage compensation, one central hiring coordinator, utility costs, and facility maintenance and renovation projects, . The proposed annual board rates by meal plan program are listed below:

	2019-20 <u>Charge</u>	Proposed <u>2020-21</u>
Major Flex Plan	\$3,824	\$3,908
Mega Flex Plan	4,100	4,192
Premium Flex Plan	4,386	4,484

Campus Fees

Specialized campus fees are designed to cover costs that are unique to a specific campus. These fees are charges established for a specific campus which are beyond regular tuition and fees and are equal for students, both resident and nonresident.

Northern Virginia Center Student Services Fees

The Comprehensive Fee, which supports a number of on-campus services, is not charged to off-campus students. However, students attending courses at the Northern Virginia Center benefit from several of these services including the infrastructure and use of the wireless network, as well as the issuance and use of student identification cards. The current fee is \$148 per academic year. No increase is proposed for 2020-21.

Roanoke Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine Student Services Fees

Students attending courses at the VTCSOM in Roanoke benefit from several of the traditional Comprehensive Fee services including the infrastructure and use of the wireless network and the issuance and use of student identification cards. These students will also have access to health and wellness services, recreational sports, and VTCSOM student government activities.

A \$37 increase is recommended for the Student Health Services component to cover counseling and wellness support. No change is recommended to the Student Services Fee or the Student Government/Activity Fee. Beginning in 2020-21, first and second year (M1 and M2) medical students will be assessed a Recreational Sports Fee to support student access to recreational facilities. For 2020-21, the following VTCSOM annual student fees are recommended:

	2019-20 <u>Charge</u>	Proposed <u>2020-21</u>
VTCSOM Student Services Fee	\$148	\$148
VTCSOM Health Services Fee	435	472
VTCSOM Student Government/Activity Fee	185	185
VTCSOM Recreational Sports Fee (FY21 M1 & M2)	N/A	327

Steger Center for International Scholarship Fee Rates

The Steger Center for International Scholarship (the Center) in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland, opened in the Fall of 1993. The Center serves as a resident educational facility for Virginia Tech students from many academic programs. Providing the opportunity for students to study abroad is an important strategy in strengthening the international programs of Virginia Tech, an objective of both the university and the commonwealth.

For purposes of financing the operations of the Center, two separate programs are maintained. First, all instructional costs are accounted for in the Educational and General program of the University Division. Second, the housing, dining, and student activity auxiliary enterprise programs are recorded within the university's Residential and Dining Hall System. The Ferrari Foundation, the university's Swiss subsidiary corporation, manages the day-to-day activities of the Center.

Students attending the Steger Center for International Scholarship are assessed the same tuition as on-campus students, and it is recommended that this tuition policy continue.

For housing and dining services at the Center, the proposed fees are higher than on-campus rates to reflect the higher cost of living at the Center. Students are not required to pay the Blacksburg campus Comprehensive Fee while studying abroad. A student activity fee supports students with community-building social and recreational events and activities. The current Steger Center Room & Board charge is \$7,100 per academic year, and the current Steger Center Student Activity Fee is \$100 per academic year. No increase is proposed in either fee for the 2020-21 academic year.

	2019-20 <u>Charge</u>	Proposed <u>2020-21</u>
Steger Center Student Activity Fee	\$ 100	\$ 100
Steger Center Room & Board Costs	7,100	7,100

Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center Fee

To support the cost of operations and ensure the quality of the Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center (WAAC), the college recommended that a supplemental fee be assessed to Virginia Tech and WAAC Consortium students in residence at the center on a per-semester basis. This Educational & General fee helps manage the cost of instructional facilities and equipment and support students in their academic efforts in the robust curricular environment of the WAAC. No change in the per-semester fee is recommended for 2020-21, as shown below:

	2019-20 <u>Charge</u>	Proposed <u>2020-21</u>
Full-time	\$300	\$300
Part-time	150	150

Supplemental Program Fees

Supplemental Program Fees are designed to cover costs that are unique to a specific discipline. To maintain the intent of the commonwealth's funding policies regarding the collection and allocation of tuition revenues, Program Fees are charges established for a specific program which are beyond regular tuition and fees and are equal for students, both resident and nonresident.

Architecture + Design Fee

Architecture, industrial design, interior design, and landscape architecture students in the School of Architecture + Design need access to appropriate studio equipment, academic programming, and technology. Since Fall 2008, the university has recognized this differential cost of instruction for students with majors in the School of Architecture + Design through a supplemental program fee. This fee supports costs that are unique to Architecture + Design students including: the updating of equipment and materials for instructional studios, student projects, quality enhancements, and operational support of instructional studios. No change in the supplemental fee is recommended for students admitted prior to Fall 2018. For students admitted in Fall 2018 and later, continuation of the annual fee of \$1,500 is recommended, as displayed below. The new rate will be fully implemented by Fall 2022.

	2019-20 <u>Charge</u>	Proposed <u>2020-21</u>
<u>Entered Prior to Fall 2018</u>		
Full-time	\$949.00	\$949.00
Part-time	474.50	474.50
<u>Entering Fall 2018 & Later</u>		
Full-time	1,500.00	1,500.00
Part-time	750.00	750.00

Building Construction Fee

To ensure that the Myers Lawson School of Construction has adequate resources to staff, equip, and enhance the provisions of the Building Construction program, an annual program fee is proposed to recognize the differential cost of instruction for students in the Building Construction major. This fee is important for ensuring the necessary resources to support costs unique to Building Construction students and continued program quality including the continuing need for modernization of equipment and instrumentation for instructional space and student projects, staffing needs of the BUILD lab, required upgrades to lab space, and adequate staff support to ensure the effective maintenance of equipment and technology in the daily operation of the lab. No change in the supplemental fee is recommended for students admitted prior to Fall 2018. For students admitted in Fall 2018 and later, continuation of the annual fee of \$1,500 is recommended, as displayed below. The new rate will be fully implemented by Fall 2022.

	<u>2019-20 Charge</u>	<u>Proposed 2020-21</u>
<u>Entered Prior to Fall 2018</u>		
Full-time	\$775.00	\$775.00
Part-time	387.50	387.50
<u>Entering Fall 2018 & Later</u>		
Full-time	1,500.00	1,500.00
Part-time	750.00	750.00

Engineering Fee

To ensure that engineering students continue to receive a state-of-the-art education in a quality learning environment, the university began recognizing the higher cost of instruction in the College of Engineering (COE) through the establishment of a supplemental fee in fall 2007. This fee supports costs that are unique to College of Engineering students including: the continuing need for modernization of instrumentation and materials for instructional laboratories and student projects, instructional space costs, effective maintenance of instrumentation and technology, quality enhancements, and operation of the instructional laboratories. No change in the supplemental fee is recommended for students admitted prior to Fall 2018. For students admitted in Fall 2018 and later, continuation of the annual fee of \$2,000 is recommended, as displayed below. The new rate will be fully implemented by Fall 2022.

	<u>2019-20 Charge</u>	<u>Proposed 2020-21</u>
<u>Entered Prior to Fall 2018</u>		
<u>Undergraduate</u>		
Full-time	\$775.00	\$775.00
Part-time	387.50	387.50
<u>Graduate</u>		
Full-time	1,049.00	1,049.00
Part-time	524.50	524.50

Entering Fall 2018 & LaterUndergraduate and Graduate

Full-time	2,000.00	2,000.00
Part-time	1,000.00	1,000.00

Pamplin College of Business Fee

Delivering a high-quality business education requires the resources to address costs unique to the Pamplin College of Business. To ensure continued excellence in the Pamplin College of Business, a per-credit hour fee was established in 2013-14 to provide dedicated resources to be utilized exclusively for the Pamplin College of Business. The fee was increased to \$75 per credit hour beginning in Fall 2018, and the university recommends a continued phasing-in of the \$75 per credit hour fee to 3000 level courses in 2020-21.

	<u>2019-20 Charge</u>	<u>Proposed 2020-21</u>
4000 Level Courses	\$25.00/hour	\$25.00/hour
1000, 2000, and 3000 Level Courses	\$75.00/hour	\$75.00/hour

Agriculture Fee

To ensure that the College of Agriculture has adequate resources to deliver cutting-edge, high-quality instruction and maintain critical laboratory facilities and equipment, an annual program fee was established for students in the College of Agriculture. For students admitted in Fall 2018 and later, continuation of the annual fee of \$750 is recommended, as displayed below. The new rate will be fully implemented by Fall 2022.

	<u>2019-20 Charge</u>	<u>Proposed 2020-21</u>
<u>Entering Fall 2018 & Later</u>		
<u>Undergraduate and Graduate</u>		
Full-time	\$750.00	\$750.00
Part-time	375.00	375.00

Course Specific Charges

The university may establish course specific charges for study abroad costs, field trips, course materials, laboratory cost, or other extraordinary costs tied to individual courses. The university avoids establishing course charges for materials and laboratory charges in programs with specialized program fees.

Graduate Degree Program Fees

Specialized graduate degree programs provide a valuable service by meeting targeted educational and professional development needs. Because both the academic units and the university have added costs associated with providing high demand specialized graduate degree programs, specialized graduate program fees address these incremental college and university

costs required to deliver high quality programs. To maintain the intent of the commonwealth's funding policies regarding the collection and allocation of tuition revenues, Specialized Graduate Program Fees are charges established for a specific graduate program, potentially at a specific location, beyond regular tuition and fees and are equal for students, both resident and nonresident.

Veterinary Medicine Facility Fee

Capital improvements have enhanced the College of Veterinary Medicine instructional space. Increased and enhanced facilities were necessary for the recruitment and retention of high-quality faculty and students. All Veterinary Medicine students are assessed a facility fee. Proceeds from the facility fee will be used exclusively for College of Veterinary Medicine instructional space improvements. No change in the fee is recommended for 2020-21, as displayed below.

	2019-20 <u>Charge</u>	Proposed <u>2020-21</u>
Veterinary Medicine Facility Fee	\$1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00

Master of Public Health (MPH) Fee

The MPH fee provides resources for program-specific course development, faculty and leadership support, and instructional needs. No increase in the fee is recommended for 2020-21.

	2019-20 <u>Charge</u>	Proposed <u>2020-21</u>
Full-time	\$525.00	\$525.00
Part-time	262.50	262.50

Master of Business Administration Fee

The Master of Business Administration (MBA) program fee, aligns pricing of the Virginia Tech MBA program and provides funding for the college's academic program and enhanced career placement services for students. The fee is not assessed to Executive MBA or Professional MBA students (which have separate rate structures). No increase is recommended for 2020-21, as presented below:

	2019-20 <u>Charge</u>	Proposed <u>2020-21</u>
MBA (On/Off-Campus)	\$175.00/hour	\$175.00/hour

Master of Science in Business Administration (MSBA) Fee

To ensure the Pamplin College of Business MSBA programs in Business Analytics (BA) and Hospitality & Tourism Management (HTM) are positioned to deliver high-quality instruction and provide experiential learning opportunities and career services to students, the university recognizes the differential cost of the MSBA-BA and MSBA-HTM programs through the assessment of a supplemental E&G program fee. This fee is assessed on a per-credit hour basis for each credit hour taken by the student. No increase is recommended for 2020-21, as presented below:

	2019-20 <u>Charge</u>	Proposed <u>2020-21</u>
Business Analytics (BA),	\$175.00/hour	\$175.00/hour
Hospitality & Tourism Management (HTM)	175.00/hour	175.00/hour

Professional & Executive Model Graduate Degree Program Fees

While similar to specialized graduate program fees, the industry standard for this type of professional education program is to be quoted in terms of a total cost for the entire program period. Programs generally span from 12 to 24 months. A new multi-year total cost is developed for each incoming cohort. The annual program fees are established as the difference between applicable tuition and fees and the total cost during the cohort period. The program fee for a cohort's second year is established when tuition and fee rates are established for that year; this can be impacted by various factors including cost assignments by the General Assembly, but are designed to honor the previously quoted total cost of the entire program period. Each Executive Model program and its total cost proposal are summarized below.

Professional Master of Business Administration (PMBA) Supplemental Fee

The PMBA program is intended for experienced working professionals to complete an MBA on a part-time basis in an accelerated format. The program is designed on the cohort model with face-to-face weekend classes (in Richmond, Roanoke, and Hampton Roads) while leveraging online technology for supplemental instructional delivery to provide flexibility for busy working professionals to complete the program over a two-year period. For students entering into the program in Fall 2020, no increase in the total program cost is proposed for resident and Nonresident students, as displayed below:

	Two-Year Program Cost	2019-20 Charge	Proposed 2020-21	Placeholder 2021-22
Fall 2019 Cohort				
PMBA Total Cost - Resident	\$ 45,050	\$ 22,525	\$ 22,525	
(less) Off-Campus Tuition & Fees		(15,342)	(15,342)	
PMBA Fee - 2019 Resident		\$ 7,183	\$ 7,183	
PMBA Total Cost –Nonresident	65,707	\$ 32,854	\$ 32,854	
(less) Off-campus Tuition & Fees		(30,338)	(30,338)	
PMBA Fee – 2019 Nonresident		2,516	2,516	
Fall 2020 Cohort				
PMBA Total Cost – Resident	\$ 45,050		\$ 22,525	\$ 22,525
(less) Off-campus Tuition & Fees			(15,342)	TBD
PMBA Fee – 2020 Resident		N/A	7,183	TBD
PMBA Total Cost – Nonresident	65,707		\$ 32,854	\$ 32,854
(less) Off-campus Tuition & Fees			(30,338)	TBD
PMBA Fee – 2020 Nonresident			2,516	TBD

Executive Graduate Tuition and Fees

For new cohorts beginning in 2016-17 in the Ph.D. in Executive Business Research and Executive Master of Natural Resources, the university established an Executive Graduate tuition & fee structure comprised of Executive Graduate Tuition, the Technology Fee, the Library Fee, a Facility & Equipment Fee, and a program-specific supplemental fee. Executive Graduate Tuition is assessed on a per-credit basis for all credits enrolled. Continuing this structure for 2020-21 is recommended. Full-Time semester rates are one-half of the full-time annual rates.

	2020-21
Executive Graduate Tuition (per-credit)	\$1,642.25
Technology Fee (annual)	76
Library Fee (annual)	99
Facility & Equipment Fee (annual)	604
Program-Specific Supplemental Fee	Various

Executive Master of Natural Resources (XMNR) Supplemental Fee

In 2010-11, the College of Natural Resources expanded the existing Master of Natural Resources program delivered in the National Capital Region by adding an executive format cohort. The program is an accelerated graduate degree for working professionals with significant management experience. Program adjustments for the Spring 2021 starting cohort reduce the program cost by \$1,500 to a total cost of \$46,500. Each new cohort is established with Executive Graduate tuition & fees (residency neutral) and an XMNR program fee for all students to achieve the proposed total program cost summarized below.

Spring 2020 Starting Cohort	Total Program Cost	Spring 2020	Summer 2020	Proposed Fall 2020
XMNR Total Cost	\$ 48,000	\$ 16,503.75	\$ 10,503.25	\$ 20,993.00
(less) Executive Graduate Tuition & Fees		(15,169.75)	(10,048.25)	(15,269.75)
XMNR Fee – 2019 Cohort		1,334.00	455.00	5,723.25

Spring 2021 Starting Cohort	Total Program Cost	Proposed Spring 2021	Summer 2021	Fall 2021
XMNR Total Cost	\$ 46,500	15,669.75	10,048.25	20,782.00
(less) Executive Graduate Tuition & Fees		(15,169.75)	(10,048.25)	TBD
XMNR Fee – 2021 Cohort		500.00	-	TBD

PhD in Executive Business Research (BXBR) Supplemental Fee

The Pamplin College of Business launched a new Ph.D. in Business with a concentration in Executive Business Research that started in Fall 2016. The three-year program is administered through the College's Falls Church facility in the National Capital Region and provides business professionals with rigorous training in analytical and research techniques, exposure to the scholarly literature in business, and dissertation research experience that is translational in nature. The degree is marketed as a total cost program, spreading the advertised total cost over three academic years. Each new cohort will be established with Executive Graduate tuition & fees and a per-credit hour BXBR program to achieve the proposed total cost summarized below. This program fee will be assessed on a per credit hour basis in order to provide flexibility in a student's plan of study. Students taking more than the scheduled three years will continue to pay the Executive Tuition and fee rates and the BXBR supplemental fee established for their cohort.

	<u>2020-21</u>			
Fall 2016 Cohort				
BXBR Program Fee - Per Credit	\$365.00			
Fall 2017 Cohort				
BXBR Program Fee – Per Credit	\$323.50			
Fall 2018 Cohort	Total Program Cost	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
BXBR Total Program Cost	\$120,000	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
(less) Executive Graduate T&F		(32,699.25)	(33,643.75)	(33,528.00)
BXBR Program Fee Estimated Total		7,300.75	6,356.25	6,472.00
BXBR Program Fee - Per Credit		365.00	317.75	323.50
Fall 2019 Cohort	Total Program Cost	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
BXBR Total Program Cost	\$135,000	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
(less) Executive Graduate T&F		(33,528.00)	(33,643.75)	(TBD)
BXBR Program Fee Estimated Total		11,470.00	11,356.25	TBD
BXBR Program Fee - Per Credit		573.50	567.75	TBD
Fall 2020 Cohort	Total Program Cost	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
BXBR Total Program Cost	\$135,000	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
(less) Executive Graduate T&F		(33,528.00)	(TBD)	(TBD)
BXBR Program Fee Estimated Total		11,470.00	TBD	TBD
BXBR Program Fee - Per Credit		573.50	TBD	TBD

Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA)

The EMBA program is tailored for business leaders to complete an MBA in an accelerated format. The program is designed on the cohort model with face-to-face classes every other weekend (in Arlington) to provide flexibility for busy working professionals to complete the program over a 18-month period. The program's total cost is the same for resident and nonresident students. Tuition for this program does not utilize the aforementioned tuition and fee rates, but rather assesses the total program cost in six installments to accommodate corporate sponsorship of employee tuition. For 2020-21, a total cost of \$95,000 is recommended.

	2019-20 <u>Charge</u>	Proposed <u>2020-21</u>
Executive MBA (EMBA)	\$95,000	\$95,000

Graduate Tuition Pricing Basis

As the university continues to develop and offer targeted educational opportunities to meet student and market demand, the university may elect to utilize per-credit hour tuition pricing in lieu of the traditional full/part-time pricing approach in situations where such pricing better aligns with the program delivery model (i.e. accelerated master degrees).

Parking Fee

The General Assembly directed institutions of higher education to organize parking services as an auxiliary enterprise operation in 1989. The expenditure of General Fund dollars for the maintenance or improvement of parking lots and facilities was prohibited. Accordingly, Virginia Tech established the Parking Services Auxiliary Enterprise at the beginning of fiscal year 1989-90 and instituted a fee for faculty, staff, and students who parked in campus lots.

No increase to the Parking Fees are proposed for 2020-21. The university also proposes to continue to provide a parking rate discount to encourage car-pooling and remote lot parking in an effort to reduce the amount of vehicular traffic on campus. Annual student parking fees at other Virginia doctoral institutions for 2019-20 range from \$264 to \$806 for students, dependent upon the type and proximity of parking facilities.

<u>Parking Permit Type</u>	2019-20 <u>Charge</u>	Proposed 2020-21	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Faculty/Staff	\$360	\$360	\$0	0%
Commuter/Graduate Student	315	315	0	0%
Commuter/Graduate Premium	415	415	0	0%
Residential Student	450	450	0	0%

History of Tuition Legislation in Virginia

The period of 1989 to the present has been one of significant change in the level of state support, tuition policies, and rates. The substantial growth in tuition continues to be a source of increasing concern to institutions of higher education, students, parents, and state officials.

During the period of 1989 to 1996, tuition increased dramatically across the commonwealth due to the decline in General Fund support for higher education. At Virginia Tech, undergraduate tuition increased by 49 percent for resident students and 91 percent for nonresident students in the six-year period 1989-90 to 1995-96, a direct result of six rounds of reductions in state General Fund support.

In 1994 the Appropriation Act included language which established tuition rate growth caps of 3 percent for resident students and 7.5 percent for nonresident students for each year of the biennium. For 1996-97 through 1998-99, the Appropriation Act included language to freeze tuition for Virginia undergraduates at the 1995-96 level. The 1999 General Assembly approved a 20 percent reduction in tuition and mandatory Educational and General fees for Virginia undergraduate students and offset the reduction in revenue by providing new General Fund support. The 2000 Appropriation Act included language to continue tuition and mandatory Educational and General fees at 1999-00 levels for Virginia undergraduate students during the 2000-02 biennium.

To address state revenue shortfalls, language in the 2002 Appropriation Act provided authority to increase tuition and mandatory Educational and General fees for Virginia undergraduate students by 9 percent. The 2003 General Assembly allowed for the annualization of the Spring 2003 tuition increases and limited increases in tuition and mandatory Educational and General fees for Fall 2003 for Virginia undergraduate students to 5 percent plus nongeneral fund cost assignments.

The authority granted by the 2004 General Assembly continues, and establishes that “The Board of Visitors . . . of institutions of higher education may set tuition and fee charges at levels they deem to be appropriate for all resident student groups based on, but not limited to, competitive market rates, provided that the total revenue generated by the collection of tuition and fees from all students is within the nongeneral fund appropriation for educational and general programs provided in the act.”

Effective July 1, 2006, the university entered into a management agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia. A critical element of this agreement is the reaffirmation of the Board of Visitors’ authority to establish tuition and fee rates. This rate setting authority, coupled with the sum sufficient revenue authority to establish nongeneral fund appropriations as provided in the management agreement, provides a much more stable environment for planning and establishment of future tuition and fee rates.

For 2007-08, the 2007 General Assembly established a Tuition Incentive for allocation to institutions contingent upon limiting the increase of tuition and E&G fees for in-state undergraduate students to 6 percent plus in-state undergraduate financial aid. The 2008 General Assembly continued the incentive fund concept to encourage institutions to limit the in-state undergraduate tuition and E&G fee increases to 3 percent for E&G operations and 1 percent for student financial aid in 2008-09.

Language included in the 2009 budget, and continued in 2010, reiterated the intent of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to “mitigate the need to raise tuition on in-state students at public colleges and universities.” As a result of this Act, the University division received over \$11 million in funding in 2009-10. This funding came along with an understanding, expressed verbally by state budget-writers, that higher education institutions would use ARRA funding to mitigate the need to increase tuition to Virginia residents beyond 5 percent.

The Governor’s Commission on Higher Education, Reform, Innovation, and Investment introduced the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011 at the start of the 2011 General Assembly. In this legislation, institutional tuition and fee-setting authority is retained by the Board of Visitors. However, total tuition and fee revenue is limited to the aggregate cost of education for all enrolled students, minus state General Fund support. The model does allow for exclusion of Virginia resident tuition and fee revenue directed towards financial aid, an institution’s nongeneral fund share of the state mandated salary and fringe increases, improving faculty salary competitiveness, and unavoidable cost increases to ensure flexibility and inclusion of specific institutional characteristics, missions, and goals. The university is in compliance with this test; thus, the Board of Visitors retains the authority to set tuition and fee levels.

For 2019-20, the 2019 General Assembly approved a pool of funds to support “In-State Undergraduate Affordability”. Allocations of this pool are to be granted to public institutions in Virginia that maintain tuition and mandatory Educational & General (E&G) fees for in-state undergraduate students to the same levels as in 2018-19. Accepting the funding and holding in-state undergraduate tuition and E&G fees level was optional. Virginia Tech and all four-year public universities in the commonwealth accepted the funding and held in-state undergraduate tuition level for the 2019-20 academic year.

Mitigation of Tuition Dependency

Tuition increases are one component of the university’s overall resource and budget development strategy. To mitigate dependency on tuition the university continuously explores opportunities to maintain and grow enrollment in strategic market-informed disciplines and locations, invests in quality enhancements to ensure the value of a Virginia Tech degree, and seeks to diversify revenue by leveraging non-tuition sources including philanthropy and entrepreneurial activities. Tuition provides a significant portion of the university’s E&G revenue, and the price elasticity of demand is an ever-present consideration in the development process.

Summary of Tuition and Fee Rates

A summary of the recommended tuition rates is shown on Schedules 1 and 2, and a summary of fees is attached on Schedules 3 and 4. Finally, the total of all mandatory costs for students to attend Virginia Tech is detailed on Schedule 5 for undergraduate students, Schedule 6 for graduate students, and Schedule 7 for professional degree students.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the proposed tuition and fee rates be approved, effective Fall Semester 2020.

May 29, 2020

Schedule 1

**VIRGINIA TECH
2020-21 TUITION RECOMMENDATIONS
SUMMARY OF ANNUAL CHARGES**

RECOMMENDATION

	2019-20 Charge	Proposed 2020-21	Rate Increase	
			\$	%
Undergraduate Students				
Resident	\$11,420	\$11,420	\$0	0.0%
Nonresident	29,960	29,960	0	0.0%
Graduate Students				
On-Campus Programs				
Resident	13,701	13,701	0	0.0%
Nonresident	27,614	27,614	0	0.0%
Off-Campus Programs				
Resident	15,167	15,167	0	0.0%
Nonresident	29,559	29,559	0	0.0%
Veterinary Medicine				
Virginia/Maryland	21,906	21,906	0	0.0%
Out-of-State Non-Maryland	50,435	50,435	0	0.0%
VTC School of Medicine	53,113	53,113	0	0.0%

**VIRGINIA TECH
2020-21 SPECIAL TUITION RATES
SUMMARY OF HOURLY RATES**

	2019-20 Charge	Proposed 2020-21	Increase	
			\$	%
<u>Regular Part-Time Students (a)</u>				
<u>Undergraduate Students</u>				
Resident	\$475.75	\$475.75	-	0.0%
Nonresident	1,248.25	1,248.25	-	0.0%
<u>Graduate Students</u>				
On-Campus Programs				
Resident	761.25	761.25	-	0.0%
Nonresident	1,534.00	1,534.00	-	0.0%
Off-Campus Programs				
Resident	842.50	842.50	-	0.0%
Nonresident	1,642.25	1,642.25	-	0.0%
<u>Summer and Winter Sessions</u>				
On-Campus Programs				
Undergraduate Resident	428.25	428.25	-	0.0%
Undergraduate Nonresident	1,123.00	1,123.00	-	0.0%
<u>Online Graduate</u>				
<u>Tier 1</u>	975.00	975.00	-	0.0%
Master of Information Technology (MIT)				
<u>Tier 2</u>	900.00	900.00	-	0.0%
Master of Natural Resources (MNR)				
Master of Agriculture and Life Sciences (OMALS)				
<u>Tier 3</u>	825.00	825.00	-	0.0%
Graduate Certificate in Local Government Mgt (LGMC)				
<u>Professional/ Executive Graduate</u>				
Evening MBA, Data Analysis and Applied Statistics (DAAS)	1,025.00	1,025.00	-	0.0%
Executive Graduate Tuition Rate (XMNR, BXBR)	1,642.25	1,642.25	-	0.0%
<u>School Personnel</u>				
Undergraduate Resident	357.00	357.00	-	0.0%
Graduate Resident				
Blacksburg Campus	571.00	571.00	-	0.0%
Extended Campus	632.00	632.00	-	0.0%
<u>Study Abroad Programs (b)</u>				
Undergraduate Resident	381.00	381.00	-	0.0%
Undergraduate Nonresident	999.00	999.00	-	0.0%
Graduate Resident	609.00	609.00	-	0.0%
Graduate Nonresident	1,227.00	1,227.00	-	0.0%

(a) Part-time tuition charges for all student categories are derived from the full-time rate and are directly related to the number of credit hours taken. For tuition calculation purposes, the full-time undergraduate semester rate is divided by 12 credit hours and the full-time graduate student semester rate is divided by 9 hours.

(b) Tuition rates for study abroad do not include students studying at the Steger Center for International Scholarship

**VIRGINIA TECH
2020-21 FEE RECOMMENDATIONS
SUMMARY OF ANNUAL CHARGES**

Attachment CC

	2019-20 Charge	Proposed 2020-21	Increase	
			\$	%
<u>Educational and General Fee</u>				
Technology Service Fee	\$76	\$76	\$0	0.0%
Library Fee	99	99	0	0.0%
Commonwealth Facility & Equipment Fee (Nonresident Students)	604	604	0	0.0%
Immigration Services Fee (International Students)	550	550	0	0.0%
<u>Comprehensive Fee</u>				
Student Activity Fee	330	330	0	0.0%
Health Service Fee	471	508	37	7.9%
Athletic Fee	326	326	0	0.0%
Transportation Services Fee	171	192	21	12.3%
Recreational Sports Fee	327	327	0	0.0%
Student Services Fee	298	298	0	0.0%
Student Cultural Activities Fee	173	173	0	0.0%
Total Comprehensive Fee	2,096	2,154	58	2.8%
<u>Campus Fees</u>				
Northern Virginia Center Student Services	148	148	0	0.0%
Roanoke VTCsOM Student Services Fee	148	148	0	0.0%
Roanoke VTCsOM Health Services Fee	435	472	37	8.5%
Roanoke VTCsOM Student Govt/Student Activity Fee	185	185	0	0.0%
Roanoke VTCsOM Recreational Sports Fee (FY21 M1 & M2)	N/A	327	N/A	N/A
Steger Center Student Activity Fee	100	100	0	0.0%
Steger Center (Room & Board)	7,100	7,100	0	0.0%
Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center Fee	300	300	0	0.0%
<u>Room Fees</u>				
Double Occupancy:				
Lower Quad (Pre-1983 Dormitories)	5,124	5,254	130	2.5%
Payne Park - Traditional - Double	5,636	5,778	142	2.5%
Main Campbell & Newman - Double Occupancy	5,776	5,922	146	2.5%
Hillcrest - Double Occupancy	6,210	6,366	156	2.5%
Cochrane Hall	6,376	6,536	160	2.5%
O'Shaughnessy - Traditional Double	6,556	6,720	164	2.5%
East & West Ambler Johnston - Traditional/Efficiency Double	6,612	6,778	166	2.5%
Payne Park - Suite - Double	6,794	6,964	170	2.5%
Payne Park - Suite - Double (Large Suite)	6,958	7,132	174	2.5%
Upper Quad (Pearson & New Cadet Hall)	7,012	7,188	176	2.5%
New Residence Hall West - Double Occupancy	7,116	7,294	178	2.5%
East & West Ambler Johnston - Private Bath Double	7,522	7,712	190	2.5%
Single Occupancy:				
Payne Park - Traditional - Single	7,706	7,900	194	2.5%
Main Campbell & Newman - Single Occupancy	7,844	8,042	198	2.5%
Hillcrest - Single Occupancy	8,442	8,654	212	2.5%
Payne Park - Suite - Single	9,370	9,606	236	2.5%
New Residence Hall West - Single Occupancy	9,694	9,938	244	2.5%
Other:				
Special Purpose Housing	6,396	6,556	160	2.5%
Graduate Life Center at Donaldson Brown - Double	7,116	7,294	178	2.5%
Oak Lane IV	7,634	7,826	192	2.5%
Graduate Life Center at Donaldson Brown - Single	9,694	9,938	244	2.5%
The Gallery (NOVA) - 4-Person Unit	6,900	7,150	250	3.6%
The Gallery (NOVA) - 3-Person Unit	7,700	7,900	200	2.6%
The Gallery (NOVA) - 2-Person Unit	8,300	8,400	100	1.2%
Living Learning Community Fee	100	100	0	0.0%
Residential Telecommunications Fee	394	394	0	0.0%
<u>Board Fees</u>				
Major Flex Plan	3,824	3,908	84	2.2%
Mega Flex Plan	4,100	4,192	92	2.2%
Premium Flex Plan	4,386	4,484	98	2.2%
<u>Parking Fees</u>				
Faculty/Staff	360	360	0	0.0%
Commuter/Graduate Student	315	315	0	0.0%
Commuter/Graduate Premium	415	415	0	0.0%
Residential Student	450	450	0	0.0%

VIRGINIA TECH
2020-21 SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM FEES

All charges are academic year unless otherwise noted.

		2019-20	Proposed	Increase	
		Charge	2020-21	\$	%
<u>Program Fees</u>					
<u>Architecture + Design</u>					
Undergraduate & Graduate Enrolled Prior To Fall 2018	Full-time	\$ 949.00	\$ 949.00	0	0.0%
	Part-time	474.50	474.50	0	0.0%
Undergraduate & Graduate Entering Fall 2018 & Later	Full-time	1,500.00	1,500.00	0	0.0%
	Part-time	750.00	750.00	0	0.0%
<u>Building Construction</u>					
Undergraduate Enrolled Prior To Fall 2018	Full-time	775.00	775.00	0	0.0%
	Part-time	387.50	387.50	0	0.0%
Undergraduate Entering Fall 2018 & Later	Full-time	1,500.00	1,500.00	0	0.0%
	Part-time	750.00	750.00	0	0.0%
<u>Engineering</u>					
Undergraduate Enrolled Prior To Fall 2018	Full-time	775.00	775.00	0	0.0%
	Part-time	387.50	387.50	0	0.0%
Graduate Enrolled Prior To Fall 2018	Full-time	1,049.00	1,049.00	0	0.0%
	Part-time	524.50	524.50	0	0.0%
Undergraduate & Graduate Entering Fall 2018 & Later	Full-time	2,000.00	2,000.00	0	0.0%
	Part-time	1,000.00	1,000.00	0	0.0%
<u>Pamplin College of Business</u>					
Undergraduate 4000 Level Courses	Per Credit Hour	25.00	25.00	0	0.0%
Undergraduate 1000-3000 Level Courses	Per Credit Hour	75.00	75.00	0	0.0%
<u>Agriculture</u>					
Undergraduate and Graduate Entering Fall 2018 and Later	Full-time	750.00	750.00	0	0.0%
	Part-time	375.00	375.00	0	0.0%
<u>Specialized Graduate Degree Programs</u>					
Veterinary Medicine Facility Fee		1,200.00	1,200.00	0	0.0%
Master of Public Health	Full-time	525.00	525.00	0	0.0%
	Part-time	262.50	262.50	0	0.0%
Master of Business Administration (MBA)	Per Credit Hour	175.00	175.00	0	0.0%
Master of Science in Business Administration (MSBA)	Per Credit Hour	175.00	175.00	0	0.0%
Concentrations in Business Analytics (BA) and Hospitality & Tourism Management (HTM)					
<u>Executive Model Graduate Degree Programs</u>					
Professional Master of Business Administration (PMBA)					
Fall 2019 Cohort	Resident	Full-time	7,183.00	7,183.00	(a)
		Per Credit Hour	300.00	299.50	
Nonresident		Full-time	2,516.00	2,516.00	(a)
		Per Credit Hour	105.00	105.00	
Fall 2020 Cohort	Resident	Full-time		7,183.00	(a)
		Per Credit Hour		299.50	
Nonresident		Full-time		2,516.00	(a)
		Per Credit Hour		105.00	
Executive Master of Natural Resources (XMNR)					
Spring 2020 Cohort		1,789.00	5,723.25		(a)
Spring 2021 Cohort			500.00		(a)
Executive PHD in Business Concentration in Business Research (ExPHD)					
Fall 2019 Cohort	Per Credit Hour	573.50	567.75		(a)
Fall 2020 Cohort	Per Credit Hour		573.50		(a)
Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA)		95,000	95,000	0	0.0%

(a) Executive Model Graduate Degree Program fees are designed to allocate a total cost over multiple years of the program, and utilize a fee to balance the difference between the quoted price and traditional tuition and fees. Changes from year to year do not necessarily reflect a change in total program cost.

Presentation Date: May 29, 2020

Schedule 5

VIRGINIA TECH
TOTAL COST TO STUDENTS
Comparison of 2019-20 and 2020-21 Annual Charges

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

	<u>2019-20</u> <u>Charge</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>2020-21</u>	<u>Increase</u>	
			<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>Resident</u>				
Tuition	\$11,420	\$11,420	\$0	0.0%
Educational and General Fee	<u>175</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Subtotal Tuition and E & G Fee	11,595	11,595	0	0.0%
Comprehensive Fee	<u>2,096</u>	<u>2,154</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>2.8%</u>
Total All Residents	<u>13,691</u>	<u>13,749</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>0.4%</u>
Room (Lower Quad Dorms & Telecommunications Fee) ^(a)	5,518	5,648	130	2.4%
Board (Major Flex Plan) ^(a)	<u>3,824</u>	<u>3,908</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>2.2%</u>
Subtotal Room and Board	<u>9,342</u>	<u>9,556</u>	<u>214</u>	<u>2.3%</u>
Total Cost for Residents Living on Campus	<u>23,033</u>	<u>23,305</u>	<u>272</u>	<u>1.2%</u>
<u>Nonresident</u>				
Tuition	29,960	29,960	0	0.0%
Educational and General Fee	<u>779</u>	<u>779</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Subtotal Tuition and E & G Fee	30,739	30,739	0	0.0%
Comprehensive Fee	<u>2,096</u>	<u>2,154</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>2.8%</u>
Total All Nonresidents	<u>32,835</u>	<u>32,893</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>0.2%</u>
Room (Lower Quad Dorms & Telecommunications Fee) ^(a)	5,518	5,648	130	2.4%
Board (Major Flex Plan) ^(a)	<u>3,824</u>	<u>3,908</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>2.2%</u>
Subtotal Room and Board	<u>9,342</u>	<u>9,556</u>	<u>214</u>	<u>2.3%</u>
Total Cost for Nonresidents Living on Campus	<u>42,177</u>	<u>42,449</u>	<u>272</u>	<u>0.6%</u>

(a) The majority of freshmen are housed in Lower Quad dorms and choose the Major Flex Plan.

Presentation Date: May 29, 2020

VIRGINIA TECH
TOTAL COST TO STUDENTS
Comparison of 2019-20 and 2020-21 Annual Charges

	<u>2019-20</u> <u>Charge</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>2020-21</u>	<u>Increase</u>	
			<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>GRADUATE STUDENTS</u>				
On-Campus Programs				
<u>Resident</u>				
Tuition	\$13,701	\$13,701	\$0	0.0%
Educational and General Fee	<u>175</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Subtotal Tuition and E & G Fee	13,876	13,876	0	0.0%
Comprehensive Fee	<u>2,096</u>	<u>2,154</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>2.8%</u>
Total Cost for Residents	<u>15,972</u>	<u>16,030</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>0.4%</u>
<u>Nonresident</u>				
Tuition	27,614	27,614	0	0.0%
Educational and General Fee	<u>779</u>	<u>779</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Subtotal Tuition and E & G Fee	28,393	28,393	0	0.0%
Comprehensive Fee	<u>2,096</u>	<u>2,154</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>2.8%</u>
Total Cost for Nonresidents	<u>30,489</u>	<u>30,547</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>0.2%</u>
Off-Campus Programs				
<u>Resident</u>				
Tuition	15,167	15,167	0	0.0%
Educational and General Fee	<u>175</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Subtotal Tuition and E & G Fee	15,342	15,342	0	0.0%
Northern Virginia Center Student Services Fee	<u>148</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Cost for Residents	<u>15,490</u>	<u>15,490</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<u>Nonresident</u>				
Tuition	29,559	29,559	0	0.0%
Educational and General Fee	<u>779</u>	<u>779</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Subtotal Tuition and E & G Fee	30,338	30,338	0	0.0%
Northern Virginia Center Student Services Fee	<u>148</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Cost for Nonresidents	<u>30,486</u>	<u>30,486</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>

VIRGINIA TECH
TOTAL COST TO STUDENTS
Comparison of 2019-20 and 20-21 Annual Charges

	2019-20 Charge	Proposed 2020-21	Increase	
			\$	%
<u>VETERINARY MEDICINE</u>				
Virginia/Maryland Students				
Tuition	21,906	21,906	0	0.0%
Educational and General Fee	175	175	0	0.0%
Comprehensive Fee	2,096	2,154	58	2.8%
Vet Med Facility Fee	1,200	1,200	0	0.0%
Total Cost for Virginia/Maryland Students	25,377	25,435	58	0.2%
Out-of-State Students				
Tuition	50,435	50,435	0	0.0%
Educational and General Fee	779	779	0	0.0%
Comprehensive Fee	2,096	2,154	58	2.8%
Vet Med Facility Fee	1,200	1,200	0	0.0%
Total Cost for Out-of-State Students	54,510	54,568	58	0.1%
<u>VIRGINIA TECH CARILION SCHOOL OF MEDICINE</u>				
Tuition	53,113	53,113	0	0.0%
Educational and General Fee	175	175	0	0.0%
VTCSOM Student Services Fees (a)	768	1,132	364	47.4%
Total Cost	54,056	54,420	364	0.7%

(a) Includes VTCSOM Student Services, Health Services, and Student Government/Activities fees that apply to all Medical students. FY21 includes the addition of a Recreational Sports fee for all M1 & M2 students.

To: The Board of Visitors of Virginia Tech

March 22, 2020

This letter will serve as the official statement regarding the increase in tuition and fees for Virginia Tech from the 2019-2020 Graduate Student Assembly Executive Board.

We understand that government funding for higher education is at an all-time low and is decreasing every year, but we want the BOV to understand how this increase in tuition and fees will negatively impact graduate students, the research environment at Virginia Tech, and will hinder Virginia Tech's achievement of many of the proposed milestones in the Advancing Beyond Boundaries initiative.

Graduate students fulfill many missions and goals of the university via assistantships; serving both as students and employees of the university. These assistantships can be, for example, teaching a course for a department, or as a teaching assistant (Graduate Teaching Assistant; GTA), working for a professor to carry out research on a grant (Graduate Research Assistant; GRA), or working in a university administrative office (Graduate Assistant; GA). There is a stipend associated with these assistantships which the university views as salaried employment (as opposed to a scholarship). Assistantship stipends are subject to local/federal taxes and on top of taxes, graduate students pay mandatory comprehensive fees from their respective paychecks. Increases in tuition and fees negatively impact both the assistantship sponsor and the student, and can have a detrimental effect on our ability to advance the goals of the university. Currently, the average annual stipend (pre-tax and pre-comprehensive fee) at Virginia Tech is \$17,500.

Advancing Beyond Boundaries presented a number of strategic goals deemed essential to advancing the university's reputation, increasing enrollment, and increasing scholarship, with the intent of positioning the university for its next decade. Of the goals cited in the strategic vision, a number are directly dependent on the activities and work of graduate students, and in particular, of the GTAs, GRAs, and the GAs.

Graduate Teaching Assistants

When departments offer undergraduate courses, the GTAs provide the bulk of the educational presence in the classrooms and labs. Furthermore, the same GTA is tasked to grade the assignments and tests and sometimes the same GTAs are the instructor of record. Due to constrained financial resources, academic departments already struggle to fulfill adequate GTAs for the department's course load and we anticipate this tuition increase will further constrict academic departments at Virginia Tech resulting in the overall educational experience to suffer.

One of the core factors that drive university rankings is the quality of instruction received in the classroom. A lower number of GTAs will impact the instructor to student ratio which will lead to poorer results in the undergraduate learning experience and will be detrimental to undergraduate recruitment. Mitigating for the reduced GTA count, tenure-track faculty will have to divert their attention to more coursework, which will ultimately impair their ability to focus on their grant-writing/publishing, and not being able to secure additional extramural funds for Virginia Tech.

An increase in tuition/fees for the university will impair the university's ability to achieve these metrics in a timely fashion:

- Achieve Top 13 U.S. land-grant ([THE World University Rankings](#)) by 2024;
- Achieve Top 10 U.S. public land-grant ([WSJ/THE U.S. College Rankings](#)) by 2024
- Ensure 100% of academic majors have a required experiential learning component by 2024
- Achieve Top 1/3rd (66th percentile) of internationally and nationally recognized faculty publications and citations by 2022
- Increase extramural research expenditures to \$480M by 2024
- Reach 30,000 undergraduate students by 2023

Graduate Research Assistants

When faculty secure an external grant, some of that money is used to fund tuition and stipends for a limited number of GRAs. Many of the academic professionals at Virginia Tech receive extramural support from agencies such as the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the United States Department of Agriculture, etc. and the support received from these agencies operates under a "fixed budget" model. With increases in tuition and fees, there is less financial power given to academic departments and professionals to support research (and graduate students) at Virginia Tech. Simply, the more expensive the tuition, the less they can pay each GRA, and the fewer researchers that can be sponsored on the grant. Additionally, the faculty's research productivity related to the grant suffers.

With fewer GRAs out of each grant, this places a greater burden on a reduced number of individuals to achieve the same high quality work. Ultimately, this impairs faculty's ability to publish, cite (especially in high impact journals), and secure more funding. Furthermore, as the undergraduate population grows, undergraduate wishing to participate in research as part of their degree's *experiential learning requirement* needs to be advised. GRAs are the primary advisors to the undergraduate students at Virginia Tech. An increase in tuition and fees undermines our ability to pursue these metrics proposed in the strategic mission:

- Top 1/3rd of internationally and nationally recognized faculty publications and citations by 2022
- Increase extramural research expenditures to \$480M by 2024
- Ensure 100% of academic majors have a required experiential learning component by 2024 (GRAs to advise UG researchers, GTA's & GA's for service learning)
- Achieve Top 13 U.S. land-grant ([THE World University Rankings](#)) by 2024;
- Achieve Top 10 U.S. public land-grant ([WSJ/THE U.S. College Rankings](#)) by 2024

Graduate Assistants

Graduate Assistant stipends and tuition function similarly to those of the GRAs, but are funded by a sponsoring university office rather than through a research grant. GAs perform a variety of support functions within the university, providing assistance to the university communities, advising undergraduate students, supporting mission critical tasks in administrative offices, and performing duties that allow the sponsoring department to avoid hiring additional headcount, thus preserving

budget and financial goals. Without these services, achieving the strategic goals listed below will not be possible.

Graduate Assistants are often the student-facing component of the university's administrative and academic offices. Without their efforts, additional staff will need to be hired, or existing staff will be faced with the demands associated with meeting the needs of an ever-growing undergraduate population, which will hinder the university's efforts to recruit and retain top student talent. This support is critical for the support of underrepresented minorities both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, since today we ask those students to fulfill those mentorship roles. We all act as informal ambassadors for the university at industry and professional conferences, conventions and events, bringing awareness to Virginia Tech's offerings and benefits.

The impacts of their efforts directly influence the following strategic goals:

- Reach 30,000 undergraduate students by 2023
- Recruiting talent (increase in 10% in the next 5yrs)
- Achieve 20% representation of underrepresented minority graduate and minority professional students by 2024
- Increase graduate student enrollment to 22% of undergraduate enrollment by 2024 (includes Innovation Campus Master Degree Students)
- Ensure 100% of academic majors have a required experiential learning component by 2024

We understand and recognize that the strategic mission of Virginia Tech is bold and needs to be funded from somewhere. Our ask is two-fold:

First, we ask that the stipend rates be made to grow at the same rate as comprehensive fees, at minimum. This year's increase of mandatory comprehensive fees of \$103/year corresponds to approximately a 5% increase relative to the average, but graduate stipend raises have historically matched faculty and staff raises at approximately 2% each year. The comprehensive fees thus occupy an ever-increasing proportion of our stipend.

Secondly, we ask that the strategic budgeting and planning process take into account the opportunity cost of increasing graduate tuition and fees for the university. The overwhelming majority of graduate students in Blacksburg and Roanoke are supported by these employment contracts. Thus, any increase in expenditures (tuition, fees, etc.) negatively impacts academic colleges and departments, administrative offices, graduate students, and faculty to carry out the strategic mission set out by Virginia Tech's Beyond Boundaries Initiative.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment, and for considering our requests as the Graduate Student Assembly. We're proud to continue our contribution to Virginia Tech's mission, we simply ask to be able to afford to continue to do so.

Sincerely,

Graduate Student Assembly Executive Board (2019-2020)

Hani Awni (President)

Hani Awni

Alexis Hruby (Vice President)

Alexis Hruby

Sharon Stidham (Director of Programs)

Sharon Stidham

Cortney Steele (Director of Events)

Cortney Steele

Martina Svyantek (Director of Communications)

Martina Svyantek

Maruf Hoque (Director of Finance)

Maruf M. Hoque

Dear members of the Board of Visitors,

It is an unfortunate case to learn that our BoV is looking to increase the fees for graduate (and undergraduate) students, especially now in a time of crisis that is striking the financial stability of many students and families.

I hoped to share a small part of my experiences as I chose to come to VT to become an expert in my field, and help develop technology that could be utilized in many industrial applications (I am an electrical engineer). One of the major considerations that I factored while comparing various universities included the stipends, comprehensive fees, cost of medical insurance, and cost of living. Right now Blacksburg is having a spike in increase of cost of living which is caused by the expansion of the University population. In addition, this expansion is causing an increase in our fees. If I look back and was considering to come to VT over other institutions...I would have serious pause to recognize that the comprehensive fees have increased numerous times over the past few years while stipends have not matched this increase.

While I am very fortunate to attend this institution, and to learn from my advisers and educators around me, I am burdened financially by the overall "grad tax" that these fees represent. I try to do my best to represent my lab and VT to the greater community and my professional field, but it is difficult to feel a sense of support if that community is asking for more and more from me without providing additional support- I have had opportunities to work in multiple national laboratories and present my work at top tier conferences nationally and internationally. As of right now, the graduate comprehensive fees are about 10% of my overall income and general livelihood. So, I find myself with serious decisions each month after paying my comprehensive fee.

With all the issues that have been raised and recognized by the University in the past year, especially food security for students, as well as now the impact that the COVID-19 outbreak is adding to already stressed students, I hope the BoV looks for solutions that will add support to the graduate student population. Recognizing the issues that graduate students face and providing gestures of support will reverberate throughout the university as we make up much of the foundation of success - we support students as teaching assistance, we mentor students in research initiatives, and we conduct cutting edge research in the laboratories.

We graduate students chose to attend VT because of the community and sense of UT Prosim that reverberates across campus. We want to be successful and speak of the great experiences we have had attending games at Lane stadium, walking around the duck pond, and presenting our work at conferences; and so I hope that you hear our voices and our stories with regards that the continued financial stress of the comprehensive fees bring. While this increase in fees might be necessary, the overall lack of support experienced in the graduate community will echo into future years of research, teaching, recruitment, and retention.

I thank you all for your consideration and patience to all graduate student stories, as well as your service and dedication to ensure VT remains a premier institution.

Best regards,
Joseph Kozak

Ph.D. Candidate | WBGGen Graduate Research Fellow
Center for Power Electronics Systems (CPES)
The Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Kasey Stanton, kjstanton@vt.edu, Faculty/Staff

If at all possible, I hope that increases in fees and tuition costs can be avoided. I realize that universities are under tremendous pressure for coordinating budgets and addressing rising costs, but I am worried this will negatively impact graduate students especially. For example, many graduate students in my Department receive a stipend ranging from 17,000-20,000 for a 12-month period. Graduate students already are paying over \$2,000 out of this stipend in fees (\$2,000 is equivalent to roughly 12% of their overall income), and I worry that increasing the fee rates will make it even more difficult to recruit, retain, and provide a decent quality of life for graduate students. They already are being paid at a rate that is at best barely livable while working for our university as teaching assistants, leading research teams, etc., even though many of them have advanced degrees and already are making contributions to our university and to their respective disciplines. So, I hope that these issues and their impact will be taken into consideration when making decisions.

Ariel Heminger, arielrh@vt.edu, Student

Dear BOV, I understand the importance of providing funds for the university, especially student health services, counseling services, transit services, and wireless network. I do agree that a fee increase should be considered, however, I think that increasing the fees by \$103 would be too much for graduate students as well as the undergraduate population. As a graduate student stipends only increased by 3.8% which is just barely enough to keep up with the ever-increasing rent prices in Blacksburg/Christiansburg area, some of which have increased between \$50 to \$100 per month and with the inflation of groceries, utilities, and basic necessities. Many graduate students are already strained financially and increases in student fees and tuition along with the rapidly increasing price of rent in Blacksburg may act as a barrier for students wanting to enter the university and may cause stress for other students struggling to afford tuition. Thank you for your time and consideration.

C. M., Student

I speak from the perspective of a graduate student, and raising the fees graduate students have to pay would be ill-advised, especially considering the graduate student pay lately (e.g. UCSC). Virginia Tech already has one of the highest total combined student fees in comparison with other R1 graduate schools, and raising the rates even higher is a deterrent to recruiting future graduate students. Currently, almost 20% of my paycheck from the University during the semester already goes towards fees, an already impractical amount. Additionally, graduate students are already required to pay fees that do not have any clear benefit to us, and basically go straight to undergraduate students. It is also very unclear what the graduate specific fees even go towards, and just as difficult to get a clear answer on where the money is going. Lastly, there are countless studies that point out the exponential increase in tuition and fees for universities outpaces the inflation rate. In short, there is no justification for increasing fees that graduate students, one of the key factors of bringing research money/grants to the University, are required to pay. If there must be an increase in graduate fees, we should be allowed an opportunity to opt out of fees that do not pertain to us to balance the loss we will see from our stipends to maintain a livable income.

Melissa Burt, melissaburt@vt.edu, Student

A tuition/fee increase for a graduate student is effectively a pay decrease. Will tuition/fee increases get balanced with a raise in graduate student stipends? As a parent of two this proposed tuition/pay

increase puts an extra burden on my family when the current graduate school fees are already hard enough to afford each semester.

Kregg Quarles, kreggq1@vt.edu, Student

Graduate students with GA just received a small raise that still barely covers living expenses. Another increase in tuition and fees positions us right back where we were before our small raise. We should not have to pay more.

Abigail Cooper, Abcooper@vt.edu, Student

Seeing as VT is a public school and receives funding I don't see why it is necessary to charge more on tuition when we have to pay for so many extra things like books, game tickets, and Rec sports. We already pay gym, bus, library, and athletic fees even if they are unused just to name a few. There are so many current issues with the school that need to be addressed before tuition should be raised. There is no parking, there is a giant housing crisis in Blacksburg as well as on campus, and for regular athletic tickets everyone who has continuously been loyal and given generous donations in the past is now being price gauged. Virginia Tech should not be charging more on tuition because everything is so expensive anyways. I encourage whoever reads this to look at housing prices at JMU versus Tech as a case study. I love Virginia Tech but this is absolutely unfair and should not happen.

Student

The proposed changes to Tuition and Fees range from 0 to 4.9%, but are guaranteed to go up for on campus graduate students along with non-resident undergraduates by at least 2.9%. Currently, the inflation rate is closer to 2%, so why is the increase greater than inflation? Additionally, what factors are contributing to the rise in fees?

Noah McNeill, Student

Student fees already represent a cost that is already over 10% of a graduate student's salary. These fees are already some of the highest in the nation. Graduate students, who educate large numbers of undergraduates, are particularly harmed by these fees. Please reconsider the increase.

Ardavan, ardavanmh93@vt.edu, Student

Currently, graduate students are paying for comprehensive fees which are quite high considering how much they earn on their assistantships. Will the comprehensive fee increase as well?

None

The timing of such increase, due to novel COVID-19 and its impact on the economy and well-being, is a burden on students and families. The Board of Visitors should consider not to increase tuition and fees.

Bradley Sutliff, bpsut@vt.edu, Student

Please do not increase fees. If you must, increase tuition and use it for the same things. Many fellowships and scholarships will pay tuition but will not pay fees so you hurt a lot of students by increasing fees instead of tuition.

Olivia Wood, Whokie21@vt.edu, Student

I would be pleased to see a tuition freeze. I find it crazy to not freeze tuition when state lawmakers just recently passed a law that would allow it.

Connor Mulligan, cmull@vt.edu, Student

Hi! I would please request that you do everything possible to freeze tuition next year, university is nearly unreachable as it is. Increasing costs year after year would mean that by the time I have kids who want to go to school VT would be impossible to afford!

Cynthia Dunham, Cmdunham@vt.edu, Student

I left my full time job to come here to VT to continue my education. It is important to me that I get an education in a field that I have a passion for. The tuition and fees at VT are already very high, and for people like me, who are relying on high-interest loans to pay for it, that makes it very difficult and ensures a lifetime of debt. In addition to this, raising tuition and fees makes an education more inaccessible to less advantaged people. I advocate not only for NOT raising the tuition, but for lowering it.

Megan Garrick, 5406567220, Student

Tuition/fees should most definitely not go up at all next year. The money being saved by the university closing during this pandemic should more than make up for any tuition raise that had been planned. Freeze tuition!

Oliver Gates Breeden, gatesb@vt.edu, Student

Please do not raise tuition and make Virginia Tech even more unaffordable!!

Student

The fees are ridiculous for Grad students. I am literally *paying* to work at Virginia Tech (not to mention parking fees).

Cailean Pritchard, Student

The proposed Tuition and Fee increases would hinder the performance of graduate students at Virginia Tech. Graduate students typically receive a 2% annual stipend increase which does not match the proposed increases to tuition and fees in conjunction with rising cost of living expenses. As a result, graduate students will effectively receive a pay cut, putting additional stress on graduate life, especially, with drastically increasing housing rates around campus (due primarily to the universities over-enrollment of undergraduate students). Ensuring graduate students receive proportional stipend raises to cover increases in tuition and fees as well as cost of living expenses, would constitute a bare minimum policy for the university to support its graduate students so that they may continue to aid the university in acquiring funding in the form of research grants and produce quality publications which support the status of the university.

Alaina Weinheimer, Student, alainarw@vt.edu

I understand the Board of Visitors has the best interests of students in mind at all times. However, there is no benefit to graduate students by raising the fees. The current fees already have led students to seek

additional sources of income, which take away time and effort for teaching undergraduates and working on their research which provide Virginia Tech its stellar academic reputation. If anything, the fees need to be reduced for graduate students. Their services to the university extend far beyond current stipends. The fees, in addition to reducing graduate student quality of services to the university and their quality of life, will reduce the quality of prospective graduate students. The only reason I chose VT over other offers was because I received a scholarship for \$33k/year. Otherwise, I would have made \$23k - \$2 = \$21k/year, which is absurdly low relative to other R1 universities and not competitive. VT will be attracting lower quality graduate students by increasing fees. That is not debatable. I know the services of graduate students (teaching assistants, tutors, mentors to undergrads and producers of cutting edge science) are often under the radar by many, but these are the services that make VT a stellar educational institution. By decreasing the quality of services from current graduate students and the quality of incoming graduate students, VT will suffer.

Kylie Ryan, Student, kylier@vt.edu

Dear Board of Visitors, Hello. You are considering increasing student fees for graduate students. Please consider how little we are paid and how an increase in fees impacts us. In fact, I request that you considering reducing fees for graduate students. After the removal of comprehensive fees (not including my payment for health insurance), I receive \$750 every two weeks. I work approximately 50 - 60 hours a week. This is a very small amount to be paid for someone that cannot depend on parents to pay for other expenses. Please do not increase the amount of money that is removed from graduate student paychecks. Sincerely, Kylie Ryan

Student

The increase of fees will severely impact the grad student population. Compared to the fees that fellow grad students pay in other public or private colleges, the fees we pay at Virginia Tech are substantially higher. It is a burden to afford the cost of living in Blacksburg (rent, utilities, food) and these fees on top of it. As a note, the rent in Blacksburg continues to rise every year, but more so in the last year when the number of accepted undergraduates rose sharply. Therefore, the most affected group of students by this increase in fees would be the graduate population. Hope you consider these remarks in your future decisions!

Kristen Bretz, Student, kabretz@vt.edu

Please consider not raising graduate student fees. Graduate students live on very thin financial margins considering the work we do, in terms of complex roles we play within the academic community as both students, researchers, staff, and teachers depending on the time of day. Having to pay fees twice a year already essentially amounts to me not getting paid 2 months out of the year, which is a tremendous hardship. I also feel that as a graduate student, I do not get the value out of these fees that I pay into, i.e, they go to services I do not use. Raising fees sends the message that VT does not care about the financial sacrifices we already make by being graduate students: being in a system that does not fairly compensate us; living in a town where there is not enough affordable housing because of choices by the administration.

Florice Gonzalez, Student, floric1@vt.edu

Dear Board of Visitors, The proposed increase in graduate comprehensive fees will negatively impact graduate students by taking away income that is needed to pay for room and board. As graduate students at Virginia Tech, we already pay one of the highest fees in the country. Other comparable and higher prestige institutions waive these fees for their graduate students as they understand that this can present unnecessary financial hardship. In Blacksburg, housing prices have risen as the overall number of students has increased. This has left many students with very few economically viable options for housing. Thus, the increase will only continue to place additional financial strain on graduate students as they make housing decisions. Apart from effects on current students, high fees could be detrimental to recruiting prospective students who receive numerous offers from other institutions who a) have lower comprehensive fees or b) waive these fees for their students. Thus, I implore you to please reconsider this increase in comprehensive fees and help keep graduate students feeling valued and supported at Virginia Tech. I assure you that not having to worry about how to make ends meet will result in increased research productivity and bring more research dollars and quality students to Virginia Tech which is a win- win for everyone. All the best, Florice

Ellen Garcia, Student, ebgarcia@vt.edu

I am commenting as a graduate student on the proposition to raise tuition and fees. My financial situation has been insecure and stressful for the whole duration of my time at Virginia Tech. I have taken multiple student loans out just to pay the comprehensive fees, and currently have the fees taken out of each of my paychecks, resulting in a total monthly income of less than \$1500. As a result of so little money every month, my credit card debt has risen beyond what I can routinely pay off and I have no savings. A further spike in fees without an increase in graduate stipend pay would drastically impact my quality of life. Additionally, an increase in tuition would put more financial strain on my advisor and would result in less funding for research and further increase financial and interpersonal stresses within the lab.

Student

Y'all aren't even issuing refunds for fees for services that can't even be used for 1/2 the semester nor are you pro-rating tuition for switching to only classes. You've put all students out of on-campus jobs with no way to even pay the current tuition and yet have the audacity to propose another tuition increase? Yeah, definitely going to receive a lot of backlash over this if it passes

Zachary Johnson, Student, zaustinj@vt.edu

Hello, I am writing to the Board regarding the increase in fees for graduate students. I understand that fees are a vital source of income for the university, and that they provide a great set of services to us graduate students as well as undergraduates, faculty, and staff. However, I hope the board has taken the time to understand the living wage of a graduate student, and how an increase of \$103/year in fees, on top of being one of the highest fee schemes in the US, will impact those already living in extremely stressful conditions.

1) As of right now, an average graduate student in Blacksburg will take home \$1900 per month, - \$336 for current fees leaving \$1,564 to pay for rent, food, health insurance, dental insurance, a phone plan, medical expenses, and food. A fee increase of \$8.50 per month may not seem like much to the

board, however this is the current cost of Netflix, which is often the only entertainment a student can afford to purchase.

2) Graduate students do not have the flexibility of finding supplemental income to compensate for sudden cost increases. Graduate students are expected to work (between GRA and GTA duties) 40-60 hours per week, and sometimes more. Often this is NOT time spent progressing on thesis material, but simply performing GRA and GTA tasks which are necessary to supplement our funding.

3) Graduate students funding is inconsistent, and cannot be assumed as uniform among students. While some students are "well-off" on higher tier stipends, most are not. Consider Student A. Student A is funded by a GTA at the lowest tier, \$25,000. That means Student A takes home only \$1600 per month, even after tax exemptions, leaving only \$1,264 for life expenses. Assuming low estimates of \$500 for rent, \$150 for food, A is left with \$614 per month, not including any personal bills, child support, car loans, or anything else an independent adult living in the US needs to survive. \$8.50 is taking away Netflix from graduate students, one of the most stressful, over-worked, underpaid jobs an adult can have. Do you think this is a wise trade for a 2% increase in fees?

Lara Dahora, Student, ldahora@vt.edu

Dear BOV, I wanted to submit for consideration a comment on the tuition and fee increases for graduate students. As graduate students we already make little money and are not offered either dental or vision insurance. An increase in tuition may not affect all graduate students similarly, as many of us are given tuition remission as part of our assistantships. However, an increase in fees is likely to affect most graduate students and both increases should be considered in the context of how they may affect students. While an increase of \$100 or so may seem a small price to pay for those making significantly more sums of money, it is not for us. Please consider the additional hardship this increase may confer on us, especially without a commensurate increase in our stipends to account for this additional expense and COL increases. I hope that you will seriously consider my concerns and those of other students regarding this and decide with the wellbeing of your students in mind. Thank you, Lara

Katrina Colucci, Student, kcolucc2@vt.edu

As a student who lives in Blacksburg and works in Roanoke a lot of the amenities in Blacksburg are not accessible to me because of my work hours. Therefore, I feel like you are increasing the rates for amenities that I barely use. Also, not just thinking about me but international students, they come to virginia tech with a set budget to live. By increasing the tuition and fees it is essentially decreasing the amount of money for personal business.

Amber Kelly, Student, amberlk2015@yahoo.com

Tuition is already so high. Do not raise it and cause students to struggle even more. Think of your students that are homeless, single parents, or like me and working multiple jobs. As the coronavirus spreads fear, we need support, not more debt.

Juan Carlos Bedoya, Student, Bedojuan@vt.edu

Please stop charging tuition for Ph.D. students in Candidacy status.

Ivan Zuidhoek, Student, 5509155269

Please don't. Graduate students are already broke. Thank you

Sina Taheri, Student, sinataheri@vt.edu

Hello all, The graduate students are in a pinned point of a disadvantage when it comes to increasing housing and living expense in Blacksburg. Our paychecks increase by about 50-70 dollars each year which in no way catches up to the increasing prices. For example, my rent has increased by 132 a month for next year. Especially in the case of international grad students, they cannot have any other source of income due to the limitations of a student visa and have no option but to reduce their quality of life to make up for the increase. Graduate students love VT and are proud of being in grad school in VT but increasing life expenses makes the experience a lot less fun and productive. Thank you for considering this point.

Shourya Mukherjee, Student, shouryam@vt.edu, Phone: +1 (540) 449-3609

I have an assistantship which takes care of my tuition fee, but increase in comprehensive fees might affect me since I have to pay that, and I only live on my stipend to pay my bills and rent. An increase of around \$50-80 might be bearable still, yet I would rather prefer comprehensive fees stays the same.

Nigel Wright, Student, Nigelg@vt.edu

I am opposed to raising grad student comprehensive fees. This takes away from my funding and impacts my ability to feed, house, and provide for myself while completing my graduate degree.

Jian Liu, Student, jianl@vt.edu

The increase of mandatory fees will make it harder for PhD student to live with the low salary. I think this increased fee should be optional rather than mandatory.

Christopher Jelesnianski, Student, bielsk1@vt.edu

As you may know grad students live, and depend on, their Teaching Assistantships and Research Assistantships, (GRAs/GTAs). I am graduate student continuing my studies from undergrad and do not have much saved up. So these TA/RAs I receive each semester are my sole source of income. Currently, I feel these sources of income are barely adequate, and not luxurious by any means. Research is time consuming. Office hours are time consuming. In reality graduate students do not really have the extra time in our schedules to afford a second job. Therefore, any increase in comprehensive fees cuts into our finances and gives us less to take care of ourselves. From personal experience of the university, I feel student health services, counseling services, transit services, and wireless network are more than outstanding, and greatly oppose this increase in Tuition/Fees.

Ali Hassani, Student, Ahassani@vt.edu

Hi I am a grad student at VT. I am writing this comment to show my opposition to increase of comprehensive fee for students in upcoming semesters. (\$103 as mandatory fee) The living cost in Blacksburg is so high in compare of many other places, especially the housing cost. The number of admitted students are so more than the rental places and the owners are increasing the rents dramatically. The current comprehensive fee is one of the highest in nation. VT does provide the same services as many other schools with much less comprehensive fee and students pay for services that not all of them use them. Other services such as gym or library are more expensive than other schools with same services. The GAs salaries are barely enough with current comp fee. In the next semesters, due to removing many parking lots, a lot of students wanna return to Blacksburg and the housing becomes

worse and the rents are increasing just from now. Generally, the salary of GAs are not enough for compensating current living costs and definitely increasing the comp fee is not fair.

mana Jalali, Student, manaj2@vt.edu

I simply can NOT afford an increase in the comprehensive fee. And I stay in a cheap 3 bed-1 bath apartment. Year by year the cost of living in Blacksburg is increasing but the TA and RA funds remain almost the same. An increase in the comprehensive fee literally can cause me go into debt.

Zakia Ahmed, Student, zakiaahmed@vt.edu

Graduate students are required to pay ~\$2700 in comprehensive fees each year. This is a substantial amount that we pay out-of-pocket and already causes financial strain in our day-to-day life. The cost of an apartment in Blacksburg has increased recently because of the influx of students (with over-admitting undergraduate students being one of the main causes). Many of us will experience monthly increases in rent of ~\$100. We have tried talking to our rental agency, but they would not budge on the rent hike. Some of us are fortunate to have GTA, GRA, and GA contracts, but even then we struggle to save the money for comprehensive fees. Please reconsider the increases and how it will affect graduate students. We are grateful to be pursuing further education. It comes with many hardships and struggles, but it would be a relief to not have to worry about our financial stability so that we can focus on our research and contribute to the academic/research reputation of the university.

Nazmus Sakib, Student, nazmus.sakib@vt.edu

Because of influx of students in Blacksburg, our rent has gone up about 8%-10% per person per month. We are already paying extra from our pockets to compensate for the increase in rent. The onset of COVID-19 spread also left us vulnerable as we had to secure essential equipment for us and our families. Its impact on the entire economy is yet to be experienced. In these times a \$103 of tuition and fee increase would cause lower financial stability for graduate students. I urge the university administrators to reconsider the proposal.

Jun Xiao, Student, junx@vt.edu

I can understand the increase of student healthcare. But I don;t understand the reason of increasing fees on other area like the wireless network. Can you explain that?

Md Jubayer al Mahmod, Student, jubayer@auburn.edu

I chose Virginia Tech to pursue my Ph.D. degree because of its reputation. However, the housing cost and comprehensive fees are extremely high in Blacksburg. It has become very difficult to cover the living and educational costs from the research funding I receive. I would greatly appreciate if the board can waive these comprehensive fees for student living off-campus. On top of that, if the Board decides to increase fees, I may have to change school.

Jiarui Xu, Student, jiaruixu@vt.edu

I feel that the increase in comprehensive fee will add more stress to graduate students. I got around \$860 every half month (after subtracting tax and comprehensive fee). I need to pay my rent for \$500-\$600 and living expenses. So I do not have much money left every month (maybe around \$100). I cannot deal with any emergency that might happen in my life. I hope our university can consider this. Thanks!

Student

Hello, As a graduate student, I feel that the payment of comprehensive fees is ridiculous, let alone increasing the fees. These fees already represent a significant percentage of our yearly pay which is already, in my opinion, quite low. Graduate students bring highly skilled labor to the school, and are integral to its research and teaching operations, and I believe their pay should reflect that. While I can appreciate the argument that school tuition should also be included when considering graduate student pay, I believe that tuition itself is heavily inflated and is another issue entirely. Additionally, there are many graduate students who are finished with coursework and are not taking classes. My complaints are especially true for my fellow graduate students supporting families, who tell me that they are dipping into poverty levels. I believe that the increase to graduate student comprehensive fees should not be considered and, in fact, the fees themselves should be reconsidered. I have no doubt that Virginia Tech, through tuition and other sources, is able to fund the various services that these fees are supposedly covering. Thank you.

A K M Fazla Mehrab, Student, mehrab@vt.edu

Dear concerned, As a graduate research assistant, I get to work a maximum 20hrs/week. The salary I get in exchange is my only source of income. As a result, my income is less than a minimum wage worker gets to earn in a month. On the other hand, housing in Blacksburg is expensive, and the rent is getting higher each year. I also have a dependent here, who is not permitted to work in the US according to her visa status. Therefore, both of us have to live on my minimal income from the assistantship. Needless to say, when about \$340 is deducted every month for the comprehensive fees from my bank account, I find it very difficult to meet my essential needs. Now, if the VT Board of Visitors decides to increase the comprehensive fees by any amount, then I have no idea how I am going to survive in Blacksburg and finish my study here with my minimal earning. However, I am sure it is going to put me in a tougher economic situation. I am pretty sure the situation of the other students, living on GRA/GTA/GA, is more or less the same. I hope the VT Board of Visitors will consider our condition seriously, and, instead of increasing the comprehensive fees, they will figure some way out which can improve our living standard. Thanks, A K M Fazla Mehrab

Student

I oppose the increase in fees due to the following reasons: 1- Currently we have a housing problem in Blacksburg, where all housing properties have increased their rents A LOT more than normal annual increase. My leasing management, for example, has increased my rent by 60 dollars per month, while usually they increased the rent by less than 15 dollars. The situation is the same and even worse for all of my friends. 2. GRA and GTA are the main source of income for most of grad students, and international students are not allowed to work in addition to their GRA or GTA contracts. With this situation in mind, it is difficult to make ends meet for most of the students, and we cannot afford to pay more for tuition and fees. If this charge is necessary, I ask that GTA and GRA income also increases by the same amount.

Rabita Bane, Student, rabita@vt.edu

As an international student, we already struggle to maintain our daily livelihood with the limited income here. The increasing housing cost and other necessities have gone beyond the capacity of most of the students. Graduate students like me have dependents, which brings additional financial responsibilities

to maintain. Graduate students' salary has not increased keeping up with the same rate as other expenses. For example, renting one bedroom in a two bedroom apartment was between \$300-\$400 even two years back, which is now between \$550-\$650. The comprehensive fee was around \$1250 in the 2017-2018 academic year, but now we have to pay about \$1350. The salary of Graduate Assistants has been stagnant over the past years. Some schools such as the Pamplin Business School pays so poor to their GAs that it seems very unfair and demotivating to work for the school. Increasing the tuition and fees not only economically affects the students, it also mentally stresses them out. As a result, quality research is hampered as many have to worry about financial stability. Moreover, not all departments pay the same stipend to their GAs. The authority should take all these issues into account before increasing tuition and fees. I, as an international graduate student, humbly request to reconsider the matter of increasing tuition and fees. Thank you.

Ali Hosseini Fahraji, Student, alih91@vt.edu

As a graduate student, tuition fees, especially mandatory fees, should not be raised. Mandatory fees were high compare to the income of graduate students. Given the rising cost of living in Blacksburg, in particular renting accommodation, as well as the lack of pay rises in recent years, these fee increases are not fair and put graduate students in a difficult situation and bring more pressure on them.

Sunny Wadkar, Student, sunnywadkar@vt.edu

Graduate Studies are expensive and increasing the tuition would make it difficult for many people like me who are international students. So, I don't want the tuition fees to be increased.

Concerned Student, Student

I am a graduate student who continues to have to put these fees and insurance on my credit card, which I struggle to pay off with the rather sad stipend I receive. I find it absurd that, during this time of exceptional need, the board of visitors still appears to be contemplating increasing the hardship on students while the world is literally crumbling around us. We are having students who will graduate into an economy which is crashing, with jobs shut down indefinitely. If you decide to increase this burden in these uncertain times, may your greed keep you from sleeping peacefully.

Natalie White, Student, (615) 971-9179

I am writing to express my concern and frustration over the proposed increase in graduate student comprehensive fees for the next academic year, 2020-2021. According to my own research on the latest posted graduate fee rates, VT engineering students will pay more in the next academic year than 4 out of 5 of the top engineering schools in the nation if the proposed increases are approved.

Simultaneously, VT graduate stipends are among the lowest in the US. Despite the relatively low cost of living in Blacksburg, housing close to campus is expensive and food prices are continually increasing. I am certain that VT is invested in the recruitment of the highest performing students in the nation and abroad. These competitive students will most likely be admitted to top programs such as MIT and UC Berkeley, and the combination of lower stipends with higher fees is a major deterrent to those considering VT for their graduate education. On a personal note, as my husband and I are expecting a baby during our PhD education next year, financial demands will significantly increase and the extra cost would be a significant burden on our little family. These costs add to the existing mental and physical stresses and grueling nature of graduate programs in general. Because of these reasons, I strongly urge

the Board of Visitors to consider the impact this fee increase will have on all current and future graduate students.

Khanh To, Student, khanhto@vt.edu

I honestly do not enjoy hearing that my fees are going up as my pay has not gone up sufficiently to accomodate the combination of raised rent, raised parking permits, and now raised Tuition and Fees. Frank Studentwanyef@vt.edu Increasing mandatory and E&G fees will place an undue financial strain on graduate students like me. In the face of inflation and rising housing prices (which the university contributes towards through over-enrollment), many of us struggle to pay rent and keep food on our table, even with assistantships. Those not lucky enough to have an assistantship will be hit even harder, seeing as their tuition fees will increase as well. Considering that our work as graduate students directly benefits the university, I ask that you reconsider the proposed tuition and fee increases for graduate students.

Sheik Murad Hassan Anik, Student, murad@vt.edu

I am an international graduate student at Virginia Tech and I am serving as a graduate teaching assistant (GTA). As a graduate student, it is already difficult to maintain our lives with our limited income. We get paid around \$1400 after the fees and taxes and it is very hard for us to maintain our expenses. You have to at least live in a studio or a single bedroom apartment when your spouse lives with you. The spouse of international students cannot work so you have to bear all expenses. A single bed apartment cost around \$900 in Blacksburg (which is one of the cheapest). There are very few studio apartments that cost around \$700. So, you can see that we are left with a small amount of money after the rent. With that small amount, we have to plan our food, travel, bills and every other expense. It creates extra pressure and burden on our mind which generates demotivation and depression. This affects our work and research. Our research work will undoubtedly improve if we did not have to worry about our financial stability. I request the authority to take all these issues into account before making any decision on increasing tuition and fees. We are already paid poorly and I believe the authority should increase the pay of graduate assistants rather than increasing tuition and fees. As an international graduate student, I humbly request the authority to reconsider the matter of increasing tuition and fees.

sadia ahmed, Student, sadiaa7@vt.edu

As an international student, graduate assistantship is my only source of income. Due to high demand and low supply, rent is increasing at an extreme rate in Blacksburg. Since parking pass is also very expensive, I am forced to stay near campus as well. We already pay a high amount as complementary fee from paychecks. If my tuition and fee increase again, without an increase in salary, it would be almost impossible to do grocery after paying all the bills.

March 3, 2020

Board of Visitors Tuition Hearing Comments

Since 2000, tuition has tripled at Tech. The family incomes and the student employee wages used to pay that tuition have not. I have trouble understanding how or why the cost of education ^{in state} at our school has been allowed to run so wildly amuck in just two decades. Regardless of the reasons for the staggering gap that has opened up, it is clear now that we need to- at a bare minimum- stem the rising tide of the cost of education in this country. That starts at our school.

It would be one thing if the value of education provided here had tripled along with the cost. If we were able to go into the work force and find jobs that paid three times as much as the jobs the class of 2000 found. It is obvious this is not the case. It is equally obvious that the money in this tuition hike, just like the past nineteen hikes, will not increase the monetary value of the education provided by our school.

This is especially insulting to students who have to work to afford their education here. During my time working at Owens, I met several students who would work twelve hour shifts and well over twenty hours a week in addition to full class loads in order to pay tuition. While I could get into the questionable and anti-meritocratic ethics surrounding a system where poorer students are forced to sell their study time back to the school, in the interest of keeping to the subject of the proposed tuition increase, I'll simply say that I think the effects of a tuition hike on these students are clear.

If somehow it is still not clear- the fallout from the coronavirus has aggravated all of these problems. Both my roommates lost their jobs with dining services due to the virus, and will be unlikely to find new employment until the epidemic has passed. The same is true for working families, being cut down on hours or from their positions entirely- often without paid sick leave. In the wake of such a public health and economic crisis, it would be unconscionable to ask those students and families to scrape together a couple hundred more dollars so you can "support the university's strategic plan within the context of various budget implications". I ask you, above all, to consider the impact any tuition increase will have on these students and families- already paying triple what was paid twenty years ago with barely any rise in wages or household incomes to compensate for it.

Respectfully,
Steven Warren