



OAKLAND
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

Memo

TO: Chancellor Tim Meyer

FROM: Charlott Couch
Jennifer Craft
Mike Khirallah

DATE: July 1, 2013

SUBJECT: Out of State/International Tuition Increase

On behalf of the ESL Discipline, we are writing about the recent approval of a **58%** tuition increase to \$305/credit hour for newly admitted out-of-state and international students. We believe that this increase will harm both the students and the institution for the following reasons:

*Newly-admitted international students (and any student on a non-immigrant visa) will face a financial burden that is not in proportion to increases for other students at the college (**7% increase for current and newly-admitted in-district students, 11% increase for current and newly-admitted out-of-district students, and 11% increase for returning out-of-state/international students**). We believe that these students will choose not to enroll at OCC, opting to enroll in area community colleges where the cost is more competitive (Schoolcraft/\$195, Macomb/\$176, Wayne CCC/\$140, and Henry Ford/\$147).

*The loss of these students will impact not only ESL credit classes – but many non-ESL courses throughout the college. While some students on non-immigrant visas take only ESL classes, many do not because they are already at college level. *For example, a sample of the students at one campus (OR) reveals a wide range of degrees and programs these students are pursuing: CIS, Culinary Arts, Liberal Arts, Nursing, Early Childhood Development, Mental Health, Respiratory Therapy, Paralegal, Graphic Design, Health Care Administration, Hospital Pharmacy Technology, Interior Design, and numerous others..* With over 400 F1 students alone enrolled in any long semester (fall or winter) taking at least 12 credit hours, these students represent over 5000 credit hours.

*F-1 non-immigrant visa students will not be the only non-immigrant visa group affected; indeed, the 58% increase will apply to all non-immigrant visa students with the exception of au pairs. This will dramatically affect our ability to enroll even H-1b visas (those on work visas) and their families. Many businesses including the auto industry and its suppliers employ H-1s; more importantly, one of Governor Snyder's top priorities is an increase in both F1s and H1s for the future business growth of Michigan.

*The impact of a decline of international students will represent a retreat from OCC's long history of providing educational opportunities for members of our international community; in addition, these students provide a much-needed global exchange for native speakers of English throughout the college.

While we certainly understand the Board of Trustees' need to increase tuition to provide additional revenue, we respectfully request that OCC reconsider this harmful increase. No one argues that international students should pay more given their status in this country; however, we believe that any increase should be more commensurate with what is being asked of all students at the college.

pc: Vice Chancellor Richard Holcomb
Associate Vice-Chancellor Cathey Maze
President Gordon May
President Steve Reif
President Jackie Shadko
Dean Sally Hanna
International Student Advisors
ESL Discipline