



University of Connecticut
*Office of the Vice President and
 Chief Financial Officer*

August 3, 2011

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Peter J. Nicholls
 Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Richard D. Gray
 Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

RE: Fiscal Year 2012 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences On-Line Graduate Courses in Geographic Information Systems (Institutional Fee)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve a new institutional fee for Fiscal Year 2012: a course fee of \$680 per credit hour for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences on-line graduate courses in Geographic Information Systems.

BACKGROUND:

The University has an established student fee review process that categorizes the fees as follows: (1.) Institutional Fees, which require central administrative approval, such as Tuition, Room, Board, Infrastructure Maintenance Fee and self-supporting programs; (2.) Academic Materials Fees, which are for consumables and instructional materials that are specific to a particular course or major; and (3.) Student Fees, which include the General University Fee and student activity and service fees. Senior Management charged permanent committees with promoting a fee structure for the academic and student fees that supports excellence, provides comprehensive procedures, and is uniform without sacrificing efficiency and flexibility.

Institutional Fees are proposed by the University leadership as the budgets for these fees are largely driven by what it takes to run the program. This fee will be assessed to College of Liberal Arts and Sciences students enrolled in these on-line graduate courses. Please note that this is a pilot program.

	FY11	FY12
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>
Course Specific Fee		
On-Line Graduate Courses		
in Geographic Information Systems	\$0	\$680/per credit

See attached summary proposal.

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University of Connecticut
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
On-Line Graduate Courses in Geographic Information Systems Fee
Fiscal Year 2012

I. Proposed Action

- A. **Description of Fee:** The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is proposing to charge a per credit fee for On-Line Graduate Courses in Geographic Information Sciences (GIS). Students would not pay University tuition, as they would pay a per credit course fee for each course taken. The per-credit course fee would include the Infrastructure Maintenance Fee (IMF).
- B. **Description of Recommended Revision:** This fee would be effective Spring 2012. As this is a pilot program, the rate structure proposed for these on-line graduate courses in GIS will initially follow a similar methodology that is used to calculate the per credit fee for the School of Business On-line MS in Accounting and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences On-line Graduate Certificate Program in Survey Research in the Department of Public Policy.
- C. **Basis for Requested Increase:** The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences On-Line Certificate Program in GIS will be totally dependent on enrollment-driven revenues, therefore there needs to be an adequate revenue stream to cover costs and re-invest in the program.
- D. **Students Affected:** Students enrolled in the On-Line Graduate Certificate Program in GIS will be affected. It is anticipated that most of these students will be professionals employed full-time by private firms or by state and local governments.
- E. **Proposed Date of Revision Implementation:** The proposed date for implementing the \$680 per credit hour fee is Spring 2012.

II. Analysis

- A. **Fiscal Need for Fee Revision:** The revenues generated by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences On-Line Graduate Certificate Program in GIS will be essential to sustaining and enhancing the success of the program.
- B. **Impact Statement:** The On-Line Graduate Certificate Program in GIS is designed to be self-supporting. If the fee is not approved, courses cannot be offered.
- C. **Comparative Student Costs:** A study designed to identify similar programs and evaluate demand for our program revealed that there are approximately 15 on-line GIS certificates currently available nationwide.