Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges

Meeting Date**: November 12, 2026**

Agenda Item: **4.1**

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

Committee: **Fiscal, Facilities, & Audit Committee**

Action Item: **Revisions to Policy 6500 – Tuition Rates**

Revisions to Policy 6500 - Tuition Rates includes adding a definition in Section B for Early Entry Credit Courses that mirrors the definition included in Policy 4420 - High School Dual Credit Courses. It also adds section C. 8. Early Entry Credit Course Rate that establishes that the early entry credit course rate will be inclusive of tuition and fees, and that the rate must include the Capital Improvement Fee. These revisions formalize the distinction between dual enrollment tuition rate and the early entry credit course rate.

The System Office recommends approval of Revisions to Policy 6500 – Tuition Rates.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Policy 6500 Revisions

Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges

Business and Finance

POLICY NAME: Tuition Rates

POLICY NUMBER: 6500

A. PURPOSE

To establish tuition rates for the Colleges.

B. DEFINITIONS

1. **Blended Course:** A course taught using two separately registered groups of students enrolled in the same course at one College: online students and students receiving instruction face to face in the classroom.
2. **Dual Enrollment Course:** A course taught to high school students for which the students receive both high school credit and college credit.
3. **Early Entry Credit Courses:** Coursework completed by high school students prior to the completion of their high school diploma, which solely earns college credit. Students taking early entry credit courses are eligible to enroll in regular college courses for sections designated by the institution, at a rate established by the Board that is inclusive of tuition and fees.
4. **Hybrid Course:** A course taught using a combination of two (2) instructional modalities, namely face-to-face faculty instruction and online, instructor-led asynchronous or synchronous learning activities.
5. **Online Course:** A course taught with 75% or more of instruction delivered via the Internet.
6. **Professional Development Course:** Training, continuing education, and/or professional development activities offered by external organizations or entities that are approved by the College for academic credit.
7. **Tuition**: The rate charged per credit hour for instruction.

C. POLICY

1. Board Authorization

The Board shall fix and collect tuition for resident, non-resident, undergraduate and graduate students who matriculate at the Colleges. The Board shall also fix

and collect an online rate for online courses. The approved rates shall be effective for the academic year which includes fall, spring, and the subsequent summer term.

2. Setting Base Tuition Rates

The Board will advocate sufficient funding from the state to maintain affordable tuition so more citizens can avail themselves of the opportunity to attend college. Factors which may be considered in establishing tuition rates will include, but not be limited to availability of general funds, resource requirements of the Colleges, peer comparisons, consumer price index, higher education price index, availability of student financial assistance and changes in regional per capita income.

2.1. Guidelines

When setting the rates, the following will be used as guidelines:

- Graduate resident and non-resident tuition will be set at approximately one hundred twenty-five percent (125%) of the undergraduate resident rate.
- There will be one rate for undergraduate and one rate for graduate online courses. The graduate rate will generally be set at approximately one hundred twenty-five percent (125%) of the undergraduate rate. However, special undergraduate and/or graduate online rates may be established by the Board for specific programs. In addition, the differential between undergraduate and graduate may vary in years where extenuating circumstances arise that warrant an adjustment to either rate.
- In recognition of the value of a diverse student population and the fact that the Colleges' service regions that extend beyond the Nebraska borders, non-resident undergraduate tuition may be set at the same rate as the undergraduate resident rate and non-resident graduate tuition may be set at the same rate as the graduate resident rate.

3. On-Campus and Center Tuition Rates

Courses taught on-campus and at Board approved Centers shall be assessed the Board approved rates based on the level of the course.

3.1. Blended Courses

The on-campus section of a blended course, shall be assessed the on-campus rate or Center rate.

3.2. Hybrid Courses

The on-campus rate or Center rate will be assessed on all hybrid courses.

4. Online Tuition Rates

Courses taught online shall be assessed the Board approved rates based on the level of the course. The online rate will be inclusive of tuition and fees.

4.1. Blended Courses

The online section of a blended course, shall be assessed the online rates.

4.2. Capital Improvement Fee

The online rate includes the Capital Improvement Fee. Each College will assure credit to the Capital Improvement Fee account out of the online tuition rate.

5. Special Tuition Rates

The Board may establish special tuition rates for on-campus and off-campus students based on programs in other states, consortiums, compacts, or based on competitiveness. The Colleges may also request special tuition rates for off-campus locations or special arrangements.

6. Dual Enrollment Rate

High school dual enrollment courses are taught to high school students for which the students receive both high school credit and college credit as described in Policy 4420. Any high school dual enrollment tuition rate will be inclusive of tuition and fees.

7. Professional Development Rate

Professional development courses as described in Policy 4440 may include training, continuing education, and/or professional development activities offered by external organizations or entities that are approved by the Colleges for academic credit and are eligible for the pProfessional dDevelopment tTuition rRate. The professional development tuition rate will be inclusive of tuition and fees.

7.1. Capital Improvement Fee

The professional development rate includes the Capital Improvement Fee. Each College will assure credit to the Capital Improvement Fee out of the professional development tuition rate.

8. Early Entry Credit Course Rate

College coursework completed by high school students prior to completion of their high school diploma which solely earns college credit as described in Policy 4420. The early entry credit course rate will be inclusive of tuition and fees.

8.1. Capital Improvement Fee

The early entry credit course rate includes the Capital Improvement Fee. Each College will assure credit to the Capital Improvement Fee out of the early entry credit course tuition rate.

FORMS/APPENDICES:

None

SOURCE:

Legal Reference:	Neb. Rev. Stat.	85-501	State educational institutions; nonresident fees.
	Neb. Rev. Stat.	85-503	State educational institutions; tuition.

Policy Adopted: March 1994

Policy Revised: February 2005, September 2007, April 2009, September 2011, June 2012, June 2013, September 2013, June 2018, June 2019, June 2020, November 2020, July 2021, July 2022, June 2023, January 2026 – effective date Fall Term 2026, November 2026 – effective date Spring Term 2027