

Out of state tuition costs



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Out of State Tuition Costs A large problem for many college students is the cost of tuition and yearly tuition increases.

Many students do not possess the luxury of having parents willing to pay for their tuition. Most aren't even granted some sort of scholarship or grant to help them out with the cost. A good number are left to find a college they can afford and at the same time work full or part time to pay for it. But the big problem here is the out of state tuition costs.

Why should someone who lives in the next state over have to pay almost double what students in that state are paying. A student in our group claims that because she lives in Ohio, only twenty minutes away from school, she must pay almost eleven thousand dollars per year to attend Northern Kentucky University. Students, such as our other group members, may live further away from school and only pay about six thousand dollars a year because they are Kentucky residents. Ohioans' may not feel so negative toward this difference if Indiana wasn't receiving special treatment.

Because there are not many universities in Indiana, Kentucky has made an agreement with them. Indiana students will pay the same tuition as Kentucky, because of their lack of universities. Why allow one state special privilege's and not the others? By allowing anyone to attend at the same cost, more students will be able to attend the college of their choice without the added fees. Some students are forced into colleges they do not necessarily like or want to attend, because of out of state cost or penalties. By changing this policy students will be able to attend any college without feeling any pressure from being out of state.

Lets face it paying for college is hard enough why make it worse on kids who are struggling as it is. A simple solution to this well-developed problem would be to have a flat rate for all universities. Instead of having in-state and out-of-state tuitions, there should be one single tuition rate for all students. Each university is different; some are more challenging than others, so the tuition cost would be more expensive for those particular schools. However, to make cost fair to all, there should be one flat rate for in-state and out-of-state; no variances.

By doing so, it will result in more students attending the university of their choice. There are students who wish to go to a particular university, but cannot because of the cost. NKU is one school that follows an in-state and out-of-state tuition difference. Those in Kentucky pay a smaller amount of money than those in the other tri states such as Ohio. This makes some Ohioans not want to attend NKU because it is more expensive and is seen as treating students unfairly. If NKU had a flat rate for Ohio, Kentucky, and even students from California, the student body would become more diverse.

According to James Votruba, President of NKU, he states that NKU depends on tuition rather than any other university in Kentucky. NKU receives less support from other parts of Kentucky, and must cover any increases, such as healthcare, with increases in tuition. NKU's tuition also covers the hiring of additional faculty and staff. NKU is starting to broaden the university by building new structures, such as the new Student Union.

These expansions suggest that the tuition paid by the students covers all kinds of expenses throughout the university. This is why there is such a

difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition. For the 2007-2008 school years at NKU, in-state residents pay \$2, 796 each semester while out-of-states residents (except Indiana which pays in-state) pay \$5, 388 each semester. Those that are not full time students pay per credit hour which also varies if you are an in-state student or out-of-state student.

Another solution that could work is to charge a flat rate for any students within a 100 mile radius of NKU. Those students, as well as Kentuckians, would pay in-state tuition costs while people out of the 100 mile radius would pay out-of-state. With these solutions, there is a good chance NKU will lose money. However, there is a great likelihood that these changes will bring in more students to the university, which therefore will not affect a great loss of money. As of Fall 2006, there were 10, 212 residents enrolled at NKU from Kentucky and 4, 426 from other states (including Ohio and Indiana).

If these solutions came about, there would be a greater number of out-of-state residents wishing to attend NKU as the tuition is competitive with their home-state's tuitions. The President of the Institution, Bursar Officer of Operations, and Kentucky Government would be notified of these proposals. They would have to accept the suggestions in order for them to take place. These solutions would solve the tuition problem that affects many out-of-state students as well as future students at NKU. There are many different possible solutions we could choose from to fix the rising tuition problem here at NKU.

We as a group feel that the most direct solution we could take is to instill one price for tuition throughout the school, regardless of what state you come

from. Granted, the separate colleges within NKU (The Chase College of Law, for example) would have a higher tuition than the rest of the school, but that would still be a fixed rate for everyone. The dorm rules would still apply, in that if you live outside the Greater Cincinnati area, or “within reasonable commuting limits,” you would still be required to have a dorm. The dorm rates would not change. If Northern Kentucky University had a consistent tuition price with all students, we would have a much greater influx of students.

This would make up for tuition losses of cutting the out of state tuition, curbing the effects of lost money for healthcare as said by James Votruba. As clearly stated by Stephanie Baker, there are obviously more students at NKU who come from Ohio than those who come from Indiana. If tuition cost were the same all around, then more students would come from Ohio. More students would weigh the options of going to a private education level school for a public school cost rather than going to a public school that would not be as beneficial for them, such as the University of Cincinnati. The one price tuition solution is easier to enforce than the one hundred mile radius rule.

Some students argue the rule, claiming they live barely outside the one hundred mile radius. It would be unfair to not grant people in that situation the same funds. However, if we granted those exceptions the same tuition rate, nothing would change, and tuition hikes could continue. It also makes less sense because describing tuition rates on the website or to a person would become lengthy and confusing, as well as the fact that people won't be able to compare prices of schools because they will not know off the top

of their heads how far away from the school they are. Using the one price method would appease the greatest number of people.

I suppose, to a certain extent, it is understandable that the tuition hikes are occurring. Construction is well underway for our new Student Union Center, as well as the Arena, and our tuition goes to pay for that. But, it is unfair to raise prices that much, and it is unfair that people living so close—yet out of state—should have to pay nearly double what people in state pay. It is rather clear that Northern Kentucky University would thrive if they made tuition costs more affordable and equal across the board. If NKU would do this, they would make more money, have a more diverse student base, and have more students who could potentially develop a better on campus lifestyle.

NKU could really grow, and with the necessary financial improvements it could happen a lot more rapidly than anyone can imagine.