Board of Regents Special Meeting

April 2020

April 3, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Video Conference

BOR - APR 3, 2020 - Special Meeting

1. COVID-19: Comprehensive Student Fee Refund Plan - Review/Action

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BOARD OF REGENTS
DOCKET ITEM SUMMARY

Board of Regents **April 3, 2020**

AGENDA ITEM: COVID-19: Comprehensive Student Fee Refund Plan

☐ **Review** ☒ **Review + Action** ☐ **Action** ☐ **Discussion**

☐ *This is a report required by Board policy.*

PRESENTERS: President Joan T.A. Gabel

PURPOSE & KEY POINTS

The purpose of this item is Board of Regents review and action on a comprehensive student fee refund plan, in light of Governor Tim Walz' recent Stay-at-Home order and the rapidly changing circumstances associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The comprehensive student fee refund plan is systemwide and includes the following:

- **Housing and Residential Life:** Students who have a spring semester contract for any Housing and Residential Life service (housing, dining plans, and flex-dine/dining dollar), on any campus, will receive a 100% credit from March 28, 2020 through the end date of their housing and dining contracts. This credit does not apply to students who have remained on campus or are a resident of a University-managed residence hall or apartment.

- **Voluntary Meal Plans**: Students on the Twin Cities campus with block, standard 11-meal, 14-meal or anytime voluntary meal plans will receive a 100% credit of prorated expenses from March 28, 2020 through the end of the spring semester.

- **Parking Fees:** Students who have paid for parking on the Crookston, Duluth, Morris, or Twin Cities campuses will receive a 100% refund of their parking fee from March 28, 2020 to the end of the semester contract. Rochester has no University-owned parking.

- **Recreation and Wellness Fee:** Students on the Crookston, Duluth, Morris, and Twin Cities campuses will receive a prorated credit equivalent to refunding fees from March 28, 2020 through May 15, 2020. Students on the Rochester campus will not be charged for April and May fees from the Rochester YMCA since the YMCA will, in turn, not be billing UMR for this time period.

- **Student Services Fee:** In recognition that student groups are no longer able to meet in person, although many continue to meet virtually, and other student service activities are modified from original plans, the University will refund a total of 50% of the student services

fee (the Rec Center refund plus an additional amount to equal 50% of the total student services fee on each campus) that would have applied from March 28, 2020 through May 15, 2020.

- **Transportation and Safety Fee:** Students on the Duluth and Twin Cities campuses will receive a prorated credit equivalent to refunding fees from March 28, 2020 through May 15, 2020. Crookston, Morris, and Rochester campuses do not charge this fee.

Credits/refunds under this plan are estimated to total $27,824,000 as shown in the summary of estimated revenue loss included in this docket.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On March 22, 2020, the University announced a University Housing & Residential Life credit of $1,000 to students on the Crookston, Duluth, Morris and Rochester campuses, and $1,200 to students on the Twin Cities campus, for the balance of the spring semester. It was determined that this decision would be brought to the Board for ratification or alternate action.

At 11:59 p.m. on March 27, 2020, Governor Tim Walz' Stay-at-Home executive order went into effect, prohibiting anyone from returning to campus who was not already living on campus or who was designated as an essential employee who must be on-site, or on-campus, to perform their work. In light of the Governor's Stay-at-Home order, among other considerations, the President now recommends the comprehensive student fee refund plan outlined above.

PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

The President recommends approval of the comprehensive student fee refund plan.

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Summary – Estimated Revenue Loss from Student Refunds Under Consideration

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Campus	**Tier 1 Announced H&RL Credit $1,200 (TC) and $1,000 (other campuses)**	**Tier 2 100% H&RL Credit from March 28* to End of Semester**	**Tier 3 Parking from March 28* to End of Semester**	**Tier 4 Rec Center - 100% Credit from March 28* to End of Semester**	**Tier 5 Transp. & Safety Fee – 100% Credit from March 28* to End of Semester**	**Tier 6 Remainder of Student Services Fee to 50% Credit**	**Total Estimated Revenue Loss**
UMC	$417,000	$122,000	$13,000	$26,000	NA	$15,000	**$593,000**
UMD	$2,695,000	$941,000	$177,000	$295,000	$54,000	$270,000	**$4,432,000**
UMM	$592,000	$465,000	$17,000	$57,000	NA	$64,000	**$1,195,000**
UMR	$220,000	$6,000	NA	**	NA	**	**$226,000**
UMTC	$8,747,000	$7,961,000	$348,000	$1,763,000	$467,000	$2,092,000	**$21,378,000**
Totals	**$12,671,000**	**$9,495,000**	**$555,000**	**$2,141,000**	**$521,000**	**$2,441,000**	**$27,824,000**
	Running Total:	**$22,166,000**	**$22,721000**	**$24,862,000**	**$25,383,000**	**$27,824,000**	

*March 28 is the first day of the Governor's Stay-at-Home Order.

**University of Minnesota Rochester will provide a credit of the "unused pass-through fees," including to the YMCA. The campus will not be billed for these pass-through services so the credit will should have no financial impact on the campus.

Note: The estimated revenue loss for housing and residential life is a calculation based on the "most common" student choice for housing contract and dining plan, plus an estimate of revenue loss from "voluntary meal plan" only contracts, because:

- some students will remain on campus,
- actual costs per student vary greatly, and
- the actual numbers of students paying mandatory fees in spring semester are estimates, the final revenue loss will not be known until the refunds are processed.

Summary – Estimated Revenue Loss from Student Fee Refunds Under Consideration

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Campus	Tier 1 Announced H&RL Credit $1,200 (TC) and $1,000 (other campuses)	Tier 2 100% H&RL Credit from March 28* to End of Semester	Tier 3 Parking from March 28* to End of Semester	Tier 4 Rec Center - 100% Credit from March 28* to End of Semester	Tier 5 Transp. & Safety Fee – 100% Credit from March 28* to End of Semester	Tier 6 Remainder of Student Services Fee to 50% Credit	Total Estimated Revenue Loss
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