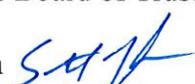
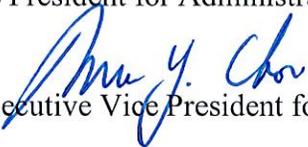




April 29, 2015

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Scott A. Jordan 
Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer

Mun Y. Choi 
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Fiscal Year 2016 Certificate Entry into Nursing Program Fee (Self-Supporting Program)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve a revised Self-Supporting Program Fee for Fiscal Year 2016 of \$31,410 for the Certificate Entry into Nursing BS Degree (CEIN_BS) Program.

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 Program Fees; (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.

This Self-Supporting Program Fee is proposed by the University leadership. See attached summary proposal.

	<u>FY15 Actual</u>	<u>FY16 Proposed</u>
CEIN-BS Program	\$28,560	\$31,410

Office of the Executive Vice President for
Administration and Chief Financial Officer
352 MANSFIELD ROAD, UNIT 1122
GULLEY HALL
STORRS, CT 06269-1122
PHONE 860.486.3455
FAX 860.486.1070

University of Connecticut - Storrs and Regional Campuses
School of Nursing
Certificate Entry into Nursing BS Program Fee
Fiscal Year 2016

I. Proposed Action

- A. Program Overview:** The School of Nursing Certificate Entry into Nursing BS Degree (CEIN_BS (formerly MEIN)) Program is a self-supporting program for students who have a bachelor's degree in a field other than nursing. This calendar year program consists of 45 credits of pre-licensure education, which enables graduates of the program to complete the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX). Upon completion of the 12 month sequence, students earn a certificate in nursing and a Bachelor of Science degree. They may also apply for the MS in nursing or the DNP with a transfer of 6 credits from the first 12 months.
- B. Description of Fee:** The CEIN_BS Program has extensive delivery costs. The comprehensive program fee covers all related program costs including program administration, clinical supervision, classroom instruction and computer-based NCLEX-like testing.
- C. Description of Recommended Revision:** We are requesting approval to charge a CEIN_BS Program Fee of \$31,410 for the January 2016 cohort. This is a 10% increase over the rate approved for the January 2015 cohort. The proposed fee equates to \$698 per credit.
- D. Basis for Requested Fee:** There has been a significant increase in program costs. Most instructors for both the clinical and didactic nursing courses are adjuncts who are accomplished clinicians and teachers. This year, we increased our adjunct faculty rate to \$3,000/credit, to be more competitive with other schools of nursing who employ adjunct faculty. In addition, we hired 2 full-time Assistant Clinical Professors to support program expansion, which has grown from 102 in calendar year 2013 to 128 in 2015.
- E. Students Affected:** The maximum number of students this program can currently handle is 128 and all students would experience the same increase.
- F. Proposed Date of Implementation:** Beginning with the January 2016 cohort.

II. Analysis

- A. Fiscal Need for Fee Revision:** As the School of Nursing CEIN_BS Program operates as a self-funded comprehensive activity, revenues from student fees must be sufficient to cover program, facility, laboratory, and simulation equipment costs. To continue to thrive and grow, the expenses and quality must be balanced. The request is based on the cost of administering and delivering the program. In order to increase the stability of the program, the School has needed to hire two new full-time assistant clinical professors. This not only improves the faculty/student ratio, which is needed for accreditation, but also creates a consistent permanent faculty teaching role. In addition, a large portion of the CEIN_BS teaching is done by adjunct faculty. The state university and community college programs have increased their adjunct faculty hourly rates to greater than \$73.82/hour with additional preparation and grading hours built into each contract. UConn's rate increased in Spring 2015 to \$62.50/hour which means that while we have come closer to meeting the standard rate for clinical adjuncts, we may still be losing qualified faculty to other schools at the same time we have expanded enrollment. Faculty efforts to enhance student preparation and first-time success rates on NCLEX now include sophisticated, computer-based nursing knowledge

and application assessments throughout the program, and a week-long test preparation course. The per-student cost for this additional service is \$600.

B. Effect on Other Institutional or Unit Programs if Fee is Disapproved:

The University of Connecticut fills a critical need by championing, increasing and enhancing the State of Connecticut's nursing workforce to meet the needs of the citizens. We prepare more new nurses each year than any other Connecticut program. With the CEIN_BS Program we are able to double the number of new nurses from those who complete our traditional baccalaureate in nursing program. Not offering this program would result in fewer nurses entering the workforce and fewer applicants to UConn's Nursing graduate programs which produce the clinical nursing leaders that shape health care delivery.

C. Comparative Student Costs: Other programs in the State of Connecticut:

- Southern Connecticut State University's second baccalaureate program (Accelerated Career Entry or ACE Program) is 53 credits and, for 2014-2015, costs \$17,000 (in-state student) or approximately \$321 per credit (with additional \$1,025 fees). For out-of-state students, the costs are \$29,962 (approximately \$565 per credit with additional fees of \$1,025).
- Fairfield University's second baccalaureate program is a minimum of 60 credits over 15 months (four semesters) at \$47,000 for the program (\$783/credit hour for 2014-2015 with additional fees of \$1,660).
- Saint Joseph's second baccalaureate program (Accelerated Second Degree or ASD Program) is 53 credits over 15 months, and for 2014-2015, costs \$39,656 (\$748 per credit with additional fees of \$1,418).
- Yale University offers the Graduate Entry Prespecialty in Nursing (GEPN) a program for non-nursing college graduates, but their program requires the student to be at Yale for three full time academic years. The student earns a certificate in Nursing (eligible for NCLEX and licensure as an RN) and then earns a master's degree. The 2013-2014 cost for the spring and fall semesters is \$16,708 each and the summer session is \$13,285 for a first year total of \$46,701 for the pre-licensure portion (\$1,139 per credit). Additional fees vary but can range from \$1,655 to \$3,565 per semester.
- Quinnipiac University's second baccalaureate program (Accelerated BSN Program) is 61 credits over 12 months, and for 2013-2014, costs approximately \$45,000 (\$738 per credit plus additional fees).

These data indicate that the proposed fee is in alignment with, and in some cases far below, other programs in Connecticut and we will remain competitive.

D. Student Involvement in Fee Revision Proposal: Upcoming information session will inform potential applicants of the fee increase.