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To: CSU Directors of Financial Aid

From: Allison G. Jones 

Response Requested By February 15, 2007
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Subject: Financial Aid – 2007-08 Cost of Attendance Allowances

At its November 29, 2006 meeting, the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) adopted student expense budgets, Attachment A, for use by the Commission for 2007-08 Cal Grant programs. The budget allowances are based on statewide averages from the 2003-04 Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS) data and adjusted to 2007-08 with the forecasted changes in the California Consumer Price Index (CPI) produced by the Department of Finance.

Attachment B reflects the 2007-08 Recommended Standard Student Budget Ranges for the California State University. These ranges were calculated using the 2003-04 SEARS data for CSU campuses and adjusting to 2007-08 based on the California CPI changes from 2003-04 through 2007-08 projections.

In order to determine the appropriate cost of attendance allowances for its students, each campus is encouraged to conduct regular assessments of expenses reasonably incurred by students in its immediate geographic area. The information reported in SEARS may also assist campuses in reviewing expenses for their students. Campuses may also consider consulting with neighboring postsecondary institutions to develop comparable budget standards. A copy of appropriate documentation regarding development of student cost of attendance allowances should be retained in files for potential review by auditors and program reviewers.

Please forward a copy of your campus 2007-08 costs of attendance (with updated 2007-08 campus fee detail) to Kristopher Stewart, Financial Aid Administrative Analyst, Academic Affairs, Student Academic Support, by February 15, 2007. Questions or comments may be directed to Mr. Stewart at (562) 951-4730 or kstewart@calstate.edu.

AGJ:MLR

Attachments (2)

cc: Presidents
Provosts/Vice Presidents, Academic Affairs
Vice Presidents, Administration
Vice Presidents/Deans, Student Affairs
Dr. Gary Reichard

CSU Campuses

Bakersfield • Channel Islands • Chico • Dominguez Hills • East Bay • Fresno • Fullerton • Humboldt • Long Beach • Los Angeles • Maritime Academy • Monterey Bay
Northridge • Pomona • Sacramento • San Bernardino • San Diego • San Francisco • San José • San Luis Obispo • San Marcos • Sonoma • Stanislaus

TABLE 1
Proposed
CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
Nine-Month Student Expense Budgets
2007- 08 Academic Year

ALLOWANCE	WITH PARENTS	ON CAMPUS HOUSING	OFF CAMPUS HOUSING
TUITION AND FEES¹	ACTUAL INSTITUTIONAL CHARGES		
BOOKS AND SUPPLIES²	\$1,386 PER ACADEMIC YEAR		
FOOD³ Per Month: Per Year:	\$ 386 / MO \$ 3,474 / YR	ACTUAL INSTITUTIONAL CHARGES ⁴	\$ 316 / MO \$ 2,844 / YR
HOUSING⁵ Per Month: Per Year:	INCLUDED IN ABOVE		\$ 716 / MO \$ 6,444 / YR
TRANSPORTATION⁶ Per Month: Per Year:	\$ 110 / MO \$ 990 / YR	\$ 88 / MO \$ 792 / YR	\$ 122 / MO \$ 1,098 / YR
PERSONAL / MISC⁷ Per Month: Per Year:	\$ 322 / MO \$ 2,898 / YR	\$ 238 / MO \$ 2,142 / YR	\$ 280 / MO \$ 2,520 / YR
CHILD / DEPENDENT CARE	REASONABLE EXPENSES WITH ADEQUATE DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED BY THE STUDENT, DEPENDING UPON AGE AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN		
LOAN FEES	FOR STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS, ACTUAL OR AVERAGE LOAN ORIGATION AND INSURANCE FEES		
TOTAL , Excluding Allowances based on actual institutional charges Per Month: Per Year:	\$ 972 / MO \$ 8,748 / YR	\$ 480 / MO \$ 4,320 / YR	\$ 1,588 / MO \$ 14,292 / YR

¹ Includes all mandatory fees.

² The breakdown for this category is as follows: books (\$810), educational supplies (\$198), course material fees (\$180), and computer-related expenses (\$198), excluding the costs associated with the purchase of a personal computer.

³ Includes food, snacks, meals on campus, household supplies.

⁴ If contract is for less than nine months, adjustments may be made at the rate of \$358/month or fraction thereof.

⁵ Includes dorm charges, rent, and utilities.

⁶ Includes travel to and from parent's residence and transportation costs to and from classes and work. (e.g., bus fare, gasoline, tolls, parking.)

⁷ Includes clothing, laundry and dry-cleaning, personal care, gifts, recreation, medical etc.

NOTE: The expense budgets shown on this table are based upon average expenses reported by students at the University of California, California State University, and California independent institutions, California Community Colleges, and private career schools in the 2003-2004 Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS), adjusted for four years of inflation.

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

2007-2008 Recommended Standard Cost of Attendance Allowances

STANDARD STUDENT BUDGET RANGES	With Parents			On-Campus Housing			Off-Campus Housing			
	CSAC Standard	CSU Minimum	CSU Maximum	CSAC Standard	CSU Minimum	CSU Maximum	CSAC Standard	CSU Minimum	CSU Maximum	
NINE MONTHS (Academic Year)										
(Food)							(2,844)	(2,646) -	(3,312)	
(Housing)							(6,444)	(5,526) -	(7,398)	
Food and Housing	\$3,474	\$3,474 -	\$3,474 ⁽¹⁾		Actual Amount	⁽²⁾	\$9,288	\$8,172 -	\$10,710 ⁽³⁾	
Transportation	990	666 -	1,242 ⁽⁴⁾	792	522 -	1,152 ⁽⁵⁾	1,098	576 -	1,206 ⁽⁵⁾	
Miscellaneous Personal	2,898	1,242 -	2,718	2,142	810 -	2,520	2,520	1,152 -	2,592	
Books and Supplies	1,386	1,080 -	1,386	1,386	1,080 -	1,386	1,386	1,080 -	1,386	
Fees		Actual Amount			Actual Amount			Actual Amount		
Dependent/Child Care Allowance	Reasonable expenses with adequate documentation based on the number and ages of student's dependents.									
MONTHLY SUBSISTENCE										
(Food)							(316)	(294) -	(368)	
(Housing)							(716)	(614) -	(822)	
Food and Housing	\$386	\$386 -	\$386		Actual Amount	⁽²⁾	\$1,032	\$908 -	\$1,190	
Transportation (4)	110	74 -	138	88	58 -	68	122	64 -	134	
Miscellaneous Personal	322	138 -	302	238	90 -	280	280	128 -	288	
Total Per Month	\$818	\$598 -	\$826	\$326	\$148 -	\$348	\$1,434	\$1,100 -	\$1,612	

- (1) Represents cost of meals and basic expenses which the parents continue to provide while the student lives at home with parents and the student's expenses for meals away from home.
- (2) The contract cost should be adjusted to a 21-meal per week basis. If less than a nine-month contract, an adjustment of up to \$386 or a fraction thereof may be made for dependent students.
An adjustment up to the standard off-campus allowance per month or a fraction thereof may be made for independent students.
- (3) Based on 2003-2004 SEARS data separate allowances for food and housing (adjusted for inflation) are shown in parentheses.
- (4) Represents allowance for student's transportation to and from classes and work (bus fare, gasoline, tolls, parking, etc.) Does not include vehicle payments, insurance, repairs, or license fees.
- (5) Represents allowance for student's transportation to and from classes and work (bus fare, gasoline, tolls, parking, etc.) and transportation between residence while at college and parents' permanent residence. Does not include vehicle payments, insurance, repairs, or license fees.