

## **COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

### **California State University Doctorate of Occupational Therapy Tuition**

#### **Presentation By**

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#### **Summary**

This action item is presented to the California State University Board of Trustees to recommend authorization of a California State University Doctor of Occupational Therapy tuition rate. The tuition rate is recommended in order to implement provisions of Assembly Bill (AB) 829 of 2019 (Bloom), which authorized the CSU to award Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) degrees. It is anticipated that OTD degree programs will be implemented as early as summer/fall term 2023.

#### **Background**

On August 30, 2019, Governor Newsom signed into law AB 829, which was codified as California Education Code 66043 and 66043.1 and allows the CSU to offer independently a doctoral degree in occupational therapy. Prior to the passage of the bill, the CSU could only offer OTD programs in partnership with the University of California (UC) or a California private institution of higher education. CSU OTD degree programs were authorized to focus on preparing occupational therapists to provide health care services.

The Board of Trustees may establish, adjust and abolish systemwide tuition and fees, including those for the newly authorized OTD degree programs. The recommended OTD tuition rate supports curriculum development and delivery, highly specialized faculty resources, doctoral advising and mentoring, required low-faculty-to-student ratios in supervised clinical settings, program administration, facilities, library resources, provisions for carrying out professional mandates and national professional accreditation. It will also provide for the creation of a Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC)-required “doctoral culture,” typified by academic rigor, intellectual exchange and a research-and-scholarship environment appropriate to a doctoral-granting institution.

Education Code 66043 stipulates that the OTD degree programs offered by the CSU shall be distinguished from doctoral programs at the UC. The UC does not currently offer any independent occupational therapy doctoral programs. Education Code 66043.1 stipulates that the CSU shall provide any startup and operation funding needed for the degree programs from within existing budgets for academic program support, without diminishing the quality of program support offered to CSU undergraduate programs.

### **Proposed Doctorate of Occupational Therapy Tuition Rate**

Based on program-cost analysis conducted in consultation among the Chancellor's Office and CSU campuses planning to offer the OTD, the CSU Occupational Therapy Doctorate tuition rate is recommended to be set at \$8,598 per term.

The tuition rate recommendation includes the following:

- 1) The tuition rate of \$8,598 per term will be established as the CSU Occupational Therapy Doctorate Tuition for students enrolled in CSU OTD degree programs.
- 2) Students enrolled in CSU OTD programs shall also be subject to campus-based mandatory fees.
- 3) Proposals to the Board of Trustees to recommend increases in the CSU OTD Tuition will be based on increased costs of the programs.
- 4) As the OTD is a postbaccalaureate-entry degree program and students will not enter from established professional careers, the financial aid set-aside from OTD tuition will be 25 percent of the academic year fee rate. After need-based aid has been distributed to qualifying students, remaining funds from the set-aside will be used for general operating support of the OTD program.

The tuition model recommended is comparable to other allied health doctoral programs in the CSU. Per semester, tuition for the Doctor of Audiology is \$7,371, the Doctor of Nursing Practice is \$7,635, and the Doctor of Physical Therapy is \$8,598.

The OTD tuition rate model recommended will generate sufficient revenue to fund total program cost while holding the CSU firmly within the legislative guidelines established in statute.

## **Recommendation**

The following resolution is presented for approval:

### **CSU Occupational Therapy Doctorate Tuition Fee**

**RESOLVED**, By the Board of Trustees of the California State University, that the CSU Occupational Therapy Doctorate Tuition Fee is hereby established; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the tuition fee rate approved for the 2022-2023 academic year and Summer 2023 shall be \$8,598 per semester campus term. Students will be assessed the Occupational Therapy Doctorate Tuition Fee rate each term, irrespective of the number of units taken. Students enrolled in Occupational Therapy Doctorate degree programs also shall be subject to campus-based mandatory fees; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That recommended increases in the CSU Occupational Therapy Doctorate Tuition Fee will be based on increased costs of the programs, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the chancellor is delegated authority to further adopt, amend, or repeal the CSU Occupational Therapy Doctorate Tuition Fee rate if such action is required by the budget act, and that such changes made by the chancellor are communicated promptly to the trustees.