Online Fees in the MUS

Online fees vary widely from less than $20 to more than $60 per credit, depending on the institution and course level.

Online fees are substantial, constituting up to $1/3^{rd}$ of the cost of a course in some cases.

Online fee revenues, though charged only to students in online courses, also support face-to-face instruction. Almost all courses now leverage eLearning tools, such as a learning management system, and instructional design professionals, which have traditionally been supported through online fee revenues.

Principles

Be Transparent: Wherever possible, increase online fee's transparency by moving them from *non-mandatory* to *mandatory* fee categories (mandatory fees are included in student's cost of attendance for financial aid and in required disclosures).

Be Equitable: When online fee revenues largely support resources for the general student experience (e.g. by funding a broadly used learning management system), a lower fee should be applied to the general student body rather than a large fee targeted only at students in online courses.

Be Consistent: Charges should be largely consistent across campuses.

Do No Harm: Online fee revenues support vital campus operations that improve the quality of student's education. Any changes should be designed so they are revenue neutral and maintain support for these critical services.

Learning Management Systems are now an indispensable learning tool

❖ Currently, MSU campuses (D2L), UM campuses (Moodle), and the community colleges (various) maintain separate LMS licenses, at an annual cost of more than $800k.

❖ Campuses also separately license and support dozens of LMS add-ons.

❖ Moving to a single learning management tool could save campuses a large amount, not only in licensing, but also in IT support and professional development costs.

Most importantly, a single LMS is better for students

❖ As they move between MUS institutions

❖ As they participate in cross-registration and course sharing

Timeline

Fall 2021 → Form working group to build RFP criteria

Fall 2022 → Issue RFP and select LMS vendor

Fall 2023 → Begin implementation and transition

Fall 2025 → Transition complete