



## **Statement of Principles: Tuition and Fees**

### Introduction

P.L. 18A:64-1 et seq., the Higher Education Restructuring Act of 1994, gave significant new responsibilities to Boards of Trustees. Among them are:

- To set tuition and fees; however, prior to the date of the adoption of a tuition or fee schedule or an overall institutional budget, and with reasonable notice thereof, the governing board shall conduct a public hearing at such times and places as will provide those members of the college community who wish to testify with an opportunity to be heard.
- The hearing will be held at The College of New Jersey, and will be open to the general public.
- Mindful of their statutory responsibility, the Trustees offer the following statement to be circulated as part of the notice of the annual hearing and to be read at the beginning of each hearing.

### Principles

The cost of delivering a quality, cost effective undergraduate education at The College of New Jersey is the central issue in establishing tuition and fees. That cost is defined annually.

The rationale for use of public funds in support of higher education is that higher education exists primarily to serve the public good.

The Trustees have the responsibility to provide vigorous advocacy for state support and to rigorously review institutional expenditures so that they may certify the cost-effective implementation of the college's mission in service to the citizens of New Jersey.

Students are required to share in the cost of higher education because it confers a personal benefit. However, the Trustees recognize that the public good is not served if the cost of attending The College of New Jersey bars access, and pledge that state and federal financial aid, combined with institutional resources, will be managed to ensure access.

### Conclusion

Thus, when determining tuition and fees, the Trustees strike a balance between what students pay, and what the state and federal governments pay. That balance must take into account the finite costs of a quality education and that concomitantly, when, after rigorous internal cost control, state support decreases, tuition must increase if quality is to be preserved.

*Adopted February 23, 1995*