



To the Coe College Community:

The college's Finance and Facilities Committee (FFC), composed of students, faculty, and administrators, has met several times this fall to discuss budget issues at the college. This year the committee was faced with a new challenge because of the changes with financial aid forms. As many of you are aware the federal government has adjusted this process and families must now file their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) using their tax forms from two years ago – this has been labeled “Prior-Prior Year” (PPY).

Because of these changes that the new timing PPY has caused with financial aid awards for prospective students, the FFC needed to determine the tuition and fees charges at this time, rather than developing the costs in late Fall and early Winter. These changes caused the FFC to make a tuition and fees proposal to the Board of Trustees at their recently completed Fall meetings.

Each year the college faces the challenge to generate enough revenue to maintain the high quality of the Coe experience while keeping student costs as low as possible. This year the FFC recommended and the Board of Trustees approved a 3.5% overall increase in comprehensive fees. This is the lowest overall percentage increase in 20 years. The 2017-18 fees increase will allow Coe to continue to provide our students with an excellent academic and residential experience on campus.

We recognize that students and their families make many sacrifices in order to afford college and while this increase is lower than in past years, the FFC understands that any increase in costs can have an adverse impact. Costs of higher education are very much in discussion on a national level (especially in this presidential election year) but the approved increase will keep Coe's overall costs at or below the level of our comparison institutions. Additionally, it is important to note that Coe's financial aid programs do reduce the overall cost of attendance for virtually all students. This year the college will provide over \$32 million in grants and scholarships having the effect of returning, on average, 62 cents of every tuition dollar charged. Financial aid represents over 45% of our total expenses, and reflects our commitment to making Coe affordable to as many students as possible.

In the upcoming months the FFC will be working to continue to find ways to use this increase in the most beneficial way possible for the students and will be seeking advice from the Coe student body to identify areas that have the greatest need for attention. While it appears the budget year will be very tight, our goal will be to invest any available dollars in the area(s) that will make Coe a better place for the student experience.

Students, as you and your families begin to plan for next year at Coe, should there be a change in your family's financial circumstances we urge you to visit the financial aid office. The college also has summer work opportunities that include low-cost summer housing to assist students who need to earn additional funds to assist with tuition or other educational expenses.

Should you have questions, please feel free to direct them to any of the FFC members listed below or contact the Financial Aid Office. Thanks for all each of you do in making Coe such a great place.

*Members of the Finance and Facilities Committee:*

Faculty

Mario Affatigato, Physics  
Jia-Yuh Chen, Business  
Admin. and Economics  
Wendy Dunn, Psychology  
Jonathan White, Mathematics  
Angela Ziskowski, History

Students

Tucker Dangremond  
Samantha Fitzgerald

Administrators

Shane Austerman, Associate Vice  
President for Finance  
Jennifer Eubanks, Controller  
Larry Lee, Vice President for  
Facilities/Operations  
Dave McNally, President  
Paula O'Laughlin, Provost  
Mike White, Executive Vice President