INSTITUTIONS WITH SPECIAL TUITION INCREASES

I. Northwestern University

Northwestern imposed a special tuition increase of approximately $2,200 on first year undergraduate students in 1998-99. When fully phased in, the increase yielded $16.2 million per year (plus inflation). Seventy-five percent (75%) of that amount has been used for new faculty positions in Arts & Sciences. Other improvements occurred in its Study Abroad and Academic Advising programs and they established an undergraduate scholarship and fellowship office to help students apply for Rhodes, Fulbrights and other awards. Some funds have not yet been committed.

They experienced no negatives in Admissions statistics.

II. Wake Forest University

Wake Forest imposed a special tuition increase of $3,000 on first year students in 1996-97. The main selling point of this increase was to provide new students an IBM laptop computer and printer at the beginning of their first and third year at Wake. Proceeds were also used to wire the campus, provide technical support to faculty, staff and students, 40 new faculty and new undergraduate research fellowships.

In 1997, their applications increased slightly, then declined significantly during the 1998-2001 period, and rose significantly in 2002 and 2003. Interestingly, their entering classes remained consistent in size because their yield increased proportionately.

It is difficult to draw conclusions from this information because Wake benefits from ACC membership in general and they were ACC champions in 1995 and 1996.

III. Washington University in St. Louis

Washington made most of their advances in academics and in residence halls through a successful capital campaign—not through a significant increase in tuition. With an 11% increase in room rates in new residence halls and proceeds from their capital campaign they were able to build state-of-the-art residence hall facilities and modernize a number of their older halls. Many more first and second year students have opted to remain on campus as a result.

This is an interesting story but a large fee increase did not contribute to the rise in their academic quality.
IV. University of Richmond

Richmond implemented a $1,400 special tuition increase beginning in the 2001-02 year. This increase will be fully implemented in 2004-05 and it will produce $4,600,000 per year when fully implemented. The new funds, together with annual increases, have funded 20 new faculty positions, 25 staff positions to support the academic mission, 50 new merit scholarships to help increase our student profile, and allowed Richmond to become one of very few colleges to offer need-blind admissions while meeting 100% of need. In addition, we have initiated 28 curricular programs including the Center for Civic Engagement, the Richmond Research Institute and the DC Initiative, and created the Office of Institutional Research.