College of Engineering
Differential Tuition

Paul S. Peercy, Dean
Factors Driving Increasing Cost of an Engineering Education

• Revolutionary rate of change in science and technology
  – Today’s engineers require increased scientific and technical depth
  – Employers *now require* increased technical breadth and team skills
    • New applications based on physical sciences to applications based on biological sciences and medicine / health care

• Colleges of Engineering must compete with the private sector for Ph.D. engineers, which drives up salaries
The Challenge is Not UW-Madison’s Alone

- Most public colleges of engineering charge differential tuition to cover increased educational cost
  - **All** Big 10 Public Colleges of Engineering except *UW-Madison* have a differential tuition
Differential Tuition Will Reduce Student Cost

- Due to budget constraints at UW-Madison, the average time for a B.S. Engineering degree has increased by ~1.7 semesters (from 10.2 to 11.9)
- Reducing time to graduation with a $1400 differential tuition will reduce the total average tuition cost to students
  - Will also reduce room and board costs / expenses for education at UW-Madison
  - Will increase throughput (i.e., number of students educated)
  - Total cost is not the same as cash flow
Maintaining Quality is Paramount

• UW-Madison must provide students a competitive 21\(^{st}\) Century engineering education

• Wisconsin and the nation face a shortage of engineers

• Employers recognize our quality
  – The College of Engineering hosted a record number of companies recruiting engineers last year
Need-Based Financial Aid

- Some students will need financial assistance
- The College of Engineering is committed that a differential tuition will not disenfranchise any student who wants to major in engineering
- The College, with the help of industry and alumni, has raised funds for need-based scholarships for students in lower household income quintiles
F 2005 Student Income Demographics

UW Madison Student Distribution (%) by Household Income Quintile

- 1st Quintile: 30%
- 2nd Quintile: 25%
- 3rd Quintile: 20%
- 4th Quintile: 15%
- 5th Quintile: 10%

6-5-2008
Student Engagement

• Students have been engaged in differential tuition discussions since September 2006 and this engagement will continue

• The Polygon Student Council approved two motions in AY 2007
  – Approved the concept of a Differential Tuition for Engineering
  – Approved $700 per semester ($1400 per year) phased in over three years [at $300, $500, $700 per semester in years one, two, and three]
  – Will apply after students enroll in an engineering discipline

• Polygon revisited the issue in AY 2008 and maintained its AY 2007 position
Student Comments

Craig MacKenzie, Former President of Polygon

Theresa Rollman, Polygon Representative

Alex Rexrode, Polygon Representative
Summary

• The cost of engineering education is driven by rapid technological change and competition with the private sector
• A differential tuition for UW-Madison will
  – reduce average time to degree and student cost of an engineering education
  – increase access to UW-Madison College of Engineering
• Differential tuition is needed to continue to provide high quality engineering education and educate globally competitive students
• Students will continue to be actively engaged in guiding the differential tuition investment