

**Differential Tuition Request Proposal
Presented to Student Government Association
November 2009**

Title: Natural Sciences Credit Surcharge

Proposed Differential Tuition Amount: \$10.00/ credit of coursework in biology, geology, chemistry, physics, and GIS. Existing lab fees and chemistry breakage fees would be eliminated.

Budget Summary:

Individual Budget Line Items	\$ Amount
1. Laboratory Equipment and supplies	\$ 30,000
2. Class field trip expenses	\$ 5,000
3. Supplies for capstone research projects	\$ 4,000
4. Student Assistance Salaries	\$ 10,000
TOTAL	\$ 49,000

Why is the request being presented?

- A. Current laboratory equipment including microscopes, biological models and analytical instrumentation is outdated or damaged and needs replacement; most laboratories lack modern electronic data acquisition and analytical equipment.**
- This funding will leverage existing lab modernization funding and allow ongoing life-cycle equipment replacements; current equipment needs list totals over \$300,000.
 - State of the art instrumentation will better prepare students for employment opportunities and post graduate work
- B. The costs of laboratory supplies and field trips have grown exponentially over the past 10 years while departmental funding has remained the same. Existing lab fees have not kept pace with rising costs. Changing teaching styles include incorporating more field trip experiences into the curriculum.**
- Science majors will benefit from greater access to supplies and equipment as they design and conduct experiments in fulfillment of their capstone experience
 - Class field trips help students experience “science in action” and enable them to become involved in service learning activities and local environmental issues

Student Impact:

- A. All UWS students are required to take a minimum of four credits of lab coursework in the sciences. This proposal would raise their tuition costs approximately \$40, but would most likely be offset with the elimination of special course fees.
- B. Biology or chemistry majors are required to have 34 science credits for their major, resulting in a differential charge of \$340.
- C. Students with a 22-credit science minor would pay a total of \$220 in differential tuition.
- D. Students with a comprehensive or broad field science major would pay approximately \$560 in differential tuition.
- E. While students taking science lab credits would be assessed this differential tuition fee, they would not be assessed the existing special course or laboratory breakage fees, offsetting the differential fees by up to \$200.

Summary: Providing additional funding for equipment maintenance and replacement, student research support, science tutors and lab assistants would enhance the science learning experience for all students. Integrating more field experiences into the curriculum will allow students to more fully explore the science field. As laboratory equipment is upgraded, students would be able to experience state of the art instrumentation that they will experience in the workplace after graduation.