

February 10, 1997

Report to the Faculty Senate on Tuition and Fees.

Since 1985, Western Kentucky University has relied increasingly on both direct and indirect "service and activity fees" in determining student tuition costs. In 1985, direct student fees accounted for 7.3 percent of the total tuition cost. By 1996, this percentage had risen to 14.3 percent (see Table 1). In terms of dollar increase, fees have risen from \$35 per semester in 1985 to \$145 per semester in 1996 (see Table 2). This current amount is allocated as follows:

Activity/Service	\$ 52.50	
Athletic	15.00	
New Athletic Fee	25.00	
Health Service	36.00	
Preston Center	11.50	
ID Center	<u>5.00</u>	\$ 145.00

In addition, students enrolling in an extended campus course are charged an additional \$25 fee.

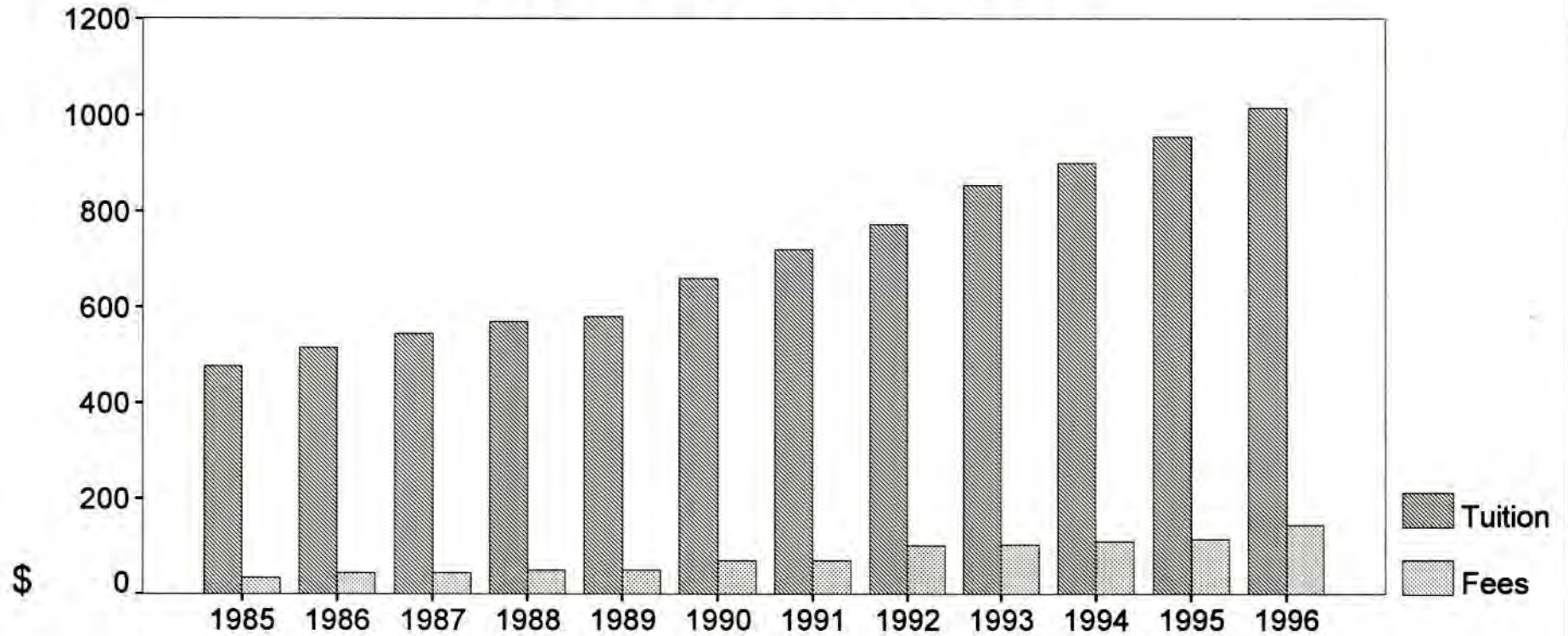
Indirect course-specific activity fees also are on the increase. A plethora of courses now charge "course fees" ranging from \$50 per course in the Music Department to \$5 per course in several other departments. For example, in a worse-case scenario, if a student enrolled in MUS150, CHEM435, CFS150, GEOG315, NURS224, and ANSC332 (15 credit hours), that student would have to pay \$223.00 in additional course fees. This is obviously an extreme situation, but it highlights the growing problem of indirect fee increases. In Spring 1997, a total of 124 college courses had specific and additional course fees required for enrollment. Coupled with the rising and often exorbitant costs of student textbooks, tuition and direct/indirect fees represent a growing financial burden for students.

Tuition and fees should not be the automatic choice for additional revenue. As this committee has pointed out in the past, tuition and fees at Western Kentucky University have been rising faster than inflation for the past decade at least. Western must give serious consideration to the problem of pricing the University beyond the financial means of the community of students it is supposed to serve.

Respectfully submitted,  
David J. Keeling  
Fiscal Affairs Committee  
Faculty Senate.



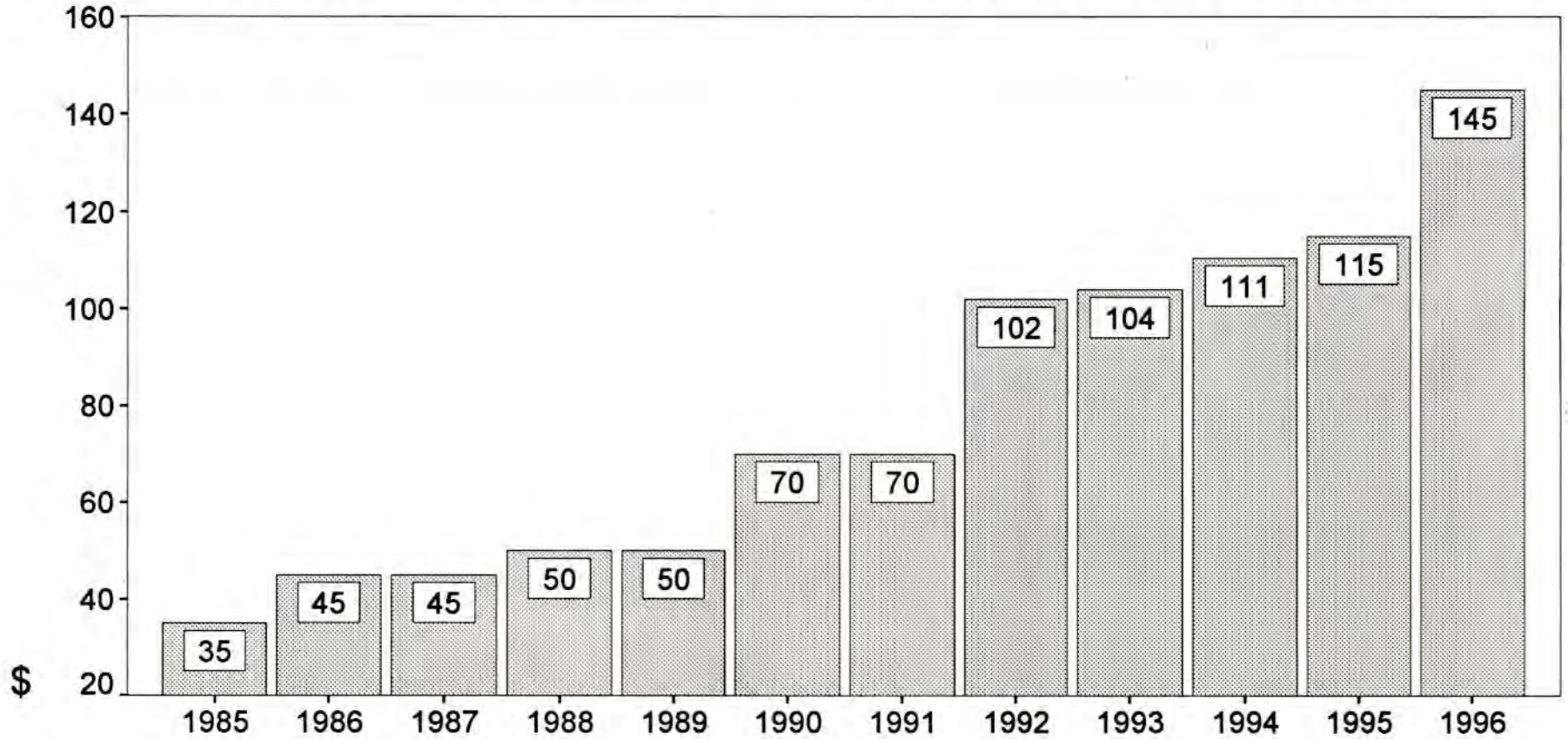
# Graph 1: Relationship between Tuition and Student Fees, 1985-1996



Fall Semester/Year

Source: WKU Factbook, 1985-1995

# Graph 2: Additional Student Fees by Semester, 1985-1996



Academic Year

Source: WKU Factbook, 1986-1996