6.500 Policy for Education-Related Business Activities

The primary mission of the institutions within the Oregon University System is the creation and dissemination of knowledge. To carry out this mission, institutions do engage in education-related business activities, i.e., activities which enhance, promote, or support instruction, research, public service, or other education-related activities where goods or services being sold or rented are directly and substantially related to an educational or research program.

The Board affirms that all institution education-related business activities shall meet the following conditions:

A. The activity is deemed to be an integral part of, and directly and substantially related to, the fulfillment of an institution’s instructional, research, public service, or other education-related mission.

B. The activity is operated for the primary benefit of the students, staff, and faculty associated with and served by the institution or its affiliated units. The activity is needed to provide goods or services at a reasonable price, on reasonable terms, and at a convenient time and location. Sales or rental of services and products to on-campus visitors and campus conference participants are considered incidental to the purpose of these activities.

Some typical products, services, and facilities provided at or in close proximity to an institution to meet the needs of its constituents are instruction-related materials; housing and food services; student health services; and athletic, cultural, and recreational activities; including the facilities where such products and services are provided.

In furtherance of education-related business activities, institutions shall provide for the following:

(1) When determining whether any particular education-related business activity should be provided by an institution, institutional presidents or their designees shall consider whether the activity is currently and adequately provided by private businesses. If the services of private businesses are considered adequate but the activity is nevertheless deemed important to be provided by the institution, the institution president or designee shall state in writing its justifications for providing the activity. A copy of the statement shall be submitted for review to the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration or designee.

(2) To ensure recovery of direct costs of engaging in the education-related business activities, institutions shall charge students, faculty, staff, campus conference participants, and the public to participate in institutional events, for the purchase of the goods or services, and for the rental of any facilities. An institution president may waive charges for selected education-related business activities.

(3) An institution may make its services and facilities available to nonprofit or community organizations without recovering all direct costs, provided there is sufficient inventory or capacity. An institution may also make its services and facilities available to for-profit community businesses and organizations provided there is sufficient capacity and availability. Charges to profit-making organizations shall cover the direct and indirect costs of the use of the facilities and services provided. Services, products, and facilities may similarly be provided to federal, state, and political subdivisions, subject to negotiated charges, terms, and conditions.
(4) An institution may promote and market in off-campus public media only those services and events which are of interest to the general public, such as cultural presentations, intercollegiate athletics contests, and educational programs.

(5) Following approval by the institution president to provide goods, services, and facilities referenced above, the institution shall adopt a fee schedule or, in cases where prices fluctuate, a pricing markup policy for those services, products, and facilities.