West Virginia University’s Board of Governors April 12 approved a package of tuition and fee increases similar to those other universities across the state and nation are enacting. The proposal now goes to the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) for approval.

The University’s capacity to maintain quality programs and services has been limited by a steady loss in state funding, rising health insurance costs and other basic operating cost increases, officials say. The 9.9 percent increase for in- and out-of-state students addresses the need to maintain quality academic programs and student services expected by students attending a major doctoral research university.

Provost Gerald Lang, in presenting the package to the Board, said the University’s tuition proposal “is a balance between maintaining quality educational experiences for students while maintaining affordable tuition in a time of declining state resources and increasing operating expenses.”

WVU President David C. Hardesty Jr. agreed. “We are committed to maintaining a quality educational experience for our students at reasonable rates,” he said. “With these increases, WVU is still an exceptional educational value.”

With these increases, in-state undergraduate tuition will increase by $146 to $1,620 per semester. Out-of-state undergraduate tuition will increase by $439 to $4,855 per semester.

HEPC, at its March meeting, established guidelines for determining tuition and fees and capped tuition and fee increases at 9.95 percent, except for some health care programs. For more details on the tuition increase, see the complete story on the WVU Intranet: http://intranet.wvu.edu/tuition.htm

The BOG also approved:

* a three-pronged project at the WVU Creative Arts Center to remove asbestos, upgrade sprinkler and fire alarm systems at a cost of $5.7 million, and renovations to the concert theater and choral recital hall at a cost of $3.1 million from private sources
* a uniform sabbatical leave policy for faculty
* recommendations of a program review committee
* guidelines for awarding honorary diplomas posthumously
* an updated master plan for Potomac State College of WVU that includes land use, vehicular and pedestrian circulation, building programs and sites, parking and landscaping
* the addition and renovation of the Potomac State College of WVU Library, or Information Center, that will require $4.3 million in federal funds and $1.5 million in private support
* moving forward to renovate the Neal D. Baisi Athletic and Wellness Center as a Student Recreation Center at the WVU Institute of Technology at a projected cost of $4.7 million
* a collegiate certificate in general studies at WVU Institute of Technology to increase accessibility to associate degree nursing programs in the Kanawha Valley

These items now go to the HEPC for final approval.