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Why College Tuition Fees Should be Lower

In the case of more expensive tuition fees, more and more people can't get college educations. There is no doubt that higher education is important, mostly because experiences and skills acquired in school reverberate throughout life, not just through higher earnings (Oreopoulos&Salvanes). Facing with raising tuition fees, some people couldn't afford it. The data shows that "over the past 35 years, college tuition at public universities has nearly quadrupled, to \$9,139 in 2014" (Campos), and that "tuition and fees at four-year public colleges is now on average \$7,600.... When you add room and board, the cost jumps to \$16,000" (Baum). The reason that colleges raise tuition fees is because insufficient school finance. However, lower tuition fees would not necessarily decrease revenue because lower tuition fees would attract more students to guarantee the total income. In addition, schools can reduce unnecessary expenses to achieve the purpose of reducing tuition fees. What's more, the consequences of continuing to increase tuition fees are obvious. People would prefer taking online courses or going to a community college because these are cheaper than going to a traditional college. When compared the benefits of low tuition fees with the drawbacks of high tuition fees, colleges should lower tuition fees.

Firstly, inflation draws a lot attentions in recent years. In 2008, financial crisis made lots of people lost their jobs. It means that the value of money was decreasing. This situation was more severe especially in developed countries. Even the governments owed debts. As a matter of

fact, government didn't give colleges enough funds. Paul F. Campos stated that "while state legislative appropriations for higher education have risen much faster than inflation, total state appropriations per student are somewhat lower than they were at their peak in 1990" (Campos). In this situation, if tuition continues to increase, students would be discouraged to go on to colleges. Even with grants and other kinds of scholarships, students still need to pay a lot. Higher tuition costs are surely driving students away, as reflected in a recent report that the total number of applicants to all British universities has fallen by 7.7 percent, largely due to tuition increases there (Campos). To avoid losing elite students, college should lower tuition fees. Reducing tuition fees does not mean reducing school finances. There is a principal in economics: quick returns and small margins. When college decreases tuition fees, they will attract more students coming at the same time. Although inflation leads to a reduction in government funding, lower tuition fees will attract more students, which can achieve the balance of payment.

Secondly, colleges keep raising tuition fees because they can not afford the financial expenditures. But what if college cut some unnecessary costs? In this way, tuition fees could be lower. On the one hand, colleges may reduce some non-educational costs, for example, recreation facilities fees, transportation fees and technology fees. According to Stony Brook official site, recreation facilities cost \$82, transportation fees cost \$142, and technology fees cost \$252 (Tuition and Fees). I will take myself as an example to show why recreation fees are unnecessary fees. I barely go to gym because I don't have habit of working out. Before I went to America, I only went to gym for two times, and that's because my mom went to gym to lose weight. I went to gym with my mom. I would like to use my case to explain that Asians do not have the habits of fitness. It doesn't mean that we do not exercise, but we have the other ways. As for transportation fees, I have a car, and I am a commuter. I usually drive to parking lot, and

walk to classroom. I even don't take a bus through the semester. In this case, transportation fees are extra costs to me. I give an example to prove that those non-educational costs are unnecessary. Colleges could provide several choices for students to choose, like meal plan. If students are free to choose what to pay with high flexibility, they will save a lot of money. On the other hand, college could reduce the administration staff. In university, everything is student-oriented. With the expansion of university, the number of students has increased and the teacher system and staff have been expanded. In contrast, a major factor driving increasing costs is the constant expansion of university administration. According to the Department of Education data, administrative positions at colleges and universities grew by 60 percent between 1993 and 2009, which Bloomberg reported was 10 times the rate of growth of tenured faculty positions (Campos). The data surveys that by reducing the number of staff, schools can significantly reduce the total operating budget. UC Berkeley is a typical example--as "Berkeley's implementation is the same way. The savings the university identified would reduce expenditures by \$75 million a year once the changes are implemented, but the institution spends about \$1.8 billion annually on teaching, research, and public service. Szeri says the implementation would not have been as effective if the program was not allowed to invest in making improvements. The university authorized administrators to spend a total of \$75 million to implement changes.

"Six percent is great," Ehrenberg says" (Kiley). Above mentioned, school can always find a way to reduce tuition fees.

Thirdly, raising tuition fees will reduce the competitiveness of the traditional colleges. One the one hand, technology is driving down the cost of teaching undergraduates. Online courses are more popular because of its cheaper prices. On the other hand, people would like to

choose community college first instead of going to university directly. So why are tuition bills going up? Many years ago, there is someone invented the online learning approach. Michael Williams, a Phd, graduated from NYU in applied math in 1976, designed The Math Emporium courses. There were currently nine courses worked in a very different way. Each course was broken up into a series of "modules," available on Emporium computers or the Internet, that students were required to complete within a certain amount of time. Each module outlined a specific set of mathematics principles and concepts. These were translated into specific examples to review and problems to solve (Carey). It turns out that online courses have a long history, and it also develops completed and maturity. In the development of our society, college is not the only choice that students can get educations. People prefer choosing a way both saving money and saving time. The benefits of attending community college for two years to earn an associate's degree are numerous – especially as it can greatly lower tuition expenses. Most of the courses required during freshman and sophomore years are available at community colleges and can be transferred to four-year public universities. In this way, students can save tuition fees for two years. Compared with the two ways of saving tuition fees, four-year college is obviously not the best way. Therefore, it is necessary to reduce tuition fees in colleges or universities.

There is a new view to be put forward. Only rising tuitions fees can solve the current trouble--budget deficit. Particularly, one of the biggest expenses is to maintain the college's operations. Although students pay a lot of tuition fees, the necessary cost to keep university running is much more than students' tuition fees. According to Yale University's 2011 financial report, "the income from students only account 8.6% of the university's total operating revenue in 2010-2011 academic year" ("University Budgets: Where Your Fees Go?"). Among them, the school operating expenses include professors', staffs' and securities' wages, installations and

maintenances of school equipments, and the costs of campus activities. However, raising tuition fees are so one-sided. Colleges should consider the current situation. Under the economic crisis and inflation, many families are hard to pay high tuition fees and living expenses. Although colleges lower the tuition fees, that won't affect the school's operations. If colleges lower tuition fees, there will be more students coming to colleges. It means that the total amount of avenues will be increase. In this way, colleges still have enough money to hire good professors, to pay wages for staffs and to maintain the equipments. By paying a higher wages to professors can maintain a stable students and professors ratio, and attract well-known professors. Also, it provides a better learning environment; for example, students have opportunities to contact with professors since it is a small class. In addition, colleges may reduce the number of administration staff. That can decrease the school's financial expenditure and lower students' tuition fees at the same time. In short, there are many ways that both can reduce students' tuition fees and ensure the benefits of the colleges.

While some people insist that students can finish four-year college with student loans and scholarships if they can't afford rising tuition fees. Yet, I think that this is a misunderstanding. People only see that the students can use student loan to attend college, but they don't notice that students need to pay back the loan. Don't you have to pay back the loan? According to Lina Barkawi's report, "What most people don't understand are the consequences that arise from getting student loans. You are responsible for repaying any student loans taken, even if you do not graduate school or have trouble finding a job" (Barkawi). Once in default, students' loans may be turned over to collection agencies, students can be sued for the entire amount of their loan, and their wages may be garnished, the federal government may withhold part of the social security benefit payments, students won't be able to receive any more federal financial aid,

students are not be able to renew their on-hold professional licenses, and on the top of it, their credit history will be forever scarred because they were unable to pay back their student loans (Barkawi). Although the increase in tuition fees in the short term eases the financial pressure for colleges, it has a drawback, especially for those students with student loans. And lower tuition will make more students apply for colleges.

On the whole, over the past 35 years, college tuition at public universities has nearly quadrupled, to \$9,139 in 2014 dollars (Campos). In this trend, more and more students can't afford university or college tuition fees. Even though inflation affects government funds, which in turn affects college tuition fees, it does not mean that schools don't have enough money to run. It is reducing tuition fees that can attract more and more students going to colleges including out-state students and international students. Tuition multiplied by the number of students is equal to the university's needs. Holding other variables, tuition is reduced and the number of students are increased, which would give a high revenue. The truth is increasing tuition fees are more harmful than good. If tuition fees keep increasing, some people may choose online courses or community colleges instead of university. In addition, there are always the ways that colleges can reduce tuition fees by keeping schools' operation and students' benefits. Colleges could remove some unnecessary fees, thus students don't have to take huge loans. The reduction of tuition will give more people a chance to receive higher education. Regarding to the family background and choices they made when entering universities, the tuition fees are supposed to be lower.

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