

## COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, December 9, 2011

### **DISCUSSION ITEM A:                    Costs and Pricing of Distance/Online Education Programs**

#### **Staff Recommendation**

For information only.

#### **Background**

As degree programs to be offered through distance or online education are brought to the Commission for approval, the Commission has increasingly raised questions about the tuition and fees charged to students who enroll in these programs. These questions arise from (1) a desire to keep education as affordable as possible for students and (2) an assumption that the efficiencies normally associated with technological innovation would apply to distance/online education, thereby undercutting the rationale for charging additional technology fees for distance/online delivery.

In response to these questions and concerns, Indiana University and Purdue University have collaborated on a report on distance/online education, which will address a number of topics, including different approaches toward distance/online education, key benefits associated with this mode of instructional delivery, and an analysis of the major cost components of distance/online education, which draws upon a number of recent studies in this area.

#### **Supporting Document**

*Costs and Pricing of Distance/Online Education Programs: A Joint Report from Indiana University and Purdue University to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, December 9, 2011 (to be distributed)*