

UC Tuition Needed, State Says

SACRAMENTO (AP) — California should consider raising college fees and charging University of California students tuition — if it also increases the amount of scholarship money available, a state education panel has recommended.

The Postsecondary Education Commission, which serves as the state's advisory panel for higher education, also recommended eliminating millions of dollars in state subsidies for "recreational" classes in community colleges, such as dancing and needlepoint. Student fees would replace the state money.

The commission, the state's advisory panel for higher education, voted 11-2 to recommend that the Legislature establish new policies on student fees.

The recommendations come at a time that public colleges and universities, which serve 1.5 million students, are fighting budget cuts. Enrollment at the California State University is 2,000 higher than expected, and no state money has been provided for the extra students.

Acknowledging that increased fees would hurt some students, the commission said modest increases, coupled with boosts in financial aid, were "the least damaging of the sad assortment

of options available."

The commission recommended UC student fees for the next school year of between \$1,200 and \$1,500 for undergraduate students, and between \$1,440 and \$1,800 for graduate students.

The university regents have approved fees of \$1,194, a \$100 increase over this year to offset state funding cuts.

UC Vice President William Fraser told reporters that any fee above \$1,344 would constitute tuition — the use of student money to pay teachers' salaries. Student fees now pay for such programs as health services and counseling, as well as financial aid.

"This may very well be the year that we plunge into what is called tuition," Fraser said.

For the California State University, the commission recommended fees of between \$300 and \$600 a year. Gov. Edmund Brown Jr.'s 1982-83 budget proposes fees of between \$379 and \$413.

If scholarship aid is increased to offset the higher fees for needy students, the commission said, the recommended levels "would not result in undue disruption to students."

"Our concern is that there be adequate financial aid," said Kristin Stelck, associate

director of the UC Student Lobby. "As soon as fees go up, students are going to drop out."

The commission said California's two-year community colleges should be allowed to avoid a mandatory statewide fee for another year.

But the panel said the state might save millions of dollars if the colleges had to charge fees for "personal development, recreational and avocational courses such as jogging, surfing, 'jazzercise,' needlepoint and ballroom dancing."

Some colleges now offer those classes for credit and get \$1,930 per student from the state, others offer non-credit courses and get \$1,100, and still others charge student fees, the commission said.

It also said some colleges get \$1,930 per student for adult basic education, citizenship and similar courses, and should be limited to \$1,100. The two measures combined might save \$30 million, the commission said.

It said another \$50 million might be saved if community college districts had to spend uncommitted reserve funds.

But Gus Guichard, executive vice chancellor of the California Community Colleges, said that if state aid was cut by \$80 million, "some districts could go out of business."