I. Call to Order

II. Certification of the Posting of the Notice of the Special Meeting

III. Workshop

   Presentation by Citizens’ Facilities Review Committee

IV. Policy Report and Consideration

   Consideration of Approval of Charging a Fee for Credit Distance Learning Courses (ACTION ITEM 1)

V. Adjournment
I, Richard Carpenter, Chancellor of the Lone Star College System, do hereby certify that a notice of the Workshop and Special Meeting was posted on Friday, the 18th day of January, 2008, in a place convenient to the public in the Administration Office of the District Services and Training Center and on all college campuses and on the district website. Special notice of the meeting was provided to the news media as required by Section 551.001 et seq., Texas Government Code.

Given under my hand this the 18th day of January, 2008.

Richard Carpenter
Chancellor
Request: Consideration of Approval of Charging a Fee for Credit Distance Learning Courses

Chancellor’s Recommendation: That the Board of Trustees approve a $10 per credit hour charge for distance learning courses effective with the fall 2008 semester.

Rationale: The Lone Star College System intends to expand distance learning course delivery into a highly coordinated eCampus with system-wide course design standards, expanded programs available online, peer review to assure consistent quality, expanded online services for students and a clear branding and marketing plan.

A review of national best practice in distance learning indicates that a dedicated funding stream for online education is essential for quality, support for student success, and scalability. The recommended fee should support:

- expansion of degrees and courses available online;
- enhanced online student services such as tutoring, advising, registration, and technology assistance;
- marketing to students;
- instructional design process;
- implementation of quality standards;
- expanded training and assistance for faculty.

The current distance learning budget is not sufficient to provide the necessary services and infrastructure required to meet student needs. The addition of a dedicated distance learning fee is an essential next step in the ongoing development of the LSCS distance learning program. Based on an evaluation of national best practice for an effective distance learning program, a distance learning fee of $10 per credit hour for all credit distance learning courses is recommended.

Fiscal Impact: It is estimated that this fee will generate approximately $1 million dollars at the current level of participation.

Resource: Cindy Gilliam 832-813-6512