Proposal for a Program (Clinical) Fee for the Doctoral Degree in Professional Educational Practice (EdD)

Purpose
The purpose of the fee is to cover EdD program and instructional costs related to clinical components necessary in a professional preparation program. Specifically, the fee will be used to pay stipends to external professional mentors, travel to clinical sites, and other costs associated with clinical requirements.

Impact on Quality of Service
The EdD is a new professional practice degree, developed as a college-wide graduate degree in the College of Education. The EdD is in line with national reforms recommended by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and other professional groups such as the American Educational Research Association (AERA) and the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE). In addition, the EdD is designed to meet the professional standards required by the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC), which have been endorsed by the Council of Chief State School Officers. These standards require that programs aimed at school leaders should provide opportunities for candidates to “synthesize and apply knowledge and skills by undertaking collaborative projects that arise in real settings, and guided cooperatively by university faculty and experienced field mentors.”

The program delivery is modeled after the Executive MBA approach, designed for practicing professionals and involving immersion in the every-day problems of practice in the field. Executive degrees of this type incur higher costs due to the increased demand on faculty advising and support and the need for external experts/mentors who will play a role in facilitating clinical experiences. Professional practice degrees such as the EdD in Professional Educational Practice focus on the application of knowledge in real educational settings. This requires extensive time spent in the field working intensively with field-based leaders. External experts with leadership experience in education will play a vital role in delivering a high quality program. Their insider knowledge will make an important contribution to student success in the two main field projects that are a requirement of the program—the group consultancy project conducted in year one and the action research project in years two and three. These experts would work with a limited number of students (3-6) each semester.
Supporting Analysis
We propose a fee of $1,000.00 charged to each student during the fall and spring semesters of the three-year program—a total of $6,000.00 per student over the course of the program. With tuition rates quoted on the attached program budget, the total costs (tuition and fees) for the program would be around $38,000.00 for each student.

Tuition and fees for EdD programs at comparable institutions are much higher. For example, the cost of the EdD program offered in Hawaii by the University of Southern California is in excess of $60,000.00. The USC degree is a cohort program that offers classes on weekends (at JAIMS), but provides more limited opportunities for mentored field experiences than the degree that we propose. Argosy University and Phoenix University offer online EdD programs in educational leadership, with one advisor for a class of 5 to 10 students. Tuition and fees bring the total to around $54,000.00 per student.

Fees at Benchmark Institutions
Establishing program costs at a selection of comparable institutions participating in the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED) is not a straightforward matter. Costs vary according to a number of factors such as the nature of the program (Does the program require field work?), whether students are full time or part time, and whether students are instate or out-of-state. It was also a challenge to find out about future increases in tuition, so the following estimates are based on current tuition rates.

Arizona State offers a similar EdD degree in educational leadership to the one proposed by UHCOE. Based on current tuition rates, the program would cost each student about $36,000.00. The University of Florida EdD degree is about $41,000.00 per student; and the EdD at the University of Kentucky is about $40,000.00.

We consulted with David Imig, the Director of CPED, on this matter. He raised our question at a group meeting of 15 of the 23 universities in the CPED group. Here is his response:

We raised this with the CPED group in Houston and lots of the places said they were doing something similar....both Houston (which has a really terrific Executive Leadership PPD) and Oklahoma (with a very practitioner oriented program) shared their fees are similar to what you are charging. David Imig
Survey Response
We have conducted an online survey in which students were asked. Are the costs of the program in line with what you would expect to pay for an EdD. Seventy-eight percent of the respondents agreed that they were.

Evidence that Fees Structure Covers Costs of Services
A budget showing program revenue from tuition and fees and expenditures is attached to this document.

Stipends for External Mentors
What is a reasonable stipend for the services of external/field mentors? Based on feedback from a group of potential EdD mentors, a reasonable amount would be $4,000.00/per semester for working with a group of five students—the equivalent of teaching a three-credit course.

The role of the mentor would be to:
1. Work with students and faculty to identify a problem of practice to be researched and addressed.
2. Act as a resource for group by providing introductions, suggesting sources, and making connections.
3. Provide regular advise as groups perform institutional assessments for schools preparing for accreditation.
4. Role akin to the mentoring function already established for new DOW principals and vice principals
5. Work in concert with other advisors, and facilitate periodic cohort meetings at which students share progress.
6. Encourage student reflection that is useful to effective learning, and promote professional conversations that build on such reflection.
7. Work with other field advisors to form a resource bank for all cohort members.
8. Mentors will meet with advisees on a weekly basis and with faculty advisors and the full cohort on three or four occasions per semester.

Impact of Fee
In order to determine if the fees are in line with what students expect to pay for the EdD, we have consulted with a number of potential candidates on an informal basis who have previously expressed interest in the program. In general, the fees do not appear to discourage people and a number of candidates are awaiting the UHM doctorate as a less expensive option to the USC EdD.

How will the fees be collected and allocated to the College of Education?
The fees will be collected by Outreach.