FY 2024-25 UNDERGRADUATE TUITION AND FEE PROPOSALS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

In preparation for the Annual Meeting of the Board – and in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated §49-7-1603 – the University requested feedback from the public on the proposed increases to in-state, undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees. The public was invited to submit comments during a 15-day period from June 5 through June 20, 2024. Comments could be submitted online, by email, or by phone.

During that period, a total of 86 unique individuals submitted online comments.

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<th>Constituencies Represented*</th>
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<td>Alumni</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>Faculty/Staff</td>
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<td>Parent</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>Student (Undergraduate/Graduate)</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>Other</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>86</strong></td>
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(*) Respondents self-selected their constituency status. Certain respondents may fall within more than one classification (e.g., faculty/alumni, parent/staff, etc.). For the purposes of this report, respondents have been shown in one category only.

The actual comments appear below. The comments are sorted by campus and were recorded chronologically by section. No comments were submitted from individuals pertaining exclusively to UT Health Science Center, UT Martin, or UT Southern, although there are a number of comments that apply to all campuses.

Additionally, there were submissions that pertained primarily to other matters, including parking and investment policies, which have been classified under “Other Comments” and are included for information purposes and appear as the last section of this report.

Please note that the comments appear verbatim and have not been corrected for spelling or grammatical errors.
I have attended both UTC and UT Knoxville. While I understand the costs of running the universities and paying the staff a livable wage during this time, I strongly suggest that the TN university do NOT RAISE THE PROCE OF TUITION. As an individual that had no parental funding, I worked 3 jobs for five years to pay for school books and lodging alone, and am still buried in debt from loans. The proposal to raise tuition without any other benefit, will simply deter those who deserve a solid education and don’t have the financial ability to attend. This will lower the diversity of the school and increase the odds for privileged students only. If you propose to raise tuition, remove fees for useless things such as lawn care, offer free school supplies (as you only use these for weeks out of your life and can only get pennies when you try to sell them back). Bachelors degrees are simply a ticket now for a barely livable wage and career, do not make this harder for those who wish to receive a basic college education!!!!!

I will have students at Martin and Chattanooga this year. Increasing tuition will make a difficult situation even harder for us.

While it would be nice to avoid tuition and fee increases, the amount per student is quite manageable yet the overall impact would be profound. I would like to see some of this revenue be impactful on low staff salaries and other improvements for staff. We must do something about parking! Having newly hired faculty and staff park off campus and bus in is not a feasible option. It is a huge barrier to recruitment.

I have 2 kids at separate schools in the UT system. If enrollment is up at all locations why are we having to pay more. It doesn’t make sense when they are paying outrageous fees and only having classes until noon on some of the campuses and you all are forcing them into online classes and charging the parents more for those classes. They are being taught by TA’s and not teachers.

College is way too expensive! Cut the fat!

Although prices for materials have gone up, many of the workforce hourly and salary pay has not increased in proportion. A tuition increase would make UT less accessible and create hardship for those who are already there or decide to commit in an attempt to better their future.
Please refrain from increasing the tuition, unless you are willing to increase merit scholarships proportionately.

I don’t believe that’s state-aided University with 80% of their current students needing government assistance, scholarships, and grants in addition to working and parental help just to cover the current tuition and fees. The alumni and local companies also donate to the college. The school doesn’t NEED annual double cost of living raises from the students, the students NEED to not have to get loans that put them in debt for years. The cost of education has tripled just since I graduated and it was too expensive then.

I am planning to get my education at UTC. I can already barely afford to live in Chattanooga since the rent has increased so drastically. Any increases in tuition would absolutely deter me from attending the university. How is anyone supposed to afford this and not end up paying student loans their whole lives?

I attended UTK and graduated from UTC. My son is an upcoming Junior at UTK and my daughter will be starting UTC in the fall. While I know that tuition increases have been slow over the past few years, any increase still hurts the middle class. Our family makes "too much money" to get any federal student aid, but we still can't afford to cover college expenses. My son has been paying his own way. He does have the HOPE, as well as a small scholarship from UT, but the increases mitigate those savings. Aside from tuition, the constant increase in other fees, is the real problem. My son was unable to get into any in person classes for fall 2024. He will have to take all online classes, which he is not happy about. He is also charged for a meal plan ($300 flex dollars per semester). This is ridiculous. He will not even be on campus to use the plan. He is a commuter, in his own apartment, and doesn’t need to have a meal plan. This is just another way for the University to make an extra $600/year per student. It should not be a mandatory fee past your freshman year, especially for commuters, and particularly for those who can't get in person classes. I have attempted to call the meal plan department, but they don't answer the phone and will not return my messages. I love UT, and I want my children to get a good education, but you have got to make it affordable for the average person. These are state schools. People shouldn't have to take out loans for an education, and they especially shouldn't have to graduate with more debt than their yearly salary will be when they graduate.
B. UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA

#11 Tennessee Resident Alumni Submitted: 6/5/2024 11:33 AM

No more tuition increases. You are putting college attendance out of reach for those who skrimp and save to attend college or send their children/grandchildren to college without taking out student loans. There are any number of programs that administration may want to enact that are not necessary and therefore should not be implemented to prevent harm middle class students. Your parking fees alone are exhorbitant and you don’t even have adequate parking spaces. My granddaughter pays for campus parking and May have to walk a mile to get to class. We are all hard hit by this economy. No more increases!!!!

#12 Tennessee Resident Student Submitted: 6/5/2024 12:01 PM

Tuition at UTC is already absurdly high for a public university. If you raise tuition, people like me won’t be able to afford pursuing a higher education. Please consider students who rely on financial aid while making your decision.

#13 Tennessee Resident Student Submitted: 6/5/2024 12:07 PM

We are already struggling in this economy. The University is constantly expanding, and clearly has plenty of resources to do so. Raising tuition would not only be straight greed, but it would also take away from the students who work so hard to maintain their GPA. This might cause some to overwork themselves with both school, clubs, and work to pay for any increases. It is simply not needed change

#14 Tennessee Resident Parent Submitted: 6/5/2024 12:35 PM

The cost of college is getting higher and higher. The cost of living on campus and event trying to find an apartment in Chattanooga is crazy. My oldest just graduated from UTK. He had to move further away from campus to avoid costly rent. College creates opportunities and creates a better future for youth. If we keep raising college cost, only the rich and wealthy will be able to attend. This creates an economic problem for many and the middle class falls further behind.

#15 Non-Resident Parent Submitted: 6/5/2024 12:37 PM

This is not the time to raise tuition. If this is a must, then raise it 1%. People are struggling financially and every penny counts.

#16 Tennessee Resident Parent Submitted: 6/5/2024 12:41 PM

Cost of living as risen drastically and pay increases have not risen to match them. Tuition and fee increases at this moment will only make it harder for students to attend college. People are struggling to put food on the table - please do not make attending college harder than it already is.
Do not raise tuition rates and fees. I understand that inflation is a factor and all, but state universities are already so expensive for most university students. Raising tuition and fee rates just makes it that much harder for people to attend college or get a higher education. The only reason it seems that a large and well known university like this would want to raise their tuition would be out of greed. You’re getting enough money from students and other sources to take care of your campus and provide education. You don’t need to take more money from people who are barely making ends meet as is. It’s cruel and unreasonable.

I hope in the meeting they all come to an agreement and understanding that increasing the tuition should NOT happen. Plus student debt is already setting them further behind. Big Nope on the idea

I don’t think an increase is justified unless you start charging less for online classes. It’s ridiculous to charge full price for asynchronous classes. Also, there are already so many odd fees my kids have to pay. I have one on campus and one off. The random fees are out of control. How are people supposed to send their kids to school?

I get it. Prices increase everywhere. I’ll be in favor IF parking is included for all students

Increasing the tuition amount will only make school less attainable for students. Especially after giving incoming freshman housing priority for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year, many upperclassmen are now having to pay out of pocket for a place to live in order to continue attending UTC. Placing an extra burden onto these students would be inexcusable.

UTC has a major housing and parking issue. If you have to raise tuition, it would be beneficial to see finances allocated to improve two very old and moldy dorms, to provide more on campus housing and new parking spaces.
Considering that UTC gave out less financial aid to there students this year it seems crazy that they would raise the price of the tuition. Family's are already struggling to pay for the things because of inflation. The least UTC could do is keep there prices the same. I also think that it should be cheaper to take online classes than in person classes. The online classes are almost 200$ more than a in person class.

There should not be a tuition increase for Tennessee residents.

I have two children at UTC. This rate increase would make it harder for me to keep them in school. Not only are you proposing tuition to increase, but housing, meal plans, and parking have already increased so it would be a lot more than the $300 or so dollars you are suggesting it would be. Please do not raise tuition and make it harder on students and parents to attend our state schools.

As a student I cannot afford a tuition increase in addition to the cost of living increases we've endured in the last two years. Please do NOT increase tuition.

I am an incoming freshman at UTC. I am against a tuition increase as it would make college out of reach for me. I am already struggling to come up with the gap between merit scholarships and cost of attendance.

C. UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

No comments received pertaining exclusively to this campus.

D. UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

With the cost of living, housing crisis, and other factors, I feel like this increase is pointless and just adds a deterrent to coming to UTK as a student/staying here
I understand institutions like the University of Tennessee need tuition increases to grow. Additionally, I obviously do not have access to all the financial data. However, I am concerned with the rapidly increasing cost of living in the Knoxville area and how that will compound with these proposed increases. UTK is accepting many out of state and instate students who do not have adequate aid to manage the cost as it is. I worry this will impact retention and future admission confirmations from a financial standpoint. That said, I wish you the best of luck in your deliberations.

How about the state increase the amount of support of our flagship university instead of pushing it, once again, onto the students? When will it end? College is already unaffordable for most of the citizens of TN and will burden them with debt that will not be paid off for decades.

Raising tuition will have an impact on enrollment. With inflation at an all-time high and wages not comparable with the rising cost, college may not be an option for most.

I believe a tuition increase might affect some students, myself included, ability to go to and continue education at the University of Tennessee.

Even with employee tuition help, trying to pay additional fees on certain courses is tough with the bad economy we’re facing. I can’t imagine it will feel any better with tuition fees increasing.

Dear UT Board of Trustees,

I fully support regular tuition increases, especially this proposal! As a parent of a UT student, I value the education that she is receiving and believe that tuition increases (especially in times of high inflation), help ensure that the University can hire and retain the best faculty/instructors to promote the success of students during and after their tenure at UT.

I respectfully request that you support a tuition increase!

Too much bloat with UT overhead, reduced costs instead of raising prices
Oh look! UT increased the parking pass price, maybe we’ll get more parking spots! Oh wait...

Tell me why I’m about to pay almost 400 dollars for the same amount of access to parking I had last semester. I still have to get to campus the same amount I did last year. That’s not going to magically change because the parking pass price went up. Hey, maybe you’ll have enough money to install that “new WiFi” in Neyland to justify those football ticket prices. Keep up the great work and Go Vols!

UTK professes a commitment to alleviating the impact of tuition and fee hikes on students, yet there seems to be a lack of evaluation regarding the relevance and duplication of program offerings. Many courses appear to cover similar content under different names and offered by different Colleges within UTK, suggesting a potential redundancy. Furthermore, there appears to be a deficiency in reviewing proposed new courses to ascertain their specific educational value to students which results in additional expenses to the student without any regard to ascertaining the educational value of the new course.

In terms of student services, the abundance of offices and departments with overlapping missions related to serving the student creates confusion and redundancy. This proliferation contributes to unchecked operational costs that are not being adequately contained, reviewed, or justified. Also, this confusion prevents the student from seeking the needed support as they are passed from department to department until they find the correct department or give up trying costing the student both monetarily and emotionally.

Finally, the administrative structure seems disproportionately top-heavy, characterized by numerous Associate / Assistant Vice Chancellors (AVCs) whose roles and responsibilities warrant reassessment for proper classification and compensation. This imbalance contributes to inflated administrative costs, ultimately burdening students with additional expenses. There appears no effort on UTK’s part to control/ curb these expenses as such titles and positions proliferate.

UTK must perform a comprehensive review of its expenditures to ascertain the true costs and educational benefits of its programs, as well as the necessity of the multitude of student support services offered and their top-heavy administrative structure. Without this understanding, requesting additional funding while managing current funds inefficiently and without accountability is unjustifiable. Any consideration of tuition increases must be contingent upon UTK’s commitment to transparency and efficiency in its financial management. Failing to do so not only disadvantages students trying to pursue a higher education, but also their parents working hard to help pay for such, TN taxpayers, and also undermines trust in the institution's stewardship of resources.

UTK’s referencing the percentage of students on scholarships serves as a smoke screen to obscure the escalating costs of higher education and the lack of accountability for this upward trend.
I felt like an increase in tuition is a little unreasonable at the moment. Tuition just increased 3%. In addition, the price of parking and tickets just skyrocketed. The cost of living has been increasing rapidly the past couple of years. All of this is causing a large financial burden on the students.

As for the mandatory fees, I will be fine with the increase as long as more services are provided such as new databases.

Tuition is expensive, I would like you to not hike up the price.

As a school who values themselves in being a true volunteer and helping fellow vols out, doing this is quite the opposite. I hope you actually take time to read the comments from the public, the people who make the school what it is. There are many different ways to fix the issues we are having — parking, over filled, etc., without raising tuition and hurting those students who pay for college themselves, or parent(s) who are already struggling with the costs but just want the best for their children - a higher education. Shame on you. I know this was not the last resort.

With consideration to tuition and fee increases, I support this proposal. UTK has kept tuition level since at least 2020, a period during this the costs of EVERYTHING has increased, impacting the university's operating costs without a commensurate increase in this source of revenue.

I'd like to comment on the recent proposal to raise undergraduate in-state tuition and fees. The current amounts are already an incredibly high sum for the average student, and frankly, regardless of the University’s current financial situation, there are a myriad of other means of raising funds that would not involve placing an unnecessary burden on students. Raising tuition and fees is counterproductive, because as a result, an education from UTK will become inaccessible for more people. This inaccessibility will result in a smaller student population, which itself will translate to less income for the university; assuming there is any change at all. I ask anyone involved to consider and exercise all other means before resorting to raising tuition.

I think it's unfair to increase tuition right now with so much construction going on and the campus being constantly "torn up". When the majority of the construction is finished and the students can actually enjoy the improvements then consider an increase.
I do not think that it is fair to raise the transportation fee. The transportation around UT is not great at best. The buses are never on time, and there is not enough stops to permit students to use it all the time. I think that the 2% increase is outrageous knowing that the economy is the state that it is in, and some of these students who want a better opportunity cannot afford it without taking out predatory loans.

If fees and tuition are increasing, parking pass fees need to decrease.

Families are getting squeezed and you want to increase tuition and fees this year - AFTER the FASFA debacle?? So now we have to scramble to cover the difference while you assess just how greedy you want to be this year? And you are giving families 1 MONTH?? This is asinine. Roll it over to next year - your “land grant” institution will survive with last year’s budget.

Do not agree with the tuition increase. My son will be a senior next year and has to work 2 jobs to try to afford college and still falls short. He doesn't take a car to campus due to the hardship of finding parking. There is so much construction going on that it inhibits the enjoyment and ease of navigating the campus. Students and parents are already struggling to afford the education. I am afraid if it keeps going up the students who were born and raised here will not be able to afford to go to college there. This is a sad reality when the students have grown up watching and loving UT all of their lives.

To whom it may concern,

Raising tuition would be a major disadvantage to the in-state students. I cannot speak for everyone, but UTK is the only great university in Tennessee I can attend to get an excellent education for a fair price. However, I have noticed that it is dysfunctional with all of the new students being admitted. Price gouging the tuition may take care of the rising student population, but it would be a horrible disservice to in-state students who already have to deal with crazy rent, hectic class schedules, and parking issues because of the dysfunction at UTK and people relocating to Tennessee. I have heard from many of my acquaintances at UTK that they are dissatisfied and thought about transferring to a different university because of the dysfunction. I do not want to transfer and go anywhere else, but I cannot afford a tuition increase. If tuition must be raised, please raise it for the out-of-state students. That would be good for class schedules and locals looking to rent but lose out to out-of-state students. Raising tuition prices for out-of-state students would also keep UTK adequately funded.

Best wishes.
While it is valid to increase either the cost of a parking pass or the added fee for transportation, I believe that since these are encapsulated into the same office, increasing the cost of parking passes and the fee for transportation is unfair to those who need to park on campus due to employment or otherwise. I think that there should be a way to have that fee waived if a parking pass is being purchased as the cost of said parking pass was increased to accommodate the increased strain on the transportation system.

Tuition and fees already fail to take into interest or respond to students’ needs. Continuing to charge more while failing to serve students is taking advantage of students and their obligations to the university. Similarly, I, and several other students, are already in a program with differential tuition, raising tuition and adding fees simply based off the classes taken.

Budget is never cut from sporting, instead $8M contracts are offered to athletes that play for a semester. UTK is a university, not a business. Respect and respond to your students.

I am currently trying to get out of a bad domestic situation and being able to have almost all of my tuition covered my scholarships and fafsa is essential to my wellbeing.

Do not raise tuition and associated fees for undergraduate (in-state) students! The price is already a burden for many especially alongside the outrageous cost for housing. While increased tuition is needed for growth the current students shouldn’t have to bear this price especially when construction and minimal parking plague the campus and make students feel like the price we pay isn’t worth it.

Do not increase the tuition or fees!!!!!

There is not enough housing and there is not enough parking, please do not take more of our money. I’m sure you have plenty of money to improve those situations as is so why is there a need to take even more of our money when you don't have nearly enough parking for everyone who has a parking pass (ie a bare minimum thing). While we're here, why is there a ~$230 engineering fee? As a student this just feels like greed and a waste of my money. Also, are scholarships going to be increased? Because if this tuition increase happens and scholarships won't be increased I think every student with a scholarship will feel scammed.
Hello, who it Concerned. I am a parent of a UT student that is in the Future program. I believe the university of Tennessee tuition is high enough it cost right at 14,000 semester to go there.. in my opinion I do not think the increase would be a good especially with the the cost of living the rising economy prices. This would put a financial burden on the students who is already struggling to keep a float and to get a degree and for tye parents who is having to pay for it out of pocket like me.

First and foremost, not all parents can afford to "Rush", and not all parents are with a 2nd income whether that be from a spouse or a 2nd job. My son is currently a Junior studying aeronautical engineering at the Tickle School, and I DO currently work 7 days a week (literal), and don't get to see my family or my grandkids most days. My life literally consists of working so I can afford the already HIGH cost of schooling at UTK, and the ridiculous raping from the apartment system for living expenditures ($1100/month) that we were forced to do, as trying to get into a dorm at UTK is a Ludacris process, and is almost non-existent, but we will leave the dorm living situation for another day.

My son pays top dollar already for his schooling at UTK, and as a comparison to a very prestigious out of state Purdue tuition, (which by the way would be collectively $38,700 less for the same degree and is an OOS school) and is a highly sought after school for Engineering. To put that into perspective, my currently yearly salary is less than $50,000. I don't know about some, but I could certainly use that additional $38,700 in my life right now!! My son chose UTK over Purdue to support his home state, and for the experience with our amazing Pride of the Southland Band. And please do not preach to me about Scholarship opportunities! Me and my son have applied for God knows how many, only to be accepted by ZERO!! Really! ZERO!! And, he was a Dean's list child up until last Fall, and he WAS getting the HOPE until he got a C- in a class this past Fall and he apparently needed a C+ to "pass" the class. Because of the few measly little points, they marked this as a "fail" and his GPA fell just enough, and he has now ALSO lost the HOPE. I personally am praying feverishly daily that I can hold on and keep him at UTK as the cost is just mounting, and it is mounting quicky. I beg of you to think of us "little" people such as myself that are seeking something great for their child, at a great university, with a great Band, and a Great Engineering department. I will do everything in my ability to keep him there, but if tuition keeps going up, and rent keeps going up, I really don't know what I'm going to do. Just please, please, consider those of us that are on the lower end of the pay wage scale, fighting for every dollar. Thank you for your considerations, and of course Go Vols!!

Many students budget for their college education at the beginning. At a time when inflation in food, transportation, and everything else is impacting students the university should not raise rates on those already attending the school. UT is one of the higher schools in the state of Tennessee system. While an increase in tuition may be necessary it shouldn't hurt those who are attending or force them to leave the school for a cheaper option.
I do not think this is the right time to increase tuition. With inflation crippling so many of us, it is hard to make ends meet AND send our kids to school. My son worked very hard in high school and received some of the top scholarships. Even with that and being a single mom of 2 other kids (one of them in college and the other has one special needs) I'm struggling to make sure my son has the very basics. Please don't punish hard working kids just because they don't have a silver spoon in their mouths. Thank you.

This small change seems very reasonable to me.

UTK has its highest enrollment ever. With more students enrolled, more money should be coming in. The students do not need to take on the burden that this increased enrollment puts on the university, by increasing the fees and tuition. More students with more money coming in should help, or UTK should stop increasing enrollment and focus on how to help the students it already has. Focus on feeding, housing, and parking these students. Focus on enough classroom space so these students are not forced into online classes. Most of these new students want to be face-to-face. The rest of the world is increasing in costs so rapidly. Help the students keep a public university affordable. Please.

The fee increase seems appropriate based on information provided. However, there is a clear need for parking or reasonable alternatives to parking if commuting to campus. Current alternatives which allow use of the shuttle do not take into account that individuals may work or study past 6 pm.

Please avoid a tuition increase.

Despite the sound and logical reasoning given for raising fees, I believe what would set TN apart from every other university is ultimately making college more affordable in the midst of high inflation, rising prices, the cost of living, and a lack of wage growth. The first sign was that graduated college students are struggling to pay back their student loans. It would be a much more impressive and respectable initiative to empower students financially, creatively reallocating the required funds, or reduce unprofitable expenses in other areas as other campuses have.
With college tuition already at historical highs, it should be your objective to seek to decrease cost of tuition, rather than increase them. It seems that factors behind the increase are self-made. As an alumnus of the University of Tennessee, I was disappointed that our institution had become more of a business, rather than focused on academics. I believe we spend too much on 'the college experience' and not enough on resources for cultivating our students and supporting our faculty and staff. As a citizen of Knoxville, whenever I hear about record enrollments, I am not only disappointed for those working and studying at the university, but also for the citizens of this city who have to bear the weight of this added population into an already strained city.

I am glad to see that the tuition increase is relatively reasonable. However, the increased funds to accommodate a growing student body should not necessarily be a burden placed on the other students. UT has pushed for new record enrollment each year, a decision that has caused problems for not only current students but the city of Knoxville and its non-student-residents. The lack of foresight on the student housing issues is both astounding and impressive, neither of which are meant in a positive way. UT wants to expand, so it has increased its student population beyond its seams in order to justify that expansion. I am concerned because I don’t see UT's expansion as motivated by the right reasons, and that is disheartening.

The reasons for the tuition increase seem mostly legitimate at first glance, ie the need to improve transportation and provide the right tools for the learning experience. However, I again feel disheartened by the direction UT has taken. Where it was once an institution of learning and education, it is now intent upon turning itself into an all-inclusive resort stay, with shiny facilities that are only tangentially related to the education field, and has dumped money into the wrong avenues. The way of adding every bell and whistle under the sun has warped the way of education, turning it away from a place of learning into some absurd gameshow, intent upon drawing the eye toward every sparkling, distracting feature it can. While certain things are nice to have (Sports, stadiums, Greek life, etc.), the focus has shifted far too close to mainly providing the "college experience," an umbrella term to include everything but the educational component, which is conveniently offered as a side dish that can be purchased for "a small upcharge."

Adjunct, non-tenure professors and lecturers should receive significant pay increases, and should not be shunned for lack of research (research that UT has recently only been interested in for the monetary benefits and not the social and technological returns that may better a society). Isn’t that the heart of an university? To teach the students? That cannot be done if the institution in question neglects the most crucial keystone: the professors who are there for the love of teaching.

While I commend the reasonable increase, it reeks of a systemic problem within UT and lack of both foresight and honorable motivations. Recenter the goals of the university back to better intentions. Provide amenities and a nice environment, but not as the cost of the core of the institution.
E. UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN

No comments received pertaining exclusively to this campus.

F. UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE SOUTHERN

No comments received pertaining exclusively to this campus.

[See next page for the list of public comments categorized as “Other Comments.”]
Members of the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees,

I am writing to encourage you to both reconsider the proposal to increase tuition and mandatory fees for the university, and to urge you to consider adopting a policy of Socially Responsible Investment, starting with divesting the funds in our endowment from weapons manufacturers and corporations complicit in war crimes and human rights violations in Gaza.

The ongoing military aggression in Gaza has killed over 37,347 people including at least 15,620 children, with many more missing and presumed dead. The aggression has also destroyed ALL of the universities in Gaza as well as 80% of the schools there.

UT's endowment manager, BNY Mellon, has billions of dollars invested in the companies that manufacture the weapons causing these atrocities.

I urge you to consider reinvesting the funds invested in companies that profit from death into socially responsible companies that help our communities thrive.

Thank you for your time,
Members of the University Board of Trustees,

I am a recent Plant Sciences graduate from UT-Knoxville, where I learned about the wealth of organizations and research working to keep our population fed and the planet inhabitable for humans. However, the stigmatization of social policies that allow all people to access food via affordable prices or free lunch programs counters many of those efforts. Furthermore, the billion-dollar weapons industry is fully invested in waging wars and genocides that have killed over 37,340 people in an area smaller than Knox County while allowing human rights violations that blatantly deny the delivery of food and medical aid to people trying to survive in their homeland.

I am writing to encourage you to both reconsider the proposal to increase tuition and fees for the university, and to urge you to consider adopting a policy of Socially Responsible Investment, starting with divesting the funds in our endowment from weapons manufacturers and corporations complicit in war crimes and human rights violations in Gaza. Instead, I urge you to reinvest those funds into socially responsible companies that help our communities thrive.

It is appalling that a supposedly altruistic place of scholarship would dismiss the need to renounce the mass murder of children in Gaza. If you do not divest, you will never see a cent from this alumni. Thank you.

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I urge you to consider reinvesting the funds invested in companies that profit from death into socially responsible companies that help our communities thrive.
As a recent graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, it absolutely disgusts me to know that the school I attended for five years actively funds and supports a genocide. It also enrages me to see students peacefully protesting on campus be arrested for speaking their minds. Meanwhile you have allowed Anti-abortion protesters and homophobic harassers to come onto campus for YEARS. You have also never shown care for your Jewish students until now. I think most of us remember all of the nasty things painted on the rock, but hey it was free speech right? The double standards you all have is absolutely insane. Don’t call and ask me for money lol

As an alumni of UTK and the sister of an incoming freshman student, the proposal to raise tuition and fees is absolutely disgusting. My entire time at UTK I saw firsthand how little the school cared about the students and staff and how much the administration cared about athletics and money. The effects of raising the tuition and fees on students would be disastrous. Students with rich parents who can afford tuition are not the primary group who attend a public university. As a commuter from a low income family, the only way I could even think about affording tuition was either by taking out a loan that would financially ruin me for the rest of my life, or by working a full time job and an internship while attending school and getting good grades. I chose the second option, which caused me to enter a mental health crisis from the stress of working during my senior year and also caused a physical health scare from the stress.

Not only would raising the tuition and fees be horrible for the students, UT is currently involved with BNY Mellon, an organization that "oversees a majority of the assets invested for the benefit of the University of Tennessee" (according to the UT Investment Office). BNY Mellon is under intense scrutiny for its investment in Elbit Systems which produces 85% of Israel’s military equipment and drones. The fact that my school would be happily aligned with the killing of 250,000 civilians is despicable.

According to UTK bylaws, "As the governing body of the University of Tennessee, the Board of Trustees has full authority and control over the University's organization and administration, constituent parts, and funds." This is UT's chance to do the right thing and make up for siding with South African apartheid.

Stand with students
Stand with peace
Thank you for your time,
To Whom It May Concern,

As you consider your upcoming financial year and the associated funds, I would ask that you consider divesting from military assets, research, or investments associated or involved with Acts of War or oppressive tactics, including but not limited to Israel.

As a citizen of TN, it has been with great pride that I have advocated for UT and attended many events. I am considering enrolling in the Fall 202; semester with UTC, however, I cannot in good conscience provide funds to an organization that advocates and funds for immoral actions, such as intimidation, war, or like-violence.

Instead of allowing these funds to benefit the above organizations or developments, I would ask you to reallocate these funds to a) your community, b) your students, or c) the university and its partners.

I hope you will consider the above and if so, I look forward to seeing my future professors in the classroom this fall.

Best,

Please divest from the genocide being committed against the Palestinian people.

B. UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA

Can you use some of that extra money to add some more parking? Parking on campus is absolutely ridiculous.

Please divest from funding Israel. A university system that offers social awareness and social justice classes should practice the instruction of the education they offer. Do not stand with the oppressors. Demonstrate integrity and stop the support of genocide.
I'm writing the board to consider enacting a policy of socially responsible investing and to be more conscious about the profits generated from the endowment. SRI has historical roots in a speech by John Wesley, one of the founders of Methodism, and has precedent as an effective vehicle for change in the ending of South African apartheid. UTK refused to participate in this divestment campaign in the late 70's despite student organizations urgently petitioning the Board of Trustees Investment Committee. Divesting from Israeli companies and the general military industrial complex is an opportunity for UTK to make up for their complacency around South African Appartheid. Even if the figure of .2% of investments being dedicated to Israeli-based corporations were true (it is clearly a rough, uninformed estimate), this amounts to $2.8 million from your endowment. Please begin discussions with the Investment office and BNY Mellon about establishing an investment portfolio that aligns with an SRI strategy that directly considers the harm done to Palestinians by the genocidal, apartheid state of Israel. BNY mellon also has internal precedent for enacting an SRI- based portfolio. One of their london-based subsidiaries, Newton Investment Management, has a detailed procedure for excluding investments that do not align with investors values. The only reason not to consider this as a plan of action would be because you do not care that your own money and investments are being used to perpetuate the death of thousands of children and countless war crimes.

As a member of the Knoxville community, decisions made by UT have a huge impact on me and the city at large. I have been following the news regarding the student protests on campus and I am extremely disappointed at how UT has handled the students' expression of free speech. I am writing today to urge you to adopt a policy of Socially Responsible Investment, starting with the divesting from funds with weapons manufacturers and corporations complicit with the war crimes being committed in Gaza. There is absolutely no reason for a university to be investing in violence. I also would like to urge you to not raise tuition. Our economy is in crisis and education is an integral part of a young person's life. It is inexcusable to make that education more expensive that it already is. My father went to UT, my sister is currently at UT and my spouse has been considering going to UT in the future. I may not be a student, but your decisions are deeply impactful on my personal life. Again, I urge you to divest from death and reconsider the proposal to increase tuition and mandatory fees.

Dear Board of Trustees:

I am an alum of the University of Tennessee, class of 1992 and 1993. I am a Tennessean who cares about not only what happens in my state, but also around the world. The Israeli government has caused the deaths of over 37,000 Palestinians. This slaughter is unacceptable and should not be supported by UTK.
Please pull any investments from Israeli-based companies. Please have your endowment manager, BNY Mellon, divest from any companies and military contractors involved with the manufacturing of military equipment and weapons. Encourage BNY Mellon to participate in socially responsible investing.

Thank you,

Members of the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees,

I am writing to encourage you to consider adopting a policy of Socially Responsible Investment, starting with divesting the funds in our endowment from weapons manufacturers and corporations complicit in war crimes and human rights violations in Gaza.

The ongoing military aggression in Gaza has killed over 37,347 people including at least 15,620 children, with many more missing and presumed dead. The aggression has also destroyed ALL of the universities in Gaza as well as 80% of the schools there.

UT’s endowment manager, BNY Mellon, has billions of dollars invested in the companies that manufacture the weapons causing these atrocities.

I urge you to consider reinvesting the funds invested in companies that profit from death into socially responsible companies that help our communities thrive.

Members of the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees,

I am writing to encourage you to both reconsider the proposal to increase tuition and mandatory fees for the university and to urge you to consider adopting a policy of Socially Responsible Investment, starting with divesting the funds in our endowment from weapons manufacturers and corporations complicit in war crimes and human rights violations in Gaza.

The ongoing military aggression in Gaza has killed over 37,347 people including at least 15,620 children, with many more missing and presumed dead. The aggression has also destroyed ALL of the universities in Gaza as well as 80% of the schools there.

UT’s endowment manager, BNY Mellon, has billions of dollars invested in the companies that manufacture the weapons causing these atrocities.

I urge you to consider reinvesting the funds invested in companies that profit from death into socially responsible companies that help our communities thrive.

I was proud to be a Volunteer alum, but I no longer desire to give funds to a university that actively contributes to the degradation of life and education in foreign countries. We may be an
American school, but we do not exist within a bubble. To truly show support of education, you must support the needs of your past and future students. Be an institution that alumni can be proud of.

Please consider holding tuition and fees at their current levels to make higher education affordable for all Tennesseans, and divest from companies that cause such massive death and destruction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Respectfully,

#82 Tennessee Resident Alumni Submitted: 6/20/2024 10:45 AM

Members of the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees,

I am writing to encourage you to both reconsider the proposal to increase tuition and mandatory fees for the university. I am also writing to urge you to consider adopting a policy of Socially Responsible investment, starting with divesting the funds in our endowment from weapons manufacturers and corporations complicit in war crimes and human rights violations in Gaza.

The ongoing military aggression in Gaza has killed over 37,347 people including at least 15,620 children, with many more presumed dead. The aggression has also destroyed ALL of the universities in Gaza as well as 80% of the schools there. The bombardment of Gaza has created extreme climate damage as well. Ruining the water and sanitation systems as well as polluting the world with every bomb dropped made by the weapons you choose for UT to invest in.

UT’s endowment manager, BNY Mellon, has billions of dollars invested in the companies that manufacture th weapons causing these atrocities.

I urge you to reinvest the funds in companies that profit from death into socially responsible companies that help our communities thrive.

In advocacy,

#83 Non-Resident Student Submitted: 6/20/2024 11:35 AM

Members of the Board of Trustees, I am writing to encourage you to both reconsider the proposal to increase tuition and mandatory fees for the University, and to urge you to consider adopting a policy of Socially Responsible Investment, starting with divesting the funds in our endowment from weapons manufacturers and corporations complicit in war crimes and human rights violations in Gaza.

The ongoing military aggression in Gaza has killed over 37,347 people (~1.3 X the UT student body) including at least 15,000 children with many more missing and presumed dead. The aggression has also destroyed ALL of the universities in Gaza as well as ~80% of all schools in Gaza.
UT's endowment manager, BNY Mellon, has billions of dollars invested in companies that manufacture the weapons causing these atrocities.

I plead and urge you to consider reinvesting the funds invested in companies that profit from death into socially responsible companies that help our communities thrive here in Knoxville.

Thank you.

Please do not increase tuition, as it is already prohibitively high.

In addition, please consider divesting UT investments from all weapons manufacturers and companies that profit from the genocide in Gaza. We do not want our money funding violence and death.

I would like to strongly encourage the University of Tennessee, Knoxville administration to reconsider the proposal to increase tuition, as well as to adopt a policy of social responsible investment beginning with examining the percentage of the UT endowment investment portfolio that is seeded in entities that both directly and indirectly support the ongoing Israeli genocide of Palestinians.

Members of the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees,

I am writing to encourage you to both reconsider the proposal to increase tuition and mandatory fees for the university, and to urge you to consider adopting a policy of Socially Responsible Investment, starting with divesting the funds in our endowment from weapons manufacturers and corporations complicit in war crimes and human rights violations in Gaza.

The ongoing military aggression in Gaza has killed over 37,347 people including at least 15,620 children, with many more missing and presumed dead. The aggression has also destroyed ALL of the universities in Gaza as well as 80% of the schools there.

UT's endowment manager, BNY Mellon, has billions of dollars invested in the companies that manufacture the weapons causing these atrocities.

I urge you to consider reinvesting the funds invested in companies that profit from death into socially responsible companies that help our communities thrive.