USD Tuition Increase: Where is Our Money Going?

The decision to further your education is one of the most important decisions one can make. However, a good education doesn't come without a price. No matter what field an individual decides to go into, it will more than likely require a degree from a university; attending a university requires paying tuition. When it comes to spending money on education, students want the most for their money. It is well understood that a good education won't come cheap, so with the cost of tuition already being high, any increase will be hard on those paying it. Therefore, the recently-released news of USD initiating a raise in tuition costs is not likely to sit well with students.

With the current state of today's economy, an increase may very well be necessary to keep everything up-to-date on campus, but what exactly does that entail? If students are required to keep shelling out more of their money every year, they have a right to know where that money is going, especially since they have no choice but to comply. Though this topic is still in development, it can be well understood that students are not going to be happy about such changes.

My Position

After researching this topic a little further, I find myself opposed to this decision unless information is released as to where our money is going. As a student, I don't want to be taking out another loan for the sake of contributing to something that will be used to impress or outdo other colleges (surprisingly enough). If our money isn't being spent on something that will be of
academic use to the student body, the necessity of increasing the tuition should be reconsidered. Therefore, my thesis statement will be: Tuition costs should only be raised for the sake of furthering education.

Evidence and Arguments

An article entitled "SD Board of Regents raise tuition again, students to feel the increase," was recently written for The Volante stating that the university will be initiating increases in tuition fees. On March 29, the South Dakota Board of Regents made the decision to raise tuition and required fees by 6.5 percent. This decision means an extra $463.97 out of the pockets of current and incoming students alike. In addition to last year's 6.9 percent increase, it seems as though students are destined to continue paying more and more to get a degree.

While USD is the most prominent concern for us when it comes to tuition increases, we aren't the only ones experiencing it. According to Ronald Ehrenberg of Cornell University, "top institutions have chosen to maintain and increase quality largely by spending more, not by increasing efficiency, reducing costs, or reallocating funds (Ehrenberg 29)." Students and education should be top priority for a university, and if funds can simply be shifted around to cover what the raised tuition would, that would be a subject worth looking into.

Rationale and Audience

This is an important topic because of the state of Vermillion's population. Being largely a college town, anything to do with the university has an effect on a wide range of people. The majority of this town is made up of college students (with more coming in every year), and all of them will feel the impacts of this change. My intent in writing this is to point out that students should be able to know where their money is going if they are forced to pay more. A potential audience this information could reach is the USD student body and the city of Vermillion.
Appealing to these people and getting information out could have a positive impact on the situation.

**Further Inquiry**

In order to gather more information on this subject, I will try to find more statistics on tuition increases and what the increases are necessary for. I will use the library's databases and student resources for gathering more personal evidence.

**Questions**

Some possible concerns about this topic are:

- Is it worth debating?
- Can anything be done about the situation?
- Is there more information I can tie in that will relate to the tuition increase?
Works Cited


"SD Board of Regents raises tuition again, students to feel the increase." The Volante. 30 Mar. 2012. Web. 1 Apr. 2012.