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Trustees Endorse Wired Campus, Other Technology Initiatives; Raise Price of Attendance 5.5 Percent, Financial Aid 10 Percent

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**TRUSTEES ENDORSE WIRED CAMPUS, OTHER TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES;
RAISE PRICE OF ATTENDANCE 5.5 PERCENT, FINANCIAL AID 10 PERCENT**

DAYTON, Ohio — When first-year students at the University of Dayton check into their residence halls next fall, a computer will await each of them.

The University of Dayton's board of trustees today reviewed a national marketing survey that supported the initiative, then voted to provide every first-year student with a Pentium computer loaded with software and connected to UD's high-speed computer network. Students will either purchase or lease a desktop or laptop computer, with the estimated \$600 annual cost factored into their financial aid determination.

The trustees also voted to raise the total cost of attendance — tuition, fees, room and board — by 5.5 percent and increase UD-funded financial aid 10 percent, from \$23.2 million to \$25.5 million.

Approximately \$800,000 of the increased revenues is earmarked for computer support, a computer help center, faculty development, and operating funds and staffing for the Ryan C. Harris Learning-Teaching Center. The \$3 million Learning-Teaching Center, slated to open on the ground floor of the campus library building next November, will house an adaptive computer lab for students with disabilities and be a place for faculty and students to explore innovations in learning and teaching. In addition, UD plans to hire an Intranet manager to help faculty with curricular initiatives and expand its cadre of student computer consultants to help troubleshoot computer problems in the residence halls.

It's all part of UD's vision to create a "technology-enhanced learning environment" that provides its 6,400 undergraduates with around-the-clock access to learning resources and collaboration tools and prepares them for the 21st-century workplace. By next fall, UD will be fully wired — thanks to a \$7 million investment in what the *New York Times* called "an unusual and ambitious plan" to connect 1,500 students in 330 University-owned houses in three campus neighborhoods. The first 40 houses in the Holy Angels neighborhood went online this week.

"The extension of the campus learning network to include all University-owned residential spaces and the provision of a standard computer and software package are part of our vision of a connected campus community where students have universal and equal access to the tools and learning resources of the information age," said Thomas Skill, assistant provost

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for academic technology. "This will give us a technology edge in the marketplace and meet the demands of prospective students who are looking for colleges with good learning networks. It will enhance the employment opportunities of our graduates in significant ways."

Computers on campus are becoming as common as bookbags. More than 1,000 entering students this fall brought their own computers to UD. By giving families two desktop and two laptop options, University officials say they can keep costs low through volume purchasing discounts and uniform technical support. Families will be able to either purchase the computer, finance it or lease it with the option of trading it in for a newer model. The cost includes a four-year service agreement.

UD plans to use computers to allow students to continue discussions beyond the classroom, work together on projects, ask professors questions that arise during readings and homework assignments, interact with experts from around the world and conduct online research. UD will offer few, if any, undergraduate courses completely online. Rather, technology will enhance learning in the classroom, the lab and team projects.

"Our research indicates that our market finds value in a technology-enhanced education, not distance learning," said Chris Muñoz, associate provost for enrollment management. "Prospective students interested in the University of Dayton expect high-tech, high-touch from us."

Starting in August 1999, annual tuition and fees will increase 5.86 percent from \$14,670 to \$15,530. Average annual room and board rates will increase \$200, or 4.28 percent, from \$4,670 to \$4,870.

UD will earmark part of the increase for faculty and staff raises and some initiatives outlined in its *Vision 2005* strategic plan, such as a program to attract and support minority engineers and scholarships for women athletes.

Tuition, fees, room and board at the University of Dayton currently fall about \$1,000 below the average \$20,273 charged at the nation's private, residential colleges and universities, according to a nationwide survey released this month by the College Board. Last year, private colleges and universities raised tuition and fees an average 5 percent.

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