

Explanation of New Tuition and Fees

At its meeting of August 3rd, 2011, the full CUNY Board of Trustees approved the tuition and fee structure for all CUNY campuses, effective fall 2011. The new rates vary by program and are the product of three separate actions: a change in the base tuition rates for all programs at CUNY and SUNY; a differential tuition for the MPA program; and new Academic Excellence Fees for the MS degrees and graduate certificate programs in the School of Public Affairs.

The new base tuition rates were set by the New York State Legislature's action on June 24th, and approved by the CUNY Board on August 3rd, to increase CUNY charges in all programs by \$300 per year for each of the next five years, with the 2011-2012 Academic Year counting as the first of those years. In a prior decision, the CUNY Board of Trustees approved the MPA tuition differential and the Academic Excellence Fees for the School's other graduate programs on June 27th. The Board noted in its resolution of June 27th that the new Academic Excellence Fees would "provide Baruch's graduate programs with funds to develop student support services that are commensurate with the outstanding academic programs," while allowing students to "continue to receive a Baruch education that is not only of exceptional quality, but that is also very reasonable and financially affordable."

At the School of Public Affairs we plan to use revenue generated from the tuition differential and Academic Excellence Fees for the following:

- increase the number of funded graduate assistantships;
- increase Career Services staff by an additional fulltime professional, thus doubling the placement staff available to our students;
- provide opportunities for students to engage in scholarly and other professional activities outside of graduate assistantships, such as conference travel and presentations;
- increase the hours of academic tutoring available to students in our quantitative workshops and semester-long tutorial drop-in hours;
- expand our student recruitment efforts to ensure that SPA's student body includes dedicated and academically prepared students from across the country and, increasingly, abroad;
- staff new off-campus programs for our students such as our recently launched Baruch-in-Washington semester.

This package of benefits is supported by both the Academic Excellence Fees and the newly approved MPA tuition increase. All graduate students in SPA will be contributing toward improved services available to matriculants in all of our programs. Taken together, the new tuition and fee structure will ensure that the School's programs remain not only among the least expensive in the nation, but among the very best programs accessible at any cost.