

Department of Visualization
Report on the Uses of Differential Tuition in the 2012-2013 Academic Year

In the 2012-2013 academic year the Department of Visualization generated \$66,385 through differential tuition. A percentage of these funds were spent during the summer term to increase course offerings for Bachelor of Science in Visualization (BS-V) students. The majority of this year's Differential Tuition fund was spent to acquire and install computing resources for the BS-V students.

Differential tuition for the College of Architecture was approved by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents in May 2011 and went into effect in the Fall 2011 semester. Each student majoring in an undergraduate program administered by academic departments in the college is charged \$204 dollars per semester on top of the university's standard tuition.

For the students of the Bachelor of Science in Visualization program this year's differential tuition funds:

1. Helped students graduate sooner, by allowing a special summer course offering to be presented for students who were lacking that course for graduation.
2. Followed a recommendation from the Visualization Student Tuition Advisory Committee for increased computing resources accessible to studio courses, making possible a major initial investment in 24 latest generation networked graphical computers. Workstations were deployed in the junior-senior vertical studio environment and were accessible to all BS-V students when not being utilized for studio projects. This marked a long awaited start to enterprise level provision of professional-grade performance computing and software resources for Visualization undergraduates.

The Differential Tuition fund for this year allowed our students to complete the courses required by our program in less time. We also increased our emphasis on quality by providing state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment to ensure that our graduating students remain competitive.

Tim McLaughlin
Associate Professor and Department Head

Bill Jenks
Director, Visualization Laboratory and Assistant Department Head

Dick Davison
Professor, Coordinator of Undergraduate Programs