Section I: Request

The Dixie State University (DSU) Medical Radiography program has two energized x-ray units, a mobile x-ray unit, C-arm and CR reader with a PACS workstation in the lab. This highly technical equipment must be maintained, upgraded and periodically repaired or replaced at considerable expense. In addition, costs for supplies, accreditation fees, clinical computer software and a portion of the department secretary's salary must be covered. The current budget and program fees are insufficient for such coverage. It is proposed that course fees be discontinued and program differential tuition be implemented. This additional tuition would cover the expenses stated above - capital equipment, maintenance, repair and replacement, accreditation fees, state licensure and inspection of x-ray equipment, and clinical computer software. The program proposes a differential of $60.00 per credit hour be added to the standard DSU tuition.

Section II: Student and Market Demand for the Program

The DSU Medical Radiography program accepts 12 - 14 students per year and is nationally accredited through the Joint Review Commission on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). There are two other radiography programs in the state – Salt Lake Community College and Weber State University – however, Salt Lake Community College is the only other program accredited through JRCERT. DSU has the only program serving residents in the Southern portion of the state. The Radiography program always has at least twice as many applicants as available positions in the cohort. DSU radiography graduates consistently find employment both in and outside the area.
Section III: Impact of Differential Tuition Rates on Student Access and Retention:

Differential tuition must be planned carefully in order for the DSU Medical Radiography program to remain competitive with other institutions. It must be rolled out and explained adequately in order for students to make informed decisions regarding which school to attend. Students will need to be advised on how to compare differential tuition to other institutions’ base tuition and course or program fees. If this is not understood by students, a decrease in applications and enrollment in prerequisite courses may result.

Section IV: Tuition Rates of Comparable Programs at Other Institutions*:

DSU base tuition and fees are lower than other institutions. Even with the proposed differential tuition, DSU is a very competitive program in the state. The program costs for Weber and SLCC listed below do not include course fees. Currently, radiography students pay $200 per semester in course fees, which breaks down, to approximately $16.70 per credit. The program is requesting that differential tuition be $60.00 per credit, an increase of $43.30 per credit.

*Data retrieved online; base tuition, does not includes fees for Weber and SLCC.

Section V: Potential Earnings Capacity of Program Graduates:

New graduates from the radiography program usually start at around $20.65 per hour in Southern Utah. The starting salary in Nevada is approximately $22.15 and may be higher in other states. Although some DSU radiography graduates seek positions in other states, the majority of graduates do stay in Southern Utah.

Section VI: Societal Importance of the Program:

The DSU Radiography program is a high quality program with a history of 100% pass rate on the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), the national certification exam. The program also has a high placement rate with 100% of the 2018 graduates being either employed or continuing on in a Bachelor’s program. Graduates are prepared with the knowledge, skills and values to become successful members of the healthcare team and have consistently filled the need for radiographers in Southern Utah.